

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, August 21, 1962.

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

QUESTIONS.

MENTAL HOSPITALS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: On page 5 of today's *Advertiser*, under the heading "Concern over Staffing of Hospitals", the General Secretary of the Australian Government Workers' Association is reported as having said that his branch was greatly concerned about the under-staffing of the Parkside and Northfield Mental Hospitals and the Enfield Receiving Home. As I have stated previously, I consider that the staff at these hospitals are doing a tremendous job. Will the Premier indicate the Government's proposals to improve the staffing position at these hospitals?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The solution to this problem is not easy. It is difficult to get the necessary technical people, because there is a world-wide shortage of mental hospital administrators and staff. I was discussing this problem only last Thursday with the Public Service Commissioner (Mr. C. A. Pounsett). The new Director has had some success: I believe he has been able to arrange for some qualified people from overseas coming to South Australia. On the general question of nurses and the less qualified staff, we are also in some difficulty, but I believe we may be able to find these somewhat more quickly than we will the more highly qualified staff. I assure the Leader that it is a question not of money but of being able to get the people who are qualified and have the right temperament for the work.

KANGAROOS.

Mr. JENKINS: Much publicity has been given recently to the slaughter of kangaroos for the export of meat overseas and for pet food in South Australia. Does the Minister of Agriculture contemplate any action to arrest the excessive slaughter of these animals in order to preserve wild life in this State?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: This position is always under review, and it is being reviewed at present. I was discussing it recently with the Director of Fisheries and Game. There are two aspects of this matter. In the forest country, the wetter districts, and most of the agricultural country, the killing of kangaroos is strictly controlled, whereas in

the pastoral country—the saltbush and open country where kangaroos are a major pest—it is not controlled. I am keen to see that kangaroos in our forest country are preserved as they should be. On the other hand, we recognize the need for pest control. The matter is being investigated and, if there is anything to add, I will let the honourable member know.

BUSH FIRE SIGNS.

Mr. HUGHES: Today's *Advertiser* contains the following letter to the editor:

Regarding the letter from A. Grover-Jones (17/8/62), on the bush fire slogan signs along our roads, I have noticed that several of these signs are still telling us "not to throw out lighted matches," or "fire feeds on careless deeds," when there is not much chance of this happening at this time of the year. If these signs are left up all the year round, they tend to become too familiar to us and are, more or less, ignored during the summer when we should all be taking great care not to start any fires. In previous years these signs (black lettering on a white background) have been replaced during the winter months with road safety signs.

In view of the disastrous fire that swept my district in 1960, will the Minister of Agriculture say whether in the interests of public safety these signs should be removed during the winter months?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have not seen the letter but I know its contents from the honourable member's reading it. Bush fire publicity is clearly best if it has an element of novelty and if the public is not allowed to get used to any one sign. For that reason, on some major roads leading from Adelaide large signs, with indicators showing the relative danger of the day, are often erected just before the bush fire danger period begins. Many other signs are erected at the beginning, and taken down at the end, of a bush fire season. Many signs, however, cannot practically be taken down and put up again without great expense. The signs referred to by the honourable member are probably those erected by the Apex Club and subsidized by the Government. The Apex Club does this work voluntarily because it realizes that the signs have public value; it has gone to much trouble to erect them. The Government has done what it can to encourage it by subsidizing this work heavily. Generally, this club hangs up new signs at the beginning of each bush fire season. As far as I know, that has always been, and it may still be, its policy. The signs generally carry small rhymes or couplets. Incidentally, I think

the club insists that slogans consist of not more than eight words. One handicap of the Apex Club in erecting new signs is that it has almost run out of ideas for rhymes. Other signs, erected by local councils, may or may not be taken down: that is up to the authority concerned. I believe that everyone who thinks carefully about this matter will agree that a degree of novelty is valuable in attracting attention. On the other hand, it may not always be possible to change signs around, take them down, and so forth. If I can do anything to assist, I will do it.

MITCHAM RAIL SERVICE.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I have received a letter from a constituent of mine—a resident of Mitcham—who claims to be writing mainly on behalf of 30 working folk who are regular passengers on the 7.26 a.m. train from the Mitcham area to Adelaide and who, unfortunately, have recently been denied seating accommodation to their respective destinations. He states that on Monday, August 13, when the train reached Mitcham, instead of comprising the usual two cars, it comprised only one car, and this resulted in the 30 people having to stand. I presume it is a ‘red hen’. Will the Minister of Works ascertain from his colleague, the Minister of Railways, the reason for the removal of one car from this train, whether this is to be a temporary or permanent arrangement, and, if it is to be permanent, whether the matter can be reviewed with a view to restoring the full train?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will take this up with my colleague.

CUSTOM CREDIT.

Mr. McKEE: One of my constituents called at my home during the weekend with a letter he had received from the Custom Credit Corporation, which stated:

We return postal notes to the value of £1 17s. 6d., and advise our instructions as follows:

On July 17, 1962, an order was made against you for 10 days' imprisonment suspended so long as you pay 12s. 6d. each week, first payment to be made on July 23, 1962. This suspended order means that 12s. 6d. must be received in this office on or before July 23 and on or before each seven days thereafter. Your first payment was not received in this office until July 26, 1962. This payment was three days overdue.

You may recall that a previous suspended order was made against you on April 10, 1962, to pay 12s. 6d. each week. We accepted your payment pursuant to that order after suspension of the 10 days' imprisonment had ceased.

We fully expected you to continue paying 12s. 6d. each week. Unfortunately you did not and as we had accepted moneys from you after the suspension of the order had ceased we were unable to issue the warrant of commitment. Accordingly we proceeded with the issue of a further unsatisfied judgment summons. We do not wish a recurrence of the previous set of circumstances and accordingly we have instructions not to accept payment from you as you are in default of the suspended order. Accordingly as aforesaid we return the £1 17s. 6d. and advise that we intend to issue the warrant for your arrest and imprisonment for 10 days.

I know that this man is not a big wage earner and that he is a married man. As he has assured me that he has made every endeavour to keep up these payments, will the Premier investigate this matter and ascertain whether this is the general practice of the Custom Credit Corporation?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have no direct knowledge of this case, except the letter the honourable member has quoted, but it seems somewhat complicated as court orders have been issued, so I hesitate to make any pronouncement upon it. However, if the honourable member will give me the correspondence, I will have the matter examined and inform him later.

CABINET INCREASE.

Mr. HARDING: It has frequently been suggested that Cabinet Ministers are overworked, and I believe that that is so. Can the Premier say whether any consideration has been given to increasing the number of Cabinet Ministers in South Australia?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: During the last election I announced that the Government intended to create another department, but I said it would not be necessary to appoint another Minister. I have noticed with interest that the Leader of the Opposition has expressed a contrary view since then. However, legislation regarding the new department is being considered, although Cabinet has not yet made any decision upon it. I will inform the honourable member, and the House generally, when a decision has been made. In any event, nothing can be done until Parliament has examined and approved the legislation.

LADDERLESS STOCKINGS.

Mr. LOVEDAY: In yesterday's *News* an article, headed ‘A Fortune Hangs by a Thread’, dealt with a process, called the Dohan process, said to have been tested by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial

Research Organization and proved to be successful in making ladderless snag-proof stockings and in reducing shrinkage in wool by 33 per cent. Apparently attempts are being made by companies interested in maintaining the sale of hosiery to prevent the use of this process. I am informed that many women have to buy a pair of stockings every week because of laddering and snagging. As this process would apparently mean a saving to women of at least £10 to £20 a year and would benefit the wool industry considerably, will the Premier have investigations made to see whether an industry using this process could be started in South Australia?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I saw the report mentioned, and a few days earlier I saw a report that there was no possibility of doing what has since been stated to be a fact. The Government would be prepared to assist any worthwhile industry to establish in South Australia, but we have not the technical knowledge to undertake the work ourselves, nor do I think that it would be desirable for a Government to do so.

MATRICULATION STANDARDS.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I understand that there have been discussions between the University of Adelaide and the Education Department regarding the proposed new matriculation standards about which we have heard. Can the Minister of Education say when it is proposed to alter school syllabuses to cater for the proposed new changes?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: It is not possible to give information at present. Discussions are still proceeding between the two bodies.

GAUGE STANDARDIZATION.

Mr. CASEY: Last night, the Chief Secretary (Sir Lyell McEwin) told a business men's dinner at Peterborough that Cabinet had decided on the standardization work to minimize the steep grades of the railway between Broken Hill and Peterborough so that the diesel-electric locomotives coming to that division early next year would be able to haul greater tonnages. Will the Premier say whether the proposals indicated by the Chief Secretary conform to the official survey made some time ago and, if they do, when and where the work is likely to commence?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Consequent upon the Prime Minister's letter to me informing me that the Commonwealth Government had postponed indefinitely any

financial assistance to the State Government, I indicated that I would place before Cabinet proposals for the State Government to undertake rail standardization work. My colleagues in Cabinet support the view that I announced and, since then, two conferences have been held with the Railways Commissioner to work out the plans and programme for submission to the Public Works Committee. I believe (although I speak now without precise knowledge) that the detailed plan will not be ready for another fortnight. Railways Department officers have been working on it extensively for the last two or three weeks. A general report will be available for Cabinet soon and that will enable the Government to prepare the necessary references and legislation. Although I cannot give the honourable member details, as the programme is not yet ready, I assure him and other honourable members that legislation will be placed before Parliament this session.

RATE PAYMENTS.

Mrs. STEELE: Many people are finding increasing water and municipal rates a growing hardship. In support of that assertion, I shall quote from a letter from one of my constituents, who states:

I am finding the cost of owning a home and attempting to raise a young family a bigger squeeze each year as rates and taxes go higher and higher. I realize that one has to pay a fair proportion of the cost of services, but a water rates bill of £38 and an increase in the Burnside Council rates for this year is starting to hurt. Would you please ask the appropriate Ministers if they could copy the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works principle of two amounts payable, one in August and one in February six months later? Perhaps the councils could be asked to alternate theirs in November and May. I am sure that I for one and many members of the public would be very grateful.

I realize that this would involve a change in the departmental procedure in the collection of accounts, but we are living in changing times when ever-increasing costs in every direction place a greater burden on the head of the family. Does the Minister of Works consider there is merit in the suggestion contained in the letter and will he consider it?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Government realizes that the cost of providing essential services all over the State (including, of course, the metropolitan area and the country towns) tends to rise but I think it will be agreed that we have kept down the charges for our services very well over the years. The cost of providing services has risen steeply

but the charge upon the payer of water and sewerage rates has been kept remarkably stable. Rising costs have resulted, in the accounts of the E. & W. S. Department, in constant deficits and, although, generally speaking, within the metropolitan area the water rates received have kept fairly closely in touch with the cost of providing water, deficits occur from time to time and they are heavy in the country districts. Therefore, the undertaking as a whole does not pay anything like the cost of the capital involved and annual running expenses.

I assume that the rate that the honourable member quoted includes water and sewerage rates for the whole year. In order to assist people who have temporary difficulty in paying accounts, the department will always consider any application to defer payment of part of the amount due, which would have the same effect as the rendering of an account every six months would have. The department always accepts any reasonable compromise or deferment the ratepayer may find it necessary to seek. So, if any difficulty of that sort arises, I am sure that, if the person concerned takes the matter up with the department or with me, appropriate action will be taken. If the honourable member will give me the name of the signatory of the letter, I will take up the matter with the department to see if he can be accommodated. I think the honourable member will appreciate that to deal with cases individually is far better than to institute a system of rendering accounts twice a year, because the cost of rendering accounts is substantial, and some hundreds of thousands of assessments go out each year. Many people find it convenient to pay the whole amount at the one time but, where a person is faced with some difficulty, the department is always glad to consider it. I will consider this particular case.

EAST ADELAIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. DUNSTAN: On April 18 this year I asked the Minister of Education a question about conveniences at the East Adelaide Primary School. On that occasion the Minister said that he had understood that everything was all right there but that he would have investigations made to see that the conditions about which I was complaining were remedied. I am informed from the school and the school committee that nothing has been done this year, and the matter has been raised now at several further parents' committee meetings. Will the Minister of Education have urgent

investigations made promptly into this matter as the parents are getting stirred up about it?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes, I shall be pleased to do so. I did precisely that last April: I referred the matter to the Secretary of the Education Department on the day after the honourable member asked his question, and he took it up with the Public Buildings Department, but I have heard nothing further. I understood that the matter was in hand, but I certainly will take it up tomorrow.

PARA HILLS SCHOOL.

Mr. HALL: Last year the Chairman of the Para Hills Primary School Committee approached me about obtaining a master plan for the development of the school buildings in relation to the site. This has a bearing on committee projects such as school canteens and playing fields. Last Saturday, however, I saw that gentleman again, and I understand that still no plan has been forthcoming. This delay is irksome to the committee. Will the Minister of Education have prepared a detailed site plan for the Para Hills Primary School Committee?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes, I shall be pleased to do so. It is impossible at this stage to give a complete and accurate survey because rapid development is taking place there and I am not sure what other school or schools will be required in this district. I think we can give a fairly accurate description of what our present planning is.

SALISBURY SCHOOL ENROLMENTS.

Mr. CLARK: I understand that enrolments at the Salisbury Consolidated Primary School have increased at such a rate that it will be impossible to house all the students in the existing buildings in the forthcoming school term. Will the Minister of Education obtain a report on where this overflow will be accommodated next term and on the future plans to cover the rapidly growing school population in this part of Salisbury?

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

TABLE WINES.

Mr. LAUCKE: At the Ljubljana (Yugoslavia) International Wine Fair recently, Messrs. G. Gramp & Sons Limited of Orlando Vineyards, Rowland Flat, had 16 entries and

were awarded five gold medals, 10 silver medals and one bronze medal, while the Grapegrowers Co-operative at Nuriootpa had five entries and received two gold medals, two silver medals and a bronze medal. Those results clearly prove that South Australian table wines compare more than favourably with the world's best and assume international significance. Has the Premier's attention been drawn to these outstanding successes of South Australian table wines and will he comment?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I did not see the report the honourable member has referred to, but I have had other reports regarding the awards at this recent exhibition. I have been pleased to learn recently from overseas authorities that there is now a world-wide acceptance of the fact that South Australia produces some of the best wines in the world. I believe that is very important when we are obviously confronted with greater marketing difficulties, particularly if Britain joins the European Common Market. I am indeed pleased that these well-merited awards have been made.

TELEVISION REPAIRS.

Mr. TAPPING: I understand that the Premier has a reply to my recent question concerning a complaint of alleged overcharging for television repair work.

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

The department is at present investigating nine complaints regarding alleged overcharging for television repairs. Seven of these complaints are against one firm, and as it may be necessary for the department to institute legal proceedings, it would be unwise to make any further comments at this stage. While the number of written complaints received is not large, the Prices Department has kept a close watch on television maintenance charges in general and has obtained reductions of accounts in a number of instances where such action has been warranted.

MILLICENT WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. CORCORAN: At present, houses are being built in Millicent, and the owners of those houses are at a loss to know whether they should go to the expense of having bores sunk and pumps installed in order to get water, as they expect that it will not be long before the proposed Millicent water supply is connected. Will the Minister of Works say when this scheme will be connected?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have not recently asked the Engineer-in-Chief for information on the progress of the Millicent scheme, but I know that it is a priority undertaking

and I think the honourable member will see that a substantial sum has been provided on the Loan Estimates this year to continue that scheme. However, I will ask for a report. It would help me greatly if the honourable member could indicate whether he has any specific streets or localities of Millicent in mind. I could then get him more precise information as to when the water would be extended along a certain street frontage. If supplying that detail will assist him, I shall be glad to obtain the information for him.

ROLLING STOCK.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I understand that the Premier has a reply to questions asked by the member for Murray (Mr. Bywaters) and myself regarding diesel-electric locomotives.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: My colleague, the Minister of Railways, states that the matters raised by the honourable members would appear to fall into two categories, viz.: the construction of diesel locomotives and rolling stock in the Islington workshops and, alternatively, the construction of diesel locomotives in South Australia. Dealing with the construction in the Islington workshops, it is reported that the 100 ore waggons referred to are being so manufactured. However, certain items, such as bogies, draft gear, and portion of the drawgear are, of necessity, obtained from outside supply. It has always been the policy of the South Australian Railways to manufacture its own rolling stock to the limit of its capacity. Steam locomotives were manufactured at Islington, but the position with regard to main line diesel-electric locomotives is different. This type of locomotive has never been wholly made in the Islington workshops, the equipment for the 10 "900" class units being obtained under contract and the bodies built at Islington. The circumstances under which this action was at that time forced upon the department were unusual, and the subsequent availability of locomotives of Australian manufacture led to the decision not to build any further units at Islington.

The construction of main line diesel-electric locomotives has now reached the degree of specialization where the building of them becomes a project for firms specifically set up for this type of work, and it would not be advantageous for the South Australian Railways Department to undertake such work at this stage, where the volume of production would be small. Further, a considerable

amount of design would have to be undertaken preparatory to body construction and assembly of the power units being so commenced, and this, together with the necessity to conduct railroad trials, would result in delays in the issue of the locomotives to traffic.

ROBINSON CROSSING.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Representations have been made that Robinson Crossing over the River Wakefield west of Salter's Springs is inadequate for the heavy traffic using it. Will the Minister of Works ascertain from his colleague, the Minister of Roads, whether plans have been made for improving the crossing?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

FUNERAL CHARGES.

Mr. McKEE: Has the Premier obtained a report from the Prices Commissioner in reply to my recent question about funeral charges?

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

Funeral charges are not a controlled service. Investigation to date has revealed that basic charges for a standard funeral service consisting of the supply of a casket, hearse, mourning coach, removing the remains as required, arranging and conducting the funeral, and use of the undertaker's chapel if required, have been increased by amounts varying from £2 up to £10 since January, 1959, and now range from £42 10s. to £55 according to the undertaker. The total cost of a funeral is considerably increased by the undertaker's out-of-pocket expenses, including cemetery charges, which have also been increased. These disbursements are charged to clients at cost.

Whilst the lower increases mentioned may be justified, the higher increases would appear to require further investigation and in this respect inquiries will be continued. Charges for funerals other than those of a standard nature and on which additional services and more expensive furnishings are provided range from about £55 upward, and some increases made on the less expensive of these services also appear to warrant some further attention. There are indications that a great number of the ordinary people are incurring funeral expenses in excess of what might be termed standard charges; *i.e.*, up to about £55. It is for this reason that the department feels that charges as high as about £100 should be kept under surveillance, and inquiries extended to review charges up to about this level.

ST. KILDA ROAD.

Mr. HALL: Last session I asked the Minister of Works, who represents the Minister of Roads in this Chamber, about the possible sealing of the road between Port Wakefield

Road and St. Kilda Beach, but nothing has been done. As this road is used by many week-end holiday-makers, will the Minister of Works ask his colleague whether this road can be bituminized?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will ask for a report.

BOOK SALESMEN.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to a question I asked last week about the activities of salesmen selling encyclopaedias on behalf of the Ruskin group?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I have referred the honourable member's statement and question and my reply thereto to the Attorney-General, who informs me that the Commissioner of Police has investigated complaints by residents of Elizabeth, Kapunda, Nuriootpa and other districts concerning salesmen of the Ruskin Group (Educational Division) Pty. Ltd. I understand that, as a result of investigations, some contracts have been cancelled and refunds made. If the honourable member has any specific cases he can refer to me or if any other member has any complaints concerning further activities of this company, I shall be pleased to receive them and to refer them to the Attorney-General, or the Attorney-General will be pleased to receive them direct, so that further action may be taken. When I was at a function at Whyalla with the honourable member last Friday evening, some members of the school committee, and the headmaster of a primary school, referred similar complaints to me in general terms. They were most outspoken about the activities of this group and the hardship it was causing people there. I think this is widespread and, although I am speaking as a layman and not as a lawyer in this context, it seems to me that this group is clearly evading the provisions of the Act passed by Parliament last year.

HOUSING.

Mr. SHANNON: I think everyone in South Australia is aware of and delighted with the proposed expansion of Chrysler (Australia) Ltd. However, certain people are interested in whether the Housing Trust has given an undertaking to provide houses for the additional people who will be employed by this undertaking. Will the Premier say whether any approaches have been made to him, and will he undertake to provide the housing necessary for the increased staff?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government's policy, if an industry being established outside the metropolitan area approaches it, has been to facilitate the provision of housing for its employees. The Government, through the Housing Trust, builds houses up to the limit in the metropolitan area, but does not necessarily build for any particular industry. A divergence from that general policy is that, if any industry reports that it is short of special technical officers and has to get them overseas, the Government sees that it gets preferential treatment to enable these people to come here to undertake development work. As far as I know, the company mentioned by the honourable member is entirely satisfied with conditions here; indeed, its decision to increase capacity here is a clear indication of that.

Mr. Shannon: This will not interfere with our general housing programme?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: It will not lead to an additional housing programme. The programme placed before members in the Loan Estimates shows that this year the State will provide about £25,000,000 for housing. Indeed, probably 66 per cent of total housing built in South Australia this year will be financed from Government and semi-government sources. If the company is in any difficulty, I am sure it will approach me, and I will take the appropriate action.

AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL.

Mr. HARDING: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to a question I asked on August 14 about the Agricultural Council meeting in Perth? Can he say whether a Commonwealth Honey Board is to be set up and whether the industry will be assisted by the Commonwealth Government or the Commonwealth Reserve Bank?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: It is difficult to say what financial assistance can be given, but the council resolved in the following terms:

That a report of the standing committee on honey marketing be received and that the Minister for Primary Industry be asked to submit a legislative proposal to the Commonwealth Government for consideration.

HARBOURS COMMISSIONERS.

Mr. Tapping, for Mr. RYAN (on notice): When does the present term of office of the South Australian Harbors Board Commissioners expire?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The present terms of office of members of the Harbors

Board expire on the following dates: Mr. S. Crawford (Chairman), April 8, 1965; Mr. H. C. Meyer (member), April 12, 1965; Mr. C. C. Verco (member), January 7, 1964.

WINDY POINT.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. What plans has the Government for the improvement of Windy Point?

2. When will improvements be effected there?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Preliminary plans have been prepared for the development of Windy Point. These preliminary plans provide for the construction of a restaurant, snack bar, terraces, amenities, manager's small flat, landscaping and improved parking areas. The improvements will be made when finance is available. Most elaborate plans have been prepared, but unfortunately the allocation to the Tourist Bureau this year has had to be amended and this has prevented me from including the work at Windy Point in this year's programme. I hope provision will be made for it in next year's Budget.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: HON. SIR CECIL HINCKS.

Mr. LAUCKE moved:

That one month's leave of absence be granted to the member for Yorke Peninsula (Hon. Sir Cecil Hincks) on account of ill health.

Motion carried.

LOAN ESTIMATES.

In Committee.

(Continued from August 14. Page 530.)

Grand total, £30,647,000.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): Unusual as it may seem, I do not intend at this stage to move for a reduction in the Loan Estimates, but I assure members that if, during discussion of the lines, I feel that the provisions are not sufficient to meet requirements I shall take action, so I suggest that the Treasurer be prepared. That is not a threat.

Before embarking on a detailed examination of the Loan Estimates, I have a few general observations to make. In some respects the Treasurer gave members a wealth of information, but in others, however, information that would have been valuable was not provided. For example, some of the major projects extend over many years and, with these in particular, the Estimates should show the original estimated cost, the Loan expenditure to date, the proportion of the project completed, and the

proposed expenditure for the current year. It is only in this way that members on both sides of the House will be able to carry out their financial function in Parliament, which is to control the expenditure of this Government in the most efficient manner and thereby obtain the best value for the Government money expended. We require something a little better than a publicity platform of the Government which merely seeks to portray the colossal sums that the Government is spending. It is of no value to anybody to be told that the Government is spending so much here and so much there unless the Government is able to convince us that we are obtaining true value for the money which the Government is spending so liberally and also unless it is able to convince us that the programmes it is putting before us each year are being carried out. To me, the Estimates presented to us have the appearance of stop-gap Estimates which have been prepared with the ultimate aim of attempting to lessen some of the justified criticisms that have been levelled at the Government over recent months. The stop-gap measures are particularly evident under housing, education and water supplies, and I will have something to say on these matters a little later.

At the moment, I wish to refer to the Auditor-General's report. With the passing of the Loan Estimates, millions of pounds are committed, and we have repeatedly drawn attention to the fact that the Auditor-General's report should be placed before us prior to the passing of the Loan Estimates. I had hoped that this year the Treasurer would have had steps taken to present this report to Parliament prior to the discussion of the Loan Estimates. In saying that, I do not reflect on the Auditor-General or his department. We know that that department has a mighty job to assemble the great mass of figures following the end of the financial year, and then the printing is also a major task. However, the Government is responsible for the business of Parliament, and the Treasurer should arrange the business so that members receive a copy of that report prior to the presentation of the Loan Estimates.

I waited patiently for the Treasurer to present his grand schemes for the coming year, but it was certainly a very disappointing and subdued presentation by the Treasurer. He attempted to put a little fire into it in his conclusion with the old "Premier's promises" touch, but I believe the public is realizing the hollowness of his promises. Therefore, instead of making a grand finale, these half-formed

and ill-conceived plans sounded the death-knell of a most uninspiring programme for the coming year. Let me quote extracts from the *Advertiser's* leading article on June 27 which referred to the deliberations of the State Premiers in Canberra and the sharing of the Loan cake. It states:

Their main concern at the meetings in Canberra this week will doubtless be to obtain an adequate increase in the approved allotment for Loan works. They have a strong case to present in support of their claim for more funds . . . Sir Thomas Playford will submit a typical list of such works in seeking a £40,000,000 allocation for South Australia . . . The Federal Cabinet must decide which offers the better prospect of restoring vitality to the economy—more public works or more tax concessions. A blend of the two may well offer the most satisfactory solution.

At these negotiations what did the Treasurer achieve for South Australia? No £40,000,000, despite having a strong case, but, instead, an allocation of £34,529,000 which is a very modest increase of £345,000 on our Loan allocation for last year. In addition, there have been no tax concessions despite considerable unemployment and unused plant capacity. There is no evidence of any lead from this Government, in collaboration with its counterpart in Canberra, that a revitalization of our economy is to be attempted. It is frequently noticeable in the press that various concessions are offered to purchasers of new refrigerators and washing machines, but most people already possess these articles and so are not in a position to take advantage of these concessions, and, therefore, there will be no significant effect on the unused plant capacity. It would also be interesting to know how many of those who left school last year are still unemployed.

Both this Government and the Commonwealth Government attempt to implement Labor policy but, regrettably, it is always only a piecemeal introduction of our policy and it is always a matter of "too little and too late". My sincere sympathy is with those many persons and businesses that are forced to suffer whilst the Liberal Governments wallow around in indecision. I do not think that is by any means an extravagant statement.

In the presentation of his address, the Treasurer said:

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.

This statement is significant in two ways. There is no mention that the Government attempted a policy of full employment, which

is our policy. It merely attempted to maintain and increase employment opportunities, but the weakness was that it attempted to do this by statements. The Government is responsible for the destruction of business confidence; consequently, it is responsible to restore that confidence by actions and not statements.

The only action the Treasurer could have taken to restore confidence in South Australia was either to obtain a larger grant or loan allocation from the Commonwealth Government for additional public works or to sufficiently impress on the Commonwealth Ministry that substantial tax concessions were essential.

Mr. Jennings: He could have budgeted for a deficit, though.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: There was nothing to prevent him. We did not obtain this necessary action, as I have already explained, but, instead, we have been fed with a rather meaningless statement from the Treasurer that he intends to run the Loan Fund further into deficit to the extent of approximately £600,000. This Government has no borrowing powers in its own right, and therefore if it is running its Loan account into deficit it means only that we shall have to economise on our revenue expenditure in order to finance this amount; but the ultimate effect on the business community is nil, other than that money is to be spent on future development instead of on the annual running costs of the Government. Therefore, once again, we have been proffered a statement instead of effective action.

Last year, with the presentation of the Estimates, I pointed out that the Loan allocation for housing was insufficient to restore activity in the building industry and subsequent events proved this criticism to be correct for, in February last, the Commonwealth Government made an additional allocation of £1,036,000. After being bludgeoned into inactivity by the Government, the building industry was helped to some extent by this additional filip because Loan money being directed into housing totalled approximately £10,000,000; but this year the comparable figure is only £9,400,000, a reduction of 6 per cent, when there is an increase in population, a shortage of houses, and unemployment in the industry.

Whilst on the topic of housing finance, I turn now to the State Bank line, "Advances for Homes, £300,000", and particularly the Treasurer's statement:

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 home-owner and that

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.

I would ask the Treasurer to refresh his memory and recall that his Government would not take part in the original Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. In fact, his Government did not participate in the scheme until 1953, which added considerably to the costs of the house purchases and, on many occasions subsequently, members on this side have pointed out that the Government should take the opportunity of obtaining more funds under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement in order to be eligible for the lower rate of interest. Let us be fair when we are allotting praise to ourselves. Rather I would suggest that this is another recommendation of ours being adopted, but, as always, it is a little late.

For South-Eastern drainage £468,000 is allocated. I have mentioned this matter previously to the Government, but, so far, I have not received a satisfactory reply and my query relates, in particular, to the drains in the Western Division of the South-East. The Auditor-General is also dissatisfied with this matter for he made special reference to it in his Annual Report last year, at page 155, when he said:

Last year, attention was drawn to the unsatisfactory progress which had been made with the rating for betterment following the construction of drains within the Western Division of the South-East as authorized in the amendment to the South-Eastern Drainage Act, 1948. The position is still unsatisfactory and a summary is again given.

Then followed a detailed summary of tardy action by the Government. The drains were authorized by Act of Parliament in 1948 but were not commenced until 1950, and it took 11 years to construct about 350 miles of drain in the area. The matter which concerns me at the moment, and which concerns the Auditor-General, is the lack of action in regard to the assessment of lands that have been improved by the drains. Assessing was commenced in 1949 but, so far, these assessments have not been completed and, as still no mention has been made of the fact, I can only assume that these properties that have been considerably improved by the drains will not be rated for betterment even this year, and the indications are that the lands will not be rated prior to 1963-64. As the Government is scrambling for additional funds this year, it should have taken the opportunity of obtaining some

reasonable return from the £4,000,000 that has been spent on the drains in the Western Division of the South-East.

The longer the Government leaves this problem, the harder it will be to solve, because I can see that the settlers in this area will be justifiably angry if the additional interest charges of this scheme brought about by the postponement of rating are capitalized and made an additional burden on them. Another matter that needs clarification respecting these drains is that certain lands in the Western Division have been allotted under the war service land settlement scheme. The rents fixed in relation to these lands include a certain amount equivalent to the betterment factor, but (and this is the point I wish to emphasize to Government members) these rents are payable to the Commonwealth Government in terms of the War Service Land Settlement Agreement. Following my explanation to its conclusion, it seems that the State Government of South Australia, over a period of eleven years, has gradually built drains in the Western Division, but then turns around and pays the Commonwealth increased rent for war service land settlement land that has been improved by the drains. It seems stupid to me to carry out and finance a scheme from State funds and then pay the Commonwealth Government additional rent because we have improved its land by drainage.

The amount set aside for afforestation and timber milling is £1,150,000. I was pleased to see the usual reference to the output of log timber from our State forests, because I consider that the development of the State forests is vital to the advancement of the State. I did notice that the output was less than that promised by the Treasurer in the Estimates last year; nevertheless, it was an increase of approximately 2½ per cent, and it is to be commended. However, I wish to raise the point that the timber from our State forests should be utilized more fully on construction work in the building industry than it is at the present. What I would like to know—and this is a matter which is never explained in the Loan Estimates—is what proportion of the processed South-East timber from the mills could be guaranteed as suitable for house construction. Apparently it is a matter of Government policy not to use local timber in house construction. The mills should be able to guarantee the local product for use as scantling timber, as there would be great possibilities for its use as framing material in the internal walls in timber and brick veneer houses. To me, there appears to be great potentiality in

the near future, because I understand that brick veneer houses are being considered for low-deposit Housing Trust houses. I do not wish to argue in regard to its suitability for roonng, because oregon, with its long grain, has demonstrated its particular suitability in this field, but there is still great scope for the utilization of local South-East timbers in house construction.

Other items to which I wish to refer under "Afforestation" are the provision of £54,000 for the completion of the new power station and £118,000 for the sewerage scheme at Nangwarry. In neither instance do I oppose the provision of improved facilities, but I do oppose the imposition of increased tariffs on the residents of the area. Nangwarry is only a settlement in association with an industry which has limited facilities for the family man, and the Government has used the Nangwarry and other South-East timber mills to obtain income for the general revenue of the State. Therefore, the Government, instead of increasing the tariff and charges on these people and at the same time paying surplus profits from this industry into the general revenue of the State, should use some of that profit from the forests and the mills to provide the improved facilities for the employees in the area, who are just as responsible as the Government for building up this particular industry, which was established by a Labor Government many years ago. I went with other members, at the invitation of the Government, to the opening of the new power station in this area. This project is a most commendable one, but I was told by the people who are working in the industry and who will be using this power that their tariffs and their rents will be increased. The people living at Nangwarry or Mount Burr or any of these other afforestation areas are living in more or less isolated communities. Surely they should be entitled to reasonable amenities and facilities. I maintain that it is the Government's responsibility to use its accumulated revenue from this industry in order to help the people living in that area.

Mr. Shannon: That is being done.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: In some instances. The sum of £2,330,000 is provided for the Railways Department. At the end of June, 1961, the funds employed in the undertaking totalled £60,000,000, and this represents a huge investment which should be protected. We realize the great work that has been carried out by the railways system in the past, particularly in the development of this State.

Continued development relies on efficient railways. In recent years road transport has developed rapidly but the Government should see that it is not allowed to compete unfairly with our established railway system. The main part of the unfair advantage is gained by its not making some contribution towards the actual upkeep costs of our highways. Other States have introduced legislation which is not contrary to section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution, but for some reason or another our Government does not introduce similar legislation. Is this another example of big business dictating terms to the Government to keep interstate transport charges down even though the heavy hauliers are not making their fair contribution towards the additional upkeep costs incurred in maintaining our interstate highways?

Another question involving a big capital investment is the provision of employment opportunities for South Australians by the construction of our own rolling stock at Islington. We constructed rolling stock in the past, and I see no reason why it could not be done now, but nowhere in the various diesel-electric locomotive expenditure is any mention made of the fact that we are to carry out our own construction.

Mr. Quirke: That was explained today in answer to a question.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Of course it was, and I shall have something more to say about it. I do not agree with the Government's contention in this regard. I believe that we could make the frames at the Islington workshops, as we did in the past.

Mr. Quirke: Where are they made?

Mr. FRANK WALSH: In New South Wales, where the engines are assembled. I see no reason why we should not construct at our own workshops everything that can be constructed there. Recently I questioned the Government on this matter and was disappointed to find that it is still Government policy to foster private enterprise and employment in other States rather than to cater for its own employment commitments in this State. I heard recently of a "go it alone" policy for railway standardization, but on careful perusal of the Loan Estimates I am forced to the conclusion that this is just another promise and that we are not ready to go yet. We have had protracted negotiations for many years and statements from time to time on the

necessity for standardization of railway gauges, but, once again, we have had no effective Government action. I referred to this during the Address in Reply debate and do not intend to enlarge on it at this stage other than to point out that this is another field where Government action is vital to the continued prosperity of this State.

It is proposed to spend £11,400,000 on waterworks and sewers. I turn my attention now to the funds required for implementing water and sewer services. The fact that struck me forcibly was that there appeared to be either some over-estimation last year or the Government put forward a programme that was too ambitious for the department to achieve. I notice that in the overall picture the department spent £11,172,000 last year, considerably more than its original allocation.

I will give a few examples of where I consider the Government is giving us further promises under this line, but once again no effective action. The illustrations show what has been stated this year in the Estimates as compared with last year. On Warren water district, this year "£20,000 is provided to commence a water supply scheme for the township and country lands at Navan." The same statement appeared last year, except that £10,000 was provided.

I now have several examples in the country water districts. Regarding Booleroo Centre, this year £1,000 is included "to complete a scheme under which water is carried from the Morgan-Whyalla main to also supply Appila and farmlands from Caltowie to Booleroo Centre." Exactly the same statement was made last year except that £3,000 was required. Regarding Coonalpyn, this year £1,000 is included "to complete improvements which include a second bore, pumping plant and main." Exactly the same statement was made last year, but £4,000 was required. Last year, £10,000 was passed to commence work on the electrification of a pumping plant and construction of a 1,000,000-gallon storage tank at Streaky Bay, but this year the proposal has been dropped from the Loan Estimates altogether. I could give many more detailed examples in reference to the Tod River, Beetaloo, Bundaleer and Baroota water districts. My criticism does not apply only to the Estimates presented under the waterworks and sewers line, because last year we passed considerable sums under irrigation and reclamation of swamplands, harbour accommodation, and Government buildings and land, but the money was not spent in accordance with the wishes

of Parliament. These items have been put on the Loan Estimates again this year, but we cannot be certain that the Government will spend the money in accordance with the plans presented to us. All I have been trying to illustrate is that it is no use the Government putting schemes on the Loan Estimates year after year, either to commence or complete various projects, if it has no intention of carrying them out.

For school buildings £6,000,000 is provided. Members on this side have for several years expressed extreme dissatisfaction at the way the Loan Estimates have been presented on educational needs. We considered that the Estimates presented had been considerably inflated and each year the results have proved us to be correct. However, this is not much satisfaction when we know that our educational problems are not being overcome.

For education buildings, provision last year was as follows:

	£
Work under 24 contracts with a total value of £4,913,000 for new schools or major additions which were in progress at June 30, 1961	3,025,000
The commencement of 73 projects with a total value of £13,441,000 for new schools, major additions to schools, Teachers College, School of Art and trade schools	1,477,000
	<u>£4,502,000</u>

Now let us consider what the actual expenditure on these lines was for 1961-62:

	£
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
	<u>£4,156,000</u>

In other words, Parliament provided £346,000 more last year than was utilized by the Government on school building construction. I strongly challenged the Treasurer last year that it was impossible to expend the money on educational requirements in accordance with the Estimates presented to Parliament. I also challenged him that he did not have the plans and specifications drawn up, let alone the

contracts signed, to carry out the programme presented. Those challenges remained unanswered, but the actual results have proved that those challenges were more than justified criticism of the Government. A total of 73 new school buildings was placed on the Estimates last year, but work has been done on only 24—approximately one-third of the promised programme.

I do not deny that the department spent its full Loan allocation, but it achieved this only by spending money in other directions instead of carrying out the school-building programme promised. For example, £450,000 was provided for the purchase of land, etc., but the Government spent £843,000 or a surplus spending of £393,000. It is all very well to make the additional acquisitions, but I contend that the prime need of Loan expenditure on education is to provide adequate and suitable solid construction school buildings before the other requirements are met.

In my own electorate, additions to the Edwardstown Primary School were on the Loan Estimates to be commenced in 1960-61 at an estimated cost of £102,000, but nothing has been done. I obtained advice from the Minister of Education that it was expected to be completed in February, 1963. This is certainly very tardy action when buildings are approved in 1960, but not commenced until the 1962-63 financial year. However, in the Loan Estimates now presented I find that this school has been deleted altogether. In addition to the Edwardstown Primary School, I should like to know just how much longer the Forbes Primary School, which has an enrolment of well over 1,700 children, will have to wait before it gets any solid construction buildings in addition to the one that was erected for 320 children, and how long the South Road Primary School will have to wait before it gets one solid construction building. On July 24, the Minister of Works gave information about the school-building programme for the year ended June 30, 1962. He produced a list showing total cost and completion times varying from a few weeks to 2½ years. Last session, the Minister promised that over £13,000,000 was to be spent on school buildings, but, on my calculations, only £4,500,000 has been committed, so over £8,500,000 of estimated work was never commenced. These projects are examined and reported upon in all good faith and then go to another department, but it seems that they are then lost sight of.

When I attended a function at Edwardstown about two years ago, I announced (after obtaining permission from the Minister) that additions would be made to the Edwardstown Primary School. However, no provision is made even on this year's Loan Estimates for this work. I wish the Minister of Education were able to say to his colleagues that, whatever else happened, work promised two years ago should be proceeded with. The Forbes Primary School has the largest attendance of any primary school in the State. New solid construction buildings are being erected at many other schools, yet the Forbes Primary School still has portable buildings. I have a dual function in this matter: my interest is on behalf of the people of my district as well as the people generally. I have made representations about this school and I expect to get some relief for it. The Minister said that classrooms were keeping pace with enrolments; I do not deny this, but I should like him to indicate the Government's policy in relation to the numbers attending a school. At the Marion High School, 2,000 or more will probably attend, and other schools will have big attendances. Surely there should be some limit on enrolments so that the teaching staff might do its job properly. I am not satisfied with the provision for schools in the Loan Estimates, and I hope to see some improvement soon.

For the South Australian Housing Trust £50,000 is provided. I have already had much to say on this subject, but I have found nothing to alter my view that the Government has lost ground with its housing programme in recent years. I strongly disagree with the Treasurer's statement that:

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.

I do so because, on figures supplied by the Housing Trust, I find the following is the actual result:

Year.	Index to Housing Trust completions per capita.
1956-57	100
1960-61	95
1961-62	91

This table demonstrates that, on a per capita basis, the Government completed 5 per cent less houses through the Housing Trust in 1960-61 than it did five years earlier, and, last year, the completions were 9 per cent less. The completions per capita, when related to

earlier years, is even less favourable. Therefore, rather than being a temporary phase as the Treasurer states, I believe the trend is that the Government is losing ground on its housing.

I now cite some unsatisfactory practices that are developing in contracting for Housing Trust houses: namely, the introduction of a piece-work system. Whilst apprentices in the industry were previously being trained adequately, under the system now developing no opportunities are presented for the training of apprentices. Piece-work attacks the very foundation of the building industry. It is possible for piece-work to give lower prices in the short term, but, in the long run, if there are insufficient skilled artisans coming into the respective trades, it must lead to a decline in the standard of work involved and to the eventual deterioration of our industry.

I have raised this matter several times and the Treasurer said he hoped to give me some information on the Government's attitude. Let us examine more closely what has happened in the Education Department, from which a certain contractor seems to be getting a tremendous amount of work. However, if the position is closely examined we find that that contractor does not bother about apprentices, and the State will pay dearly for that neglect. Other contractors tender for this type of work, but they are unsuccessful because this man's tenders are based on lower prices. Under the prevailing system of Government administration no consideration is offered for the training of apprentices in the building industry. Some contractors that have apprentices cannot compete for this work. I do not suggest that they must be subsidized, but it is a short-sighted policy that does not provide for the training of apprentices in this industry. A period of apprenticeship training is necessary for almost every job involved in building construction. I have heard it repeated many times by Governments that they are willing to abide by constitutional authority. They say they are willing to observe the decisions of the Arbitration Court on wages and conditions of employment, but the Playford Government makes no attempt to abide by its own policy. We should not carry on industry under this piece-work system because it is not in the best interests of industry or of the State.

The sum of £30,000 for the Printing and Stationery Department is purely to cover capital equipment and stores, but I should like to know how much longer the Government Printer is going to await the pleasure of this

Government before being housed in suitable premises to carry out the work involved in the control of his department. I believe that we can claim that the Government has promised to have this matter attended to. It is one which is long overdue and it is to be hoped that the Government will make some immediate move to have this position rectified. Members have been told from time to time that a new printing works is to be built opposite the Thebarton police barracks, but the department is still working under bad conditions that will not allow it to expand. The time has come when the Government should build a new printing works.

The south-western suburbs drainage scheme is another instance where we voted expenditure last year for the carrying out of work of a high priority, but the Government did not meet the challenge. Last year we voted £250,000 to be spent on this scheme, but the Government was only able to achieve work to the value of £127,000—that is approximately half. We are asked to vote £300,000 this year, but it is useless to vote the money if the Government is not going to proceed promptly with the work. I believe that here there is reasonable scope to immediately relieve the unemployment position if the Government will promptly proceed with the work.

The following table illustrates the Government's delay in regard to this important project:

SOUTH-WESTERN DRAINAGE SCHEME.

Year	Proposed Expenditure.	Actual Payments.
	£	£
1960-61	150,000	45,000
1961-62	250,000	127,000
1962-63	300,000	?

Each year we have voted substantial sums to carry out this most necessary scheme, but in the last two years the Government only achieved 43 per cent of the programme which was forecast and for which Parliament provided funds.

I mention this matter again because it is very important to the people in the Edwards-town district. Some of this money was spent on the Edwards Street drain from Brighton Road to the seafront and another proposal, under the Government's plan, is to provide an underground drain along Sturt Road. Another proposal, before we can go any further, is that a reservoir catchment be built in the hills area. After the light rain we had last Saturday afternoon I made it my business to travel on Marion Road shortly after 7 p.m.

Some of the shops were still open for business, but it would have been impossible for anyone to cross Marion Road to get to those shops. What is the position of those people who live on Marion Road? If we had a heavy rain I would be fearful of what would happen in some of the areas between the Goodwood Road and the Sturt River. This scheme was approved in 1959 by special Act of Parliament, but we are now told that this project, which is vital to the community, cannot be completed promptly. The member for Mitcham recently asked a question about a small section of the Colonel Light Gardens area that is affected by the scheme, and the Minister of Education has frequently been asked to visit the Morphettville racecourse after heavy rains to see the seriousness of the situation. We approve the spending of certain sums, so why does the Government spend only 40 per cent of them? I may have more to say on this topic later.

I have not referred to all matters in this debate because of the details involved, but I will have further comments to make when we discuss the lines. I wish to conclude on a poetical note. The poem could have been written in about 1215 in honour of a Perce or a Percival: in any event it aptly describes the political manoeuvrings in the State at present. The poem is entitled "Political Dead-Beat" and is as follows:

When I first entered Parliament I knew a thing or two,
I used to trim my flowing sails to every wind that blew;
'Though I didn't have much learning I possessed some common sense,
And could hold my own at sitting on or sliding off a fence.
The Party Whip soon found that I had something to give
And that I was conscientiously inclined to let the Government live.
Said he, "What price your conscience?"
Then I whispered in his ear,
And the Party when I took my seat received me with a cheer.

Mr. CUMBE (Torrens): In supporting the adoption of the first line of the Estimates I shall not try to compete with the Leader of the Opposition as a raconteur or poet. His was a worthy speech, but as I could not follow his reasoning on some points I shall not attempt to refute them at this stage. The Loan Estimates provide for the spending of about £30,000,000 of Loan funds and about £57,000,000 from all sources. The Loan Estimates are a sober set of documents, yet extremely interesting and inspiring in relation to some of our major works. I believe that all

members can appreciate the difficulties confronting any Treasurer in making up Estimates which provide for an expenditure about equal to last year's expenditure, and certainly no greater, due to the limited amount made available by the Loan Council last June. Under these circumstances the Treasurer has done a good job with the funds available and I commend him. The Treasurer and Parliament are faced with the problem that we have the same amount to spend, but a much greater demand. That is not extraordinary or peculiar to this Parliament: many of us experience that in our personal lives. The difficulty in solving this problem is obvious, and to achieve some balance some public works have had to be curtailed and the Loan Account has had to be overdrawn by a further £578,000 to a total of £1,000,000, which is the difference between the Loan Account deficit as at June 30, 1962, and the proposed deficit.

We can see that we are considering a deficit Loan Account which would have a greater deficit if other public works were proceeded with, and yet at the same time providing no more than the total expenditure of last year. The problem is accentuated in two ways. First, the Government—rightly, I consider—last year set out on a deliberate policy of pushing ahead with approved public works with the announced intention of creating more employment. It enlarged its own work force and provided a stimulus to private industry to step up the tempo of production and employment. I believe that this rate of progress must be maintained by continuous injections into the economy by the Government of public moneys through the letting of tenders for public developmental works. The second problem is that in a rapidly expanding economy, with our increasing population, the demands for Government services are continually rising. This is evidenced in several ways by the demands for additional schools, hospitals, roads, water and sewerage schemes and so forth. It is a natural increase, and one that should occur in a developing country. To keep pace with these capital demands the Loan Estimates should rise accordingly and in proportion.

Mr. McKee: You are talking of the development in the metropolitan area?

Mr. COUMBE: I am talking about South Australia. I have not mentioned any one part of the State in particular. However, I know that the honourable member is concerned only with the country and not with the metropolitan area. I am talking about the welfare of all of the people and not of some of the people.

I have mentioned the two pre-requisites for which this year's Loan Estimates should provide. However, with the paucity of funds available and the meagre hand-out that we have had from Canberra, we find that this year's Loan Estimates are on a par with last year's.

Mr. Riches: How do you account for that?

Mr. COUMBE: I do not agree with what has happened, if that answers the honourable member's question. I was disappointed with the amount made available to the Government. I join with the honourable member in expressing disappointment.

Mr. Riches: How do you account for it? Is it the way we present our case?

Mr. COUMBE: It was clearly announced at the Loan Council meeting that the Commonwealth Government was not prepared to increase the amount. It said that further funds were not available, as can be seen from the report of the Loan Council meeting. It is obvious from a perusal of the departmental details that developmental works receive the lion's share of the sum provided this year. Results can be achieved only by stretching our resources to the limit, because apparently no funds or credits are available from last year to help. In fact, last year's Estimates provided for a deficit of about £422,000. There appear to be no funds or credits available from last year to help us out. Last year's Loan Estimates provided for a deficit in the Loan Account of some £422,000. I am disappointed that the Loan Council, and in fact the Commonwealth Budget, did not provide further funds to give a spur to recovery.

Mr. McKee: It was your Party that failed to provide those funds.

Mr. COUMBE: I am not a 'yes' man like the honourable member for Port Pirie. I am prepared to criticize my colleagues if I honestly think they are wrong. In our Party, if we honestly criticize our colleagues, we are not expelled. The moneys provided at the special Loan Council meeting in February gave a valuable impetus to recovery. I should have thought it logical to keep up this pressure by feeding more Loan moneys into the economy at this stage, when recovery is becoming evident, and push it along. We could certainly have done with a little more in South Australia.

As regards the sums provided under these Loan Estimates, it is interesting to look in retrospect to see the total funds provided for capital works in this State over the years. In 1939 the Loan Estimates provided for the magnificent and staggering sum of £2,355,000!

In 1949, the total had grown to about £14,000,000, whereas this year the figure has risen to £57,000,000. In an expanding community, in a country like South Australia, we must keep up with this rate of progress. I believe also that today we are spending far more per capita than we were a few years ago. This increase is significant. If we compare our population in 1939 with our present-day population, we find that, in spending £2,355,000 in 1939 and £57,000,000 now, our per capita rate of expenditure has increased considerably. It shows the greater assistance being given to the community from all Government sources. That is the present-day trend, whether it be right or wrong: the Government seems to be assuming more responsibility in both social and development works for the community. In some things it is right; in other things I am not so sure.

Behind this outlet of this considerable sum that we are now considering we have new developments, industries, markets and techniques being developed all the time and being promoted from various sources. Our community is expanding; our standard of living is continually rising. More and more services are being demanded and provided. Where new housing areas arise, more services are being demanded and provided.

Mr. Hutchens: That trend must continue.

Mr. COUNBE: Yes. More avenues of employment are, of course, being opened up, and industries are expanding. There is a general confidence about the future of our State. These intangibles I have mentioned are important because we could regard them as our security, our collateral, for the capital sum of £57,000,000 we are providing today in these Loan Estimates.

The Government, in introducing these Loan Estimates, is working to promote and increase this confidence and security amongst our people. Further to the remarks I have made, the latest figures on employment are gratifying and show that we are making a sure and solid recovery. I am certain that some of this has come about because of the supplementary amount provided by the Loan Council in February, some by the stimulus given by industry itself and some by the deliberate policy of this Government of expanding public works and putting out works to tender. In this connection it is interesting to read in the daily press of August 20 last that both General Motors-Holdens and Chrysler (Australia) Ltd. had increased their work force and were now back to the 1960 level of

employment. General Motors-Holdens had increased its work force by 2,000, and Chrysler (Australia) Ltd. by 1,100. In fact, the Secretary of the Vehicle Builders Union (Mr. Birrell) said that union membership had increased by some 2,000 since last October.

Mr. Lawn: What caused them to put men off?

Mr. COUNBE: We all know that, and the honourable member should know it as well as I do.

Mr. Lawn: I am asking you. If you know, tell us!

Mr. COUNBE: What I am concerned about, and what the honourable member should be more concerned about, is getting men back to work.

Mr. Lawn: There are still 9,000 out of work in South Australia.

Mr. COUNBE: Then we find that a spokesman for the automotive industry said (on August 13, for the benefit of the honourable member) that the August car sales should exceed the record set in December, 1961.

Mr. Lawn: There are 9,000 looking for jobs in South Australia.

Mr. COUNBE: Here is the voice of the Jeremiah again. I have just said that General Motors-Holdens and Chrysler (Australia) Ltd. have put on these men and are back to a record level of employment. The honourable member decries that. His comments only last week when he was speaking in another debate are definitely a Jeremiah type of comment and contrast sharply with what is happening in the industry.

Mr. Lawn: Yes? You believe in a high level of employment?

Mr. COUNBE: The honourable member is not satisfied. I will give him another quotation and he can have a go at that one if he likes.

Mr. Lawn: What about the 9,000 out of work?

Mr. COUNBE: I refer now to an article in the *Advertiser* of August 18, last Saturday, under the heading "South Australia making an Economic Recovery". It reads:

The South Australian economy was making a sound comeback, the Minister of Industry (Mr. Rowe) said yesterday. Latest employment figures showed an improvement which was much better than in other States and showed that confidence was being restored.

Mr. Jennings: Why don't you say something yourself? Don't read it out!

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Jenkins): The honourable member for Enfield is out of order in interjecting when out of his place.

Mr. COUMBE: Perhaps some members opposite are not interested in hearing these figures, which are most pertinent. However, I do not think that is true of all members opposite: generally speaking, they are interested. The article continues:

People registered as seeking employment in South Australia now represented 1.7 per cent of the total work force of the State. "This is the lowest percentage in Australia and well below the Australian average of 2.1 per cent," Mr. Rowe said. "Compared with the position at July last year, there are in South Australia now 600 more vacancies registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service. There are 3,300 fewer people registered for employment and 2,100 fewer on unemployment benefit."

The article continues:

The work force in South Australia was about 9 per cent of the Australian total, but the number receiving unemployment benefit was only 6 per cent . . .

I believe that is significant. Then the article states:

The number of registered unemployed in South Australia was now 6,729 compared with 12,148 at the September peak.

How does that compare with the figure of 9,000 that the member for Adelaide has been tossing around? The figures given in the article are authentic and I accept them instead of the figures given by the member for Adelaide. The *Advertiser* of August 20 contained an article headed "£18,000,000 Chrysler Project Boost for S.A.". The two major undertakings in our automotive industry provide a greater aggregate of employment than any other two employers. The article states:

The Managing Director (Mr. David H. Brown) said yesterday that the five-year programme would enable the company to double its vehicle output and lift employment by 1,400 to more than 4,000 . . . Mr. Brown said the construction part of the programme would start early next year. Tonsley Park would be one of the most modern automotive manufacturing areas in the world . . . Because of the strong demand for its vehicles, the company's plants had been working to capacity with record outputs in each recent successive month.

That indicates the expansion that is taking place with existing plants. The article continues:

The decision to raise the investment of the parent company in Australia on such a large scale reflected its confidence in the future of the country . . . Apart from directly providing more jobs, the expansion would benefit suppliers and sub-contractors and enable them to provide more employment.

Mr. Loveday: Can you explain the lack of confidence 12 months ago and the super confidence today?

Mr. COUMBE: The company has brought out a new model and apparently it has proved to be a big success, with the result that there is a long waiting list.

Mr. Loveday: That is hardly an answer.

Mr. COUMBE: I think it is, and it seems to rile the honourable member. The President of the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce (Mr. R. H. Webb) said the announcement was "magnificent news" which demonstrated Chrysler's confidence in the soundness of the State's economy. I have given these quotations so as to give the lie to comments in this House about increased unemployment. The statement by the Minister of Labour and Industry shows that we have the lowest unemployment figure in the Commonwealth. The expansion, to which I have referred, will increase the number of jobs available for people in our State. A leader in the *Advertiser* of August 20, under the heading "Brightening Industrial Prospects", states:

Welcome proof of continuing confidence in South Australia's industrial growth is supplied in the announcement by Chrysler (Australia) Limited of an £18,000,000 expansion programme . . . The plan has also supplied further solid backing for the statement by the Minister of Industry (Mr. Rowe) last week that the State's economy was making a sound comeback. Among the signs of this noted by Mr. Rowe were the falls in the numbers of those registered as unemployed and as receiving benefits, and the increase in job vacancies . . . These are tangible signs that, as Mr. Rowe says, "Confidence is being restored". The regrowth of confidence, which has been rather slow and hesitant, must be aided here by the knowledge that this State has the lowest percentage of unemployment in Australia.

In tying this up with the Loan Estimates I make the point that the Loan Estimates go a long way towards continuing this trend towards increased employment. They show that the Government is doing its utmost to go ahead with a programme of increased employment. If we break up the departmental votes in the Loan Estimates we get some interesting figures, which show that the emphasis is on major capital works. I suggest that there has been a move towards emphasis on utility departments. If we look at Parliamentary Paper No. 11 and compare the totals for last year and this year we notice a significant trend. Last year the money provided for the State Bank was 4.2 per cent of the total of the Loan Estimates, whereas this year it is 2.5 per

cent. Last year the figure for the Highways and Local Government Department was 0.81 per cent, but this year it is 1.80 per cent. For Lands Department last year's figure was 0.18 per cent, and this year it is 0.13 per cent. Last year the figure for Irrigation and Drainage Department was 2.75 per cent, whereas this year it is 2.62 per cent. The figure for the Woods and Forests Department appears to be stationary at 3.9 per cent. For the Railways Department last year's figure was 8.46 per cent, and this year it is 7.60 per cent.

Now we come to increases, and last year of the total allocation the Harbors Board had 5.86 per cent. This year it has 6.18 per cent. Last year the Engineering and Water Supply Department took 34.6 per cent of the total moneys provided under the Loan Estimates, whereas this year it is taking 37.3 per cent. The figure for the Public Buildings Department has increased from 27.7 per cent last year to 28.4 per cent this year. The figure for "Miscellaneous" has dropped back this year, understandably so when we consider the various items, from 12.9 per cent to 10.2 per cent. Of that 12.9 per cent the Electricity Trust is taking 7.5 per cent. If we group the E. & W. S. Department, a major utility department, and the Public Buildings Department, the two get the lion's share of the total Loan funds allocated. It is 65.7 per cent this year, whereas last year it was 62.3 per cent. These two departments employ a large work force. The E. & W. S. Department employs many semi-skilled and unskilled men. In this way useful employment is found for men who are not readily absorbed into other sections of industry. We can see that the emphasis is upon water schemes and such things as the building of schools and other Government buildings. I think that from the percentages I have just quoted we can draw the conclusion that these works are likely to provide greater services to the people and at the same time create and maintain a high level of employment.

I now wish to deal with the Housing Trust, about which we have heard something this afternoon from the Leader. The trust's total funds from all sources are expected to be £12,800,000. Of this, £4,850,000 will be provided from funds from the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement at a rate of four per cent. This is an increase of £500,000 over last year. An amount of £50,000 is provided on these Estimates as a nominal contribution to the trust, and I presume this will carry the rate of five per cent, the same as the Commonwealth loan rate. A further £1,800,000 will be

authorized for semi-governmental borrowing at a rate of about 5½ per cent, leaving the balance to be found from internal sources such as depreciation and maintenance funds, the trust's own surpluses and the sale proceeds from its houses. It is significant that although the trust has gone to the public in the past for funds on a public flotation basis, and is listed for Stock Exchange purposes as a trustee investment, this method has not been used for some years now and in fact I understand that there is only one loan outstanding and due for conversion shortly. I believe that the present policy is quite wise, and that the reasons for it are, first, cheaper money being available from the Savings Bank, the Commonwealth Bank, private banks and other lending institutions and, secondly, the avoidance of competition with the Electricity Trust, whose loans are now a regular feature of the loan market in South Australia. I believe this to be a wise course to follow, and I support the principle. I only wonder why the Treasurer includes this £50,000 in these Estimates at all, as it accounts for only about 1.9 per cent of the trust's allocation, or one-eighth per cent of the total expenditure this year on the whole of the Estimates. Perhaps the Treasurer could enlighten me on this aspect when we come to that line. That £50,000 possibly could have gone to another department, although it may well be that there is some significance in retaining that amount for the trust.

It is proposed to spend £8,962,000 this financial year on capital works for the Electricity Trust. These works are all of a major nature; they are productive in themselves, and will in turn create further advantages to the State and its people. I think that we all agree with that objective and support the trust in its undertakings. Of this sum of almost £9,000,000, these Estimates will provide £2,300,000, and £2,750,000 will be raised from institutional borrowings and from public loans. A further sum of £3,912,000 will come from the trust's internal sources, including £375,000 from its special grant. This indicates the strength of the trust's internal sources and its good management. We all recall that the trust over recent years has raised many millions of pounds from the public by floating loans, sometimes two in one year. These loans have met with remarkable success. This source of investment, being classed as a trustee investment by both State and Commonwealth legislation under the semi-governmental classification, provides an investment avenue not only for institutions with trust funds to invest but for thousands

of small holders who want security for their savings as well as an assured income. I am sure that a perusal of the trust's register of bondholders would disclose that thousands of South Australians, many of whom would be pensioners and recipients of superannuation benefits, are holding small parcels of bonds. I support this policy of allowing the South Australian public to participate in helping a South Australian utility.

Last year the trust's loan was at the then ruling rate of 5½ per cent, the highest level it has ever reached. This is fairly expensive money, and I was pleased earlier this year to see the rate fall back to 5¾ per cent in conformity with the Loan Council policy of semi-governmental borrowing, which gives a margin of 7s. 6d. per cent over and above the official bond rate of £5 per centum. I suggest that this rate of 5¾ per cent would amount to more than 5½ per cent when the cost of underwriting and extensive advertising was taken into account. Both these items, of course, are necessary to ensure the success of a loan such as this, because nothing would be worse than to have a public loan for such an undertaking fail. In the Eastern States, particularly in Victoria, several loans for electricity undertakings have failed in recent years, and it is to the credit of the trust and the public generally that these loans in South Australia have been so readily supported.

I had a look at the £2,300,000 provided in this year's Loan Account to see if this sum could be raised from the public or some other source and thus release this amount for use in other departments. I know that we would all welcome further money being made available for use in our own districts. However, on doing some simple arithmetic I find that the savings in interest as a result of providing this money on the Estimates are quite worth while, even though some departments may have to have their programmes curtailed. Taking the capital sum of £2,300,000 at 5½ per cent, this would mean an interest payment of £126,500 each year, whereas the £2,300,000 capitalized at five per cent—which is the charge for Loan Account moneys—would give an interest charge of £115,000 each year. Therefore, a saving of £11,500 in interest each year is shown, and if this is amortized on the long-term money market basis of 20 years, it would represent a saving to the State of over £300,000 and even more proportionately if amortized over the statutory sinking fund period of 53 years. It can be readily seen that it is quite worth while to keep that line in the Loan Estimates, and it should

be supported. I looked at it only in order to see why the Treasurer left it there rather than attempting to raise this money from other sources and so helping other departments such as Education or Hospitals or some other line. I thought perhaps it could be used for the proposed power station in the member for Port Adelaide's district or for some other project. From the trend over recent years and from the announced expansion plans it would appear that this Parliament will be called upon over the years for increasing capital grants to the trust. I am sure that all members will readily support this line.

It is interesting to see what is happening at the Leigh Creek coalfield. This year a capital payments line shows a drop from £700,000 last year to only £50,000 for 1962-63, although production has been stepped up from 1,000,000 tons two years ago to 1,500,000. A large item was the provision for a monster dragline excavator weighing 1,000 tons which apparently has been paid for; therefore, only £50,000 is required for Leigh Creek this year.

Another rather interesting item appears under the heading "State Bank—Loans to Producers—£220,000". It has been announced that legislation is to be introduced to alter the present set-up and practice of providing this line from the Loan Account. Amending legislation is to be introduced to permit the State Bank to borrow moneys as a semi-governmental authority. Just what the market position will be with the Electricity Trust, the Housing Trust and the local government authorities already in the field is not quite certain to me. I understand that borrowing will be on the same basis as for those authorities, apart from any of the private investments on the market. It will certainly be most interesting to see what institutions will lend to the State Bank, and how much will be left for the others, although only £200,000 is to be borrowed this year, leaving £220,000 to be met from Loan funds.

I shall now mention a couple of district matters. Earlier today I heard the Leader of the Opposition ask the Treasurer a question regarding the building of locomotives at the Islington workshops, and later he referred to the same matter in his speech on the Loan Estimates, not having revised his speech after he had asked the question. The Islington workshops are partly in my electorate, and many of the workmen reside in my district. I welcome the programme set before us this year of building a large number of waggons, trucks,

brakevans, etc., and I am sure that the workshop will be able to build this equipment in a first-rate manner, as it has done for many years. This work will provide a valuable impetus to the workshop and result in retaining in employment many hundreds of men. The programme of railway standardization has already been mentioned and with the inclusion of the manufacture of rolling stock there is sure to be employment at the Islington workshops for many years. In addition, last week the Treasurer announced that the repair and maintenance of vehicles used in the conversion to the standard gauge would be undertaken here as far as possible. I believe that the figure of 99 per cent was mentioned of the work to be undertaken at the railway workshops. Therefore, I welcome the provision in these Estimates of money to undertake the railway work I have mentioned.

Normally, in my electorate one does not get votes by advocating district work, because it is a completely built-up area; but I am pleased to know that this year money has been placed on the Estimates to complete the new School of Art in North Adelaide, in addition to which I am most gratified to see that money has been set aside for building the Gepps Cross Girls Technical High School. This is just outside my electorate boundary, but I have been pleased to support this proposal because it will greatly relieve some of the overcrowding at the Nailsworth Girls Technical High School and other schools. It will take many children from the northern areas. I am most grateful that at last this proposal has been included.

I believe that the Treasurer has brought down a realistic Loan-spending programme, a programme that takes into account most of the urgent items that must be done. It is not an over-ambitious programme and I believe that it can be achieved. Taking all factors into consideration, the Treasurer has brought down a pretty good Budget that provides wisely for all the really essential works. Certain items in some members' districts have to be deferred, but I believe that all the really important works have been provided for in these Estimates. Perhaps the needs of the Engineering and Water Supply Department are causing the most concern, because in the years to come we shall have to provide greater and greater sums for this expanding department. Unlike some other States that have a plentiful rainfall, we have a paucity of rain and find that we have to provide a greater percentage of our

Loan funds for water conservation and distribution than have other States. I suggest that per capita South Australia spends more on water supplies than any other State. However, this is proving a great benefit to many country areas that otherwise would be completely out of production.

Even if I take the liberty to mention the requirements of the metropolitan area I am sure that the member for Port Pirie (Mr. McKee) will not take exception. In South Australia we do not have water restrictions approaching those imposed in other States. In years to come there will be a need to increase funds to meet our water requirements. I reiterate that this is a realistic Loan-spending programme and commend the Treasurer for the way he has introduced it and suggest that South Australia will benefit in the next few years. I have much pleasure in supporting the first line.

Mr. CLARK (Gawler): Members will agree when I say that we have heard this afternoon very good speeches from the two honourable members who have spoken. They have gone to some trouble to analyse from their point of view various aspects of the Loan Estimates, and whether members agree or not I consider they have given something interesting and informative. I will attempt to deal not with subjects of a general aspect, but with a few district matters, touching on schools. Mr. Coumbe towards the end of his remarks said he believed that all the really important items had been included in the Estimates.

At least one important item that I wish to discuss at length was for some unaccountable reason not dealt with, and I want to know why. I doubt whether I have ever spoken on the Loan Estimates without mentioning the need for a sewerage scheme in Gawler. This project has become a hardy annual with me. Ever since I have been in this House I have constantly advocated that sewerage be extended to Gawler. I have no doubt that it will be provided eventually, but, in common with most people living in the town and area, I want it soon—and if it were built tomorrow, of course, it would not be too soon, as we have been advocating it for years. Last year, when the Minister told me that a sewerage scheme for Gawler was to be submitted to the Public Works Committee in a few months' time, my hopes were raised considerably, but unfortunately it has not yet reached the committee. All members of that committee strive to deal with matters before them expeditiously and in a completely unbiased manner. I may have some

trouble in being unbiased in this matter, but I shall be happy to go with other members of the committee and investigate this matter fully when it is submitted to us. I believe sewerage is vital to the town's sanitation, health, and future development.

The Loan Estimates include sums for building schools at Brahma, Elizabeth Downs, Elizabeth West, and Salisbury West, and for additions to be made to the Gawler High School. These additions are the second stage of what will be a fine school; the first stage has been occupied since the beginning of the year. This would appear to most members to be a healthy list, and I offer the thanks of my constituents for it. I would be remiss if I did not admit that over the last few years, because of circumstances, no district has had more school buildings erected in it than mine, and it may seem to some members that what I have to say is carping criticism and that I, like Oliver, am getting up and asking for more; however, I must do so. This afternoon I asked the Minister of Education a question about overcrowding at the Salisbury Consolidated Primary School which is causing a good deal of concern in the area, and I know he will reply as soon as possible. People are asking whether the new schools at Brahma and Salisbury West will eventually aid this school, and possibly they will; it certainly needs help. Attending this school now are 546 in the primary section and 317 in the infant section. Because of the development of and rapid subdivision in the Salisbury area, there have been 114 new enrolments since February this year. That is a 15 per cent increase, which is rather surprising in a town such as Salisbury, which most people regard as being one of the older country towns, but a vast change has come over the complexion of the Salisbury-Elizabeth area in the last few years. A big increase is expected at this school in the third term, and I know that existing classrooms will not be able to accommodate the extra scholars.

It has been suggested to me (I do not know if it is correct; that is why I asked the Minister for information) that there are two possibilities to offset the effects of the increased enrolments. The first is sending overflow classes from the school to the Elizabeth South Primary School, but I hope that will not be done; the second is that local buildings will be rented for the overflow, and I am not happy about this either. Neither suggestion seems to be satisfactory. I know that something will have to be done soon, otherwise this school will be swamped, but something should have been

done before. I urge the department to act as soon as possible to prevent a chaotic situation.

I turn now to a matter that has concerned me and, I am sure, the Minister of Education for many years. I refer to the Gawler Adult Education Centre, about which I, like many of my constituents around Gawler, am disappointed. This centre serves the districts of several members so I am sure they will be interested in it also.

Mr. Bywaters: I think it interests the whole State in the matter of adult education.

Mr. CLARK: As the honourable member says, it affects the whole State, so my remarks apply to some extent to other country centres as well. I know the member for Murray is anxious to have an adult education centre headquarters at Murray Bridge, but I hope he will be patient and let me get the centre at Gawler built first.

Mr. Riches: The priority list has been given.

Mr. CLARK: I thought I knew the priority list, but I have been disappointed in this regard at times. New buildings have been urgently required for some years at Gawler on land purchased long ago by the department. Everyone from the Minister down has agreed (and I am sure all still do) that the building of this centre is urgent, so this is a dire disappointment not only to me but to people in a large area served by the centre. In the next fortnight I, with the Hon. Mr. Dawkins, who represents the district in the Legislative Council and is particularly interested because he lives close to Gawler, will meet the Gawler Adult Education Council. Mr. Dawkins is interested in choral work at the centre. We shall have a discussion in the near future and I hope to have all the details of the difficulties of this centre. I have some knowledge of its troubles already. The meeting with the council will be completely non-political, and I am seriously attempting to make my speech today non-political. As a member of the Public Works Committee, I know only too well that many urgent school projects must be carried out; many of them are on these Loan Estimates. I hope to have the opportunity in the near future to go with the committee to inspect the site and the conditions under which the centre operates, and to give a report on it.

Mr. Jennings: The member for Torrens is a member of the Public Works Committee.

Mr. CLARK: Unfortunately, I did not hear all he said today. Usually he goes to some trouble to indicate what Government projects have been carried out, mostly through the Public Works Committee. I am attempting to

elaborate on one project that has not been carried out or referred to the Public Works Committee. I believe that this school should not have been omitted from the Loan Estimates and, in an attempt to prove this, I shall give chapter and verse of my own personal strivings over the years to have this work done. I am not the only one who has worked to have this building completed or who has tried to hasten the project. I speak of my own knowledge as to what I have done. The first reference I can remember—there may have been others—is that on September 24, 1957 (and this can be found on page 796 of *Hansard* for that year), I said:

As the Minister knows, this school has no real home at the moment. It is housed partly in the high school and partly in the old electoral building in Murray Street, Gawler. Land has been purchased for the building of the new school and I sincerely hope that, if possible, this building will be commenced soon. I still hope that but, of course, this is five years later. On October 8, 1957 I asked the following question:

Recently, in the debate on the Loan Estimates I drew the attention of the Minister of Education to the excellent work being done by the Gawler Adult Education Centre and said that a new building was urgently required on land already purchased to meet the requirements of the centre. Has the Minister of Education a report on this matter?

The Minister replied:

I agree with the honourable member's statement concerning the excellent work being done by this centre, but unfortunately the Director reports that no provision was made in the Loan programme this year for new buildings for the Gawler Adult Education Centre. Land was recently purchased, and it is most desirable that, as soon as possible, the classes should be held on this site. They are at present held in rented quarters in other parts of the town. These are congested and not satisfactory. However, the pressure of the demand in new schools, particularly secondary schools, has made it necessary to concentrate on these buildings for 1957-58 and, for this reason, work on new buildings for the Adult Education Centre was not included. The Director considers it most desirable that this work should not be delayed beyond this year and hopes that it will receive high priority for the 1958-59 programme.

Although I am not suggesting that the Minister was not sincere in the reply he gave me on this and other occasions, I felt really hopeful when I received that reply.

On September 18, 1958, following the debate on the Loan Estimates, I asked the Treasurer the following question:

During the debate on the Loan Estimates I expressed my pleasure at an amount of £73,000 being allowed for the Gawler and

Mount Gambier adult education centres, and asked the Premier whether he would find out how much would be allocated to the Gawler centre, and what buildings it was proposed to erect with the money. Has he obtained that information?

The Treasurer's reply thrilled me so much that I immediately telephoned the principal of the Gawler Adult Education Centre and gave him the good news, thus making him as pleased as I was. The Treasurer said:

Of this amount, £15,000 will be spent at Mount Gambier, and £58,000 at Gawler. The works to be carried out are renovations to the old primary school at Mount Gambier, and the erection of a dual woodwork centre, including a temporary administrative centre, and domestic arts centre, at Gawler.

I do not know how much was spent at Mount Gambier out of this money, but it was certainly not spent at Gawler.

I now come to 1959, still pursuing the same matter. After referring to the difficulties that I knew had ensued regarding drainage at the site on which the centre was to be built, I asked a question on June 10, 1959, as follows:

Will the Minister of Education obtain a report on the reasons for the continued delay in commencing work on the new buildings?

The Minister replied:

I am ready, willing and anxious to proceed with the work but, as the honourable member mentioned, numerous difficulties have been encountered, and I have to receive advice from Mr. Walker, Superintendent of Technical Schools, in particular. I will have the whole matter investigated again and let the honourable member have a reply as soon as possible.

On August 25, 1959, I referred to the matter again in the debate on the Loan Estimates and, on October 7, I asked a further question regarding sewage disposal on the site. On April 7, 1960, I asked the following question:

People interested in the Gawler Adult Education Centre have been somewhat concerned over the delay in building operations at the centre. The Minister of Education has more than once agreed with me that the early erection of these buildings is necessary. Will the Premier, representing the Minister of Education, obtain for me information as to when the erection of these very necessary buildings is likely to commence and, in fact, when the building operations are likely to be completed?

I think the Minister of Education was indisposed at that time. No member could have received a better answer than the one the Treasurer gave me. He said, "Yes." On April 27, 1960, I asked:

Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding building operations at the Gawler Adult Education Centre?

The Minister replied:

I regret the delay which has occurred in the erection of the building. As the honourable member is aware, the delay has been occasioned because of problems connected with the sewage disposal and the acquisition of additional land. However, these problems have now been resolved and the Public Buildings Department is proceeding with the planning of the building and its erection on the site. It is not possible at this stage to say with any degree of accuracy when building will commence, but I sincerely hope that it will be very soon. I have informed the honourable member on several occasions verbally and in writing, that the building is absolutely necessary, and the planning is proceeding.

Following that, in the Loan Estimates debate of the same year, I passed a few remarks on the same matter. I said:

The sum of £10,000 is to be spent on the adult education centres at Gawler and Mount Gambier. Last year about £25,000 was provided for centres at Gawler and Mount Gambier. I do not know whether all the money was spent at Mount Gambier, but very little was spent at Gawler. I hope a start will be made on the project this year.

As members can see, I was still hopeful. They were the results for 1960.

We now come to very recent times. On March 16, 1961, I tried a slightly different tactic. I wrote to the Minister on the question and concluded by saying:

I would appreciate it very much if you would be kind enough to call for a report on when this building is likely to be commenced and what rooms, etc., it is planned to build in the initial stages. I believe this work to be most urgent.

On July 12, I received a letter from the Attorney-General who was, at that time, acting for the Minister of Education. I quote one paragraph of this letter as the rest only led up to this paragraph, which stated:

I have now been advised that as the cost of the first and second stages of the proposed work together will exceed £100,000 it will be necessary for the project to be referred to the Public Works Standing Committee. The director of the Public Buildings Department is to have sketch plans and estimates prepared for the whole work for reference to the committee, ready for reference in September or in early October this year and as soon as the recommendation of the committee is received working drawings and specifications for the first stage will be done as quickly as possible.

Of course, those of us who were interested, threw our hats into the air because, at long last, it looked as though we were getting somewhere with the project. On April 18 last I asked a similar question and the Minister replied:

I cannot give any precise details except that I know the Education Department, the Director

of Education, the Superintendent of Technical Schools and I were disappointed that it was not included in the list of works last year and even in preceding years. I assure the honourable member that it will be included in this year's programme because it is long overdue and because it is one of the most popular in this State. I am sure it is under the most capable supervision that could be desired of anybody in this State.

Naturally, in view of that reply, I hoped that this project would come before the Public Works Committee. I am not accusing the Minister of breaking any promises in this regard because I do not think it is his fault that the project has not come to the committee and that it has not been included in these Estimates. Many members represent districts that are vitally concerned with the Gawler Adult Education Centre. The member for Murray, by interjection, referred to the good work being done by adult education centres, and I believe this is one section of our Education Department's activities that has far outstripped similar activities in other States. Definite advantages accrue to the people who attend the Gawler centre and much valuable work is attempted by it.

Mr. Bywaters: The popularity of adult education is evidenced by the numbers attending the centres.

Mr. CLARK: Yes, and I will quote figures of the number of students who took advantage of the tuition at Gawler last year. Reasonable fees are charged for tuition at the centre. Indeed, in many instances fees are not required. Fees are not payable by apprentices in all trade subjects, employees of the Education Department (including full-time teachers, part-time instructors, clerical and laboratory assistants, and even school cleaners), State public servants, disabled ex-servicemen, ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen for eight years after discharge, widows of ex-servicemen until re-marriage, children of totally and permanently incapacitated ex-servicemen, children of deceased ex-servicemen, and, I think, Legacy wards.

The courses are many and varied. I know that the Minister will agree that almost any subject can be taught at an adult education centre provided a teacher can be obtained and sufficient people seek the course. The courses include diploma courses in accountancy, type-writing and shorthand up to Public Examinations Board standards, drawing and art classes up to Leaving standard (and, of course, these classes cover a wide scope including painting

and sketching, design and colour, plant drawing, lettering and showcard writing, perspective, dimensional sketching, geometrical drawing, building drawing, and so forth), wool classing, dressmaking and art needlework, cake icing and decorating, mathematics, jujitsu and judo, and brass band music.

Under the auspices of the centre the Gawler brass band has been re-formed and has successfully competed in band contests. Years ago Gawler was famous for its brass bands. Indeed, Mr. Bywaters, who has the honour of coming from Gawler originally, will well remember the time when Gawler had two good brass bands. However, with the growth of tinned music and other interests, the band at Gawler battled along without much encouragement until the principal of the adult education centre (who has done much for Gawler of which he can be proud) re-formed the band, which is a credit to the town. The centre also conducts classes in floral art, woodwork, arc welding, oxy welding, radio theory, dramatic art, choral work (and, as I mentioned earlier, Mr. Dawkins conducts the choir), ballet, German, English to Leaving standard, and other courses too numerous to mention. All of these courses, although not necessarily held in Gawler, are supervised and controlled by the Gawler centre.

During the Address in Reply debate I said that one of the most pleasing features of education in South Australia has been the increased interest in and the increased use of adult education facilities. This is a wonderful thing. In 1961 the number of students enrolled through the Gawler centre—and this includes the allied branches, of which there are many—was 2,496, and I understand that this year's enrolment exceeds that. To indicate to members the many districts that are receiving assistance from the Gawler centre, let me quote the towns in which classes are held, but which are organized by that centre. Branch classes are conducted at Wasleys, Hamley Bridge, Owen, Balaklava, Blyth, Brinkworth, Clare, Spalding, Saddleworth, Manoora, Riverton, Eudunda, Greenock, Angaston, Tanunda, Nuriootpa, Cambrai, Mount Pleasant, Birdwood, Tea Tree Gully, Hillcrest, Northfield, Salisbury, Salisbury North, Mallala, Two Wells, Kingscote, Parndana and Elizabeth. Of course, it can be seen that a large section of the State is under the control of, or receiving lessons through, this centre. The nerve centre of an area stretching as far as Cambrai and over to Kangaroo Island is Gawler. As the member for Barossa (Mr. Laucke) knows, and as I know through associations with part

of his district, we have an outstanding man at Gawler, a very good citizen of the town as well as an admirable principal of this centre. Unfortunately—and this is why I have persistently advocated that the new buildings be built in this town—at present and for a long period, as honourable members know from the replies given to questions some years ago, we have been managing with makeshift quarters from which to direct this colossal job. In one reply from the Minister that I quoted, he rightly said that congested and unsatisfactory conditions existed there. That was said in 1957 and the difficulties caused by those makeshift conditions have increased, not lessened, with the increased numbers being looked after by the schools.

At the moment, to give honourable members some idea of just how makeshift the position is, the classrooms in the Gawler centre are scattered in all sorts of locations all over the town. At the old Gawler High School, classes in dressmaking (six), art, mathematics, accountancy (two), typing and shorthand are held. At the inadequate centre itself, the headquarters are at the moment in what used to be the old Gawler electoral office. This building could be classed as makeshift. The office accommodation of the principal and those helping him could be described only as makeshift. In the available accommodation, classes in woodwork (three), cake decorating, floral art (three), millinery, and accountancy (three) are held. At the Foresters hall in Gawler, brass band music and other subjects are taught. At Tod Street Methodist hall there is a choral group. At Hobart's old stables, where the old bowling green used to be, we have drama classes. At the community rest centre we have a class in ballet. At the Returned Servicemen's League hall, we have two classrooms for ballet. The Gawler West Methodist hall is used for presentation of plays by the drama class. The Gawler Institute hall is used for recitals and demonstrations, and often indeed for classes. That indicates that few of the smaller halls in Gawler are not being used by the Gawler Adult Education Centre, and the halls used are scattered all over the town.

At the moment there are no classes for some subjects, such as invalid cookery, metal work, welding, and others desired. There are no classrooms or other places in Gawler that can be turned into some sort of classroom in which to hold these classes. Such a scattered arrangement of classes poses grave difficulties for the

principal and his assistant teachers. It obviously makes it most difficult to supervise classes when, as I have shown, they are scattered all over the town. It leads to much time-wasting for the principal himself, and he is so busy that he has little time to waste.

Many of the makeshift classrooms are completely inadequate for adult classes. For example, the woodwork centre has no store-rooms, office, timber rooms, or any of the usual adjuncts that we expect to be near a place where woodwork is taught. The models made by the students are stacked on top of each other or suspended from the ceiling or walls. The resultant congestion of working space makes it, in my opinion, dangerous to use power machinery. In these days, in any reasonably advanced tuition in woodwork, power machinery has to be used.

The drama group has an excellent record. It has won prizes and awards at eisteddfods and, apart from that, it has derived much benefit from studies of dramatic art. It works in the former Hobart stables, which has many disadvantages. For example, it has no power for heating. The people there are cold at the best of times in those stables. There are no power points and it is too dangerous to install kerosene heaters there. Those working there also suffer from smells. The place where they rehearse and train is over an egg-packing plant. Although people who put on plays on the stage in the old days had eggs thrown at them sometimes because of their inadequate performances, it is unusual for a drama class to have eggs underneath it. There is a small stage at floor level inadequate for training and rehearsals and it is impossible for stagehands to operate. No lighting is available for the stage. It cannot be used satisfactorily for plays, yet it is a part of the dramatic art training. No audience shows can be performed there.

Turning to dressmaking, the classroom at the high school is most unsuitable. There is no fitting room, which is necessary for such work. There is completely inadequate storage space and the students are working almost on top of each other because of the lack of room. As regards ballet classes, the hall in which they have their lessons and training is one used for other purposes. Sometimes the young girls come along and find they have to clear the floor space of tables because the hall has been used for a smoke social the previous evening. Most parents would agree that the

smell of stale beer and cigarettes in a hall was not perhaps quite the best atmosphere in which young girls should train at ballet.

I mention these things to give honourable members some idea of the difficulties involved. To go a little further, the accountancy class, too, has its difficulties. The students there have achieved outstanding results in examinations. I know that examinations are not the final be-all and end-all of school, but the results of examinations, in certain subjects anyhow, indicate the sort of work done in a school. In this accountancy room, the lighting and heating are most inadequate. It is almost impossible to carry on in the room, although these accountancy classes are in great demand. It is essential that they continue. Facilities for additional classes are urgently required. Finally, in connection with the inadequate accommodation, there is an urgent need for a hall or auditorium. I understand that one will be built if and when the centre is built. This could be used to great advantage for five or six nights every week.

I have mentioned the growing eagerness for increased adult education; also that the principal of this centre (Mr. John Chambers) is an inspiring leader not only in the centre but in civic affairs as well. They have a particularly fine body of men as councillors at the school under the presidency of Mr. E. A. Harradine. They have done all possible to urge the building of the school. Everybody agrees that the building of new quarters for this centre is an urgent necessity, yet we are still waiting for it. I urge that it be built as soon as possible. I should like to see a line on these Estimates for the work, and I am disappointed that there is not one this year. In any case, we realize that if there were such a line it would be possible that the money would not be spent for the purpose. I have gone to some trouble in this matter to show why adult education is worth while. I am not alone in this opinion and I will quote two opinions of prominent gentlemen, who know what they are talking about. The first is by Mr. E. Mander-Jones, Director of Education, who said:

I consider there are four aims of any adult education service in any community that calls itself an advanced one:

- (1) Adult education aims at the provision of opportunity for development of vocational and technical skills and knowledge.
- (2) It ought to include all those things which lead to an appreciation on the part of the people of the beauty in

the world around us, whether that is in nature, in art, or in human development.

- (3) We ought to aim at giving every person in our community an opportunity of becoming aware of and understanding the world in which he lives.
- (4) Embracing all these and related to each of these three aims is the spread of information in respect of actual facts, and combined with the capacity to assess their true value, whatever that value may be.

The other was by the Minister of Education (Sir Baden Pattinson), who said:

We are very anxious, of course, to pay increasing attention to such further activities as music and musical appreciation, documentary films, the study of dramatic art and discussions on current affairs and literature, in addition to a continuation of all the subjects now taught in adult education centres. In fact, there will be no restriction at all on the kinds of subjects which may be taken by the public. My aim is to provide an adult education service to meet the needs of the people in every part of the State. Wherever a group is anxious to follow an approved course of study, arrangements will be made so far as is humanly possible for lecturers and leaders to be provided. I am completely confident that, in whatever fields the subjects may be, the people of this State will come, through pursuit of their studies, to a greater understanding, to wider interests, and to better citizenship.

I believe that the Gawler Adult Education Centre is admirably performing the functions described by the Minister and the Director. I am sure that the Minister agrees with the sentiments expressed by the Director. I agree with both opinions. I have tried not to make a political speech. If I have done so I have done it without being aware of it. I have tried to keep these remarks free from sarcasm and innuendo, which is not an easy thing for me to do. It is vitally important to places as far away as the Barossa Valley, the Mid-North, and Kangaroo Island to have this centre at Gawler. Everyone wants it built, and the people in the district are disappointed and frustrated with the present position. Departmental officers in the technical branch feel the same way. I make a plea with all the limited eloquence of which I am capable that the buildings for the headquarters of this centre be commenced and finished as soon as is humanly possible. I support the first line.

Mr. SHANNON (Onkaparinga): I want to deal with some comments made by the Leader of the Opposition, particularly his statement that this was only an opening gambit and that the real fight would be on the lines. I do not know what sort of a fight we shall have then, but his henchmen had broad smiles on

their faces, indicating that they had something in pickle for the members of the Government Party when we reach the lines.

Mr. Riches: There is no doubt about your imagination.

Mr. SHANNON: Not at all. I am always observant, and I have observed with good cause on occasions. I have seen things in the offing and I knew that there would be a storm on the opening day of this session. I think I was the only member on this side to realize that a storm was brewing, and we had the Leader of the Opposition moving for the introduction of a Bill rather than an ordinary motion.

As pointed out by the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe), in these Loan Estimates the Treasurer has stretched the State's finances to the limit. The £570,000 additional deficit in the Loan Account will make the total State deficit about £1,000,000. In the Treasurer we have a cautious and sound financier who understands the value of money. He was brought up in a school where the pennies had to be counted and he has not forgotten the lesson. That is one reason why we are suffering in South Australia in our attempts to further our development programme by getting money from another Parliament that is parsimonious. It looks at our needs and says that they are not great, and that our employment position is the best of any State in the Commonwealth. It says that only 1.7 per cent of the work force is unemployed. Because of the careful financing of our Treasurer we are being penalized. I should be the last to suggest that we let ourselves go, get into a spot of bother, and then wait for a grandmotherly Government in Canberra to come to our aid.

On the contrary, we should be proud that we have kept our house in order. I do not think there is any valid reason why our representatives in the Commonwealth Parliament should not speak more strongly on these matters. They should be more forthright in their appeals on behalf of the State for a greater helping from the Commonwealth funds available for the States. It is a terrible thing that one industry can spend £18,000,000 in doubling its capacity in the motor industry, yet we can get only about £1,300,000 to buy rolling stock for a line that cannot, because of existing gradients, adequately carry this additional stock, and give us value from the new prime movers. The Treasurer said he would ask Parliament to agree to commence, from our own resources, taking out some of the humps in the line between Port Pirie and Broken Hill and re-laying with sleepers that would

ultimately take the standard gauge, but the Leader complained that the State was undertaking something that it could not afford to undertake and appeared to suggest that we should accept what we were getting from Canberra and just carry on in the hope that we would get something more. The Treasurer is not looking at it that way; he has never been content for someone else to do the work he knows should be done. He intends to go on with it, and he is criticized by the Opposition for suggesting this step.

It appeared to me that most of the Leader's remarks were very parish-pumpy; when he got out of Edwardstown he got off the beam entirely, and he was not too much on the beam even in Edwardstown. Apparently he does not realize that much of the burden of the cost of the south-western suburbs drainage scheme is to be borne by the local authorities concerned, and that the scheme was designed in the first instance to take some years to complete, on the basis of the councils' ability to meet their moieties of the cost. Obviously, the Leader did not take that into account, and I think that when his remarks are read by the local councils in his district, they will not be appreciated. If the Government came along and said that it would complete another £1,000,000 worth of this work and that it expected the councils concerned to find their moiety of the cost in one year, some real crocodile tears would be shed down by the coastline. Those councils could not do it. The Leader knows that is the case, and he should be as much aware of that problem as are members of my committee. Incidentally, I commend the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) and my good friend the member for Gawler (Mr. Clark), both of whom made excellent speeches. Perhaps my friend from Gawler repeated himself often, but I agree entirely with his comments on adult education, on which topic we have heard much from the honourable member and from the Minister of Education.

The Leader commented on the way we should treat the employees in the forestry undertakings. I recollect clearly that when my committee agreed to extend the benefits of deep drainage to Nangwarry and Mount Burr, the financial result of these two projects was a considerable deficit for someone to find over and above the amounts to be levied on the householders. The Leader rather indicated that the Government was parsimonious in this matter, and that it should plough back into the employees' pockets some of the profits the department is making. I shall mention a

few of the facilities the forestry employees enjoy. Actually, they live in very nice villages, but the Leader seemed to suggest that they were living somewhere in the backblocks. They have amenities such as electricity, and they have all the necessary community services, including a hall. Some residents have their own little shops and businesses, from the profits of which they provide their own amenities. It is really an ideal little community set-up.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: And it is very stable employment.

Mr. SHANNON: Yes. The very conditions under which they work are conducive to stable employment. I think there is a £11,000 or £12,000 deficit for the Woods and Forests Department to meet on the sewerage scheme at Nangwarry. The charge to the employees who occupy the forestry houses at Nangwarry and Mount Burr is only half the rate payable by the people in nearby Naracoorte. The Leader had a word or two to say about the housing in those areas, but he obviously does not know that the rentals charged by the department are ridiculously low, by any comparison. I took the trouble to ask the department when the rentals were last changed, and I discovered that they were last changed in 1957, when they were increased to 36s. a week. Anyone who has ever looked inside those houses will realize that they are nice comfortable houses with every convenience, and that a rental of 36s. is ridiculously low: it is not an economic rent. In fact, that is one method whereby the department subsidizes its employees, and it is a factor that makes for a stable work force. Those are things that I thought the Leader would have understood. I noticed that he read his speech from voluminous notes, so there can be no excuses that he did not check his material before he spoke: he cannot say that his speech was off the cuff and that therefore he may have been a little astray here or there. If it was off the cuff it certainly did not appear to be, because he was turning over sheets every time I looked at him, and if his speech was not entirely written out, then his notes were very extensive and prepared to keep him on what he would think were the rails.

I am convinced that our friends opposite are having a struggle. I have noticed from time to time that we get claims from them about what they are doing and what they would do if they were in office. I do not know how many people take the trouble to read those twin columns that appear once a week in the *Advertiser* under the heading "Political Commentary".

In the last one, dated August 18, there is a bit of puff pastry to make a pie, but I discovered that the meat in the pie all came from the Government's activities. The member for Murray (Mr. Bywaters) was the subject of this political commentary, and it is very difficult not to infer from the commentary that he almost forced the Government to start the Tailm Bend to Keith water scheme. It would be a pity to remind him that he was not even in Parliament when this scheme was first promulgated by the now President of the Legislative Council (Hon. L. H. Densley), who realized that it would benefit more than 1,000,000 acres of fertile soil that was lacking the necessary water supply. Mr. Bywaters cannot be credited with it.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! "The honourable member for Murray."

Mr. SHANNON: I will give the honourable member his right title: "the honourable member for Murray". The honourable member also had the effrontery to suggest that he was pressing the Government to get on with another very important developmental work, namely, the suggested main to bring further supplies of water to the metropolitan area from a point near Murray Bridge. I do not think that his fertile brain was responsible for that idea; I seriously doubt whether he was a member of Parliament when this scheme was first discussed. I know that the Engineering and Water Supply Department had been engaged in surveying this project for some years. It is certainly not one of recent origin. No-one in that department needs to be convinced that some day—and not in the too distant future—we shall need this additional source of supply. For instance, in the present year our metropolitan reservoirs with a capacity of about 26,000,000,000 gallons are only about one-third full, and I think that we can say that with winter almost ended it will be September before we know what the water position really is.

From the point of view of keeping our essential industries and health services in the metropolitan area going, we just could not survive without the main from the River Murray. As the State is growing, we shall obviously want a second main from the River Murray to meet our requirements. This puff pastry I have referred to suggests that Mr. Bywaters will keep on the Government's back to make sure that it becomes an accomplished fact. The main will pass through his domain and undoubtedly provide service to some of his constituents. I am all in favour of that. Some members opposite seem to have no qualms in claiming credit for things to which they are not entitled.

Mr. Riches: That's a good one! Pro-nouncements of the Public Works Committee do not bear that out.

Mr. SHANNON: At present that committee is making no statement about it, because it does not know where the main will go. In any case, that is not the committee's prerogative. The people who decide these matters sit on the front benches—it is the panel of Ministers who decide the policy. If we had not far-sighted people looking after our interests, some essential industries and services in the metropolitan area, including our health services, would have collapsed because of an insufficient water supply. Perhaps members opposite feel like saying, "Playford has pinched the lot and left us with nothing. That is not fair."

A few things have been said by the Leader of the Opposition, again I think a little unkindly, although I do not know whether they were meant to be unkind, regarding the Minister of Education. I do not know of any man who applies himself more assiduously to his duties, including where he should spend the money made available to his department and give the best service to the people of the State—not only to Edwardstown. There are other places. Perhaps Edwardstown has had more than its fair share of available money spent in that district. We have to be fair and admit that Sir Baden Pattinson has been faced with a very difficult task in a growing society such as ours in looking after the interests of young children who will be starting school next February. When they start school they will require a desk and a seat, and the Minister will necessarily want money to accommodate them. It is not as though he were gambling, for these prospective students already exist and the factual number is known. The department has extensively used the services of the building division of the Public Buildings Department to provide the so-called temporary classrooms. Anyone who has had any experience of them will not criticize them. That includes those who have to work in them. These buildings have all the signs of a solid construction building. They are beautifully built. Undoubtedly, we would not have this type of construction if the time and labour force had been available to build solid construction schools. Where the time factor has permitted, the department has planned solid construction buildings. I must say that in fairness to the Minister. I think I can say that without fear of contradiction, realizing that in the final analysis solid construction is the most economic proposition. Maintenance costs are much less than for the temporary buildings.

If the Leader of the Opposition were either Treasurer or Minister of Education he would give first preference to the requirements of Edwardstown, but that is not the way good government works. One should not be so pettifogging as to be unable to appreciate the problems of other fellows who live in other parts of the State. The planning that has been done has saved South Australia from embarrassment. I have heard of no embarrassment to scholars because they could not be provided with a desk and a chair, whereas that cannot be said of other States. There is no need for me to make invidious comparisons. At least South Australia has met its educational needs and that is a tremendous feather in the cap not only of the Minister of Education, but of his officers. It is not idle talk to say that from a percentage point of view our population growth has been greater than that of any other State. We have grown faster and therefore the Minister's problem has been magnified.

The Leader also made some unfair comments about the use of apprentices in industry. This morning we had the opportunity to discuss this matter with Mr. Bone, the Superintendent of Technical Education, who through the Education Department directs the training of apprentices, and he gave us not only informative evidence but also cheering news. Whereas some years ago industry was not only anti-pathetic but antagonistic (it was certainly not co-operative), it is now in reverse gear. Mr. Bone has not been able to keep up with the demand for the variety of training required by industry. I do not criticize the member for Gawler (Mr. Clark), who was present when the evidence was given and knows all about this, but I criticize his Leader, who apparently does not know what is being done in this field. The principals of this highly skilled branch of the Education Department frequently find it difficult to provide adequate accommodation for those who have done a complete course in a certain special field but who, finding that their particular skill is out of date, want to take refresher courses. These courses are necessary when a new machine that serves the same purpose and probably turns out a better article much faster is developed, and they need to learn how to operate it. The evidence we heard last week and our inspection this morning indicate to a reasonable man that what is going on in this field is a healthy sign for skilled artisans for the various industries in the State. This training will encourage people to come here just as it has encouraged Chrysler (Australia) Limited.

Mr. Quirke: Electronics was the point raised.

Mr. SHANNON: I think the honourable member will agree that new things are being thought of in that field all the time.

Mr. Quirke: That is why many people are going back for refresher courses.

Mr. SHANNON: That is so. I turn now to the ditty (as I suppose he thought it was) with which the Leader closed his remarks. We all knew to whom he was referring. I think I should reply because I have had some experience regarding both sides of the fence; I have had much to do with the member for Burra. I saw him in this Chamber both as a member for the Labor Party and as an Independent. He left the Labor Party, not for the Labor Party's good but for his own good. To those of us who are outside looking in and see most of the game, the Labor Party is obviously an organization in which, if one does not conform or play the game according to the hard and fast rules laid down, the Party does not play, but takes the bat and ball home. The Labor Party has successfully managed to kick out some of the best brains it has had, and the member for Burra is one about whom it made a mistake. He had too much grey matter to stay in the Party. He did not stick it out and he has now joined a Party that will give him absolute freedom and allow his native abilities to have full rein, and in which there will be no let or hindrance to his coming along with good ideas. He will not be just like the man next to him, the same as a pea in a pod; there is none of that in the Party to which I belong. When the Leader was trying to have a little cheap fun to the honourable member's discomfiture, the discomfiture, if only he realized it, was on his shoulders. Unfortunately, I do not think he will realize it, and that is a great pity.

Mr. HUTCHENS (Hindmarsh): I support the first line. I was rather surprised to hear the member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Shannon) suggest that the Labor Party had something in pickle. I assure the House that if it has something in pickle I know nothing about it and that there are no plans for producing something out of the hat regarding the Loan Estimates. Yesterday I attended the most recent meeting of the Labor Party Executive and I assure members opposite that we have nothing in pickle. Regarding his statement that Labor would accept the "no" of the Commonwealth Government, I draw his attention to the Treasurer's statement when introducing the Loan Estimates, when he said:

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—

I then interjected:

We would be starving!

I think that is a good indication that members of the Opposition are prepared to get behind any progressive move in the interests of South Australia. I believe members opposite are as much upset about this matter as are members on this side. I am proud to be a South Australian, and I shall fight for South Australia as long as there is blood in my veins. I shall not just accept a "no" from the Commonwealth Government or from anyone else when the good of this State is involved.

[*Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.*]

Mr. HUTCHENS: The rest of the comments of the member for Onkaparinga can be left for what they are worth. I tender similar complimentary remarks to those offered by my colleague, the member for Gawler, when he referred to the excellent speeches made up to the time he spoke. He spoke with much feeling and he, too, made an excellent speech on a subject on which he is well trained. I appreciate the speech made by the member for Torrens who, in his opening remarks, dealt with a matter of great importance to South Australia. It is pleasing to hear members of this Parliament speaking in the forthright manner of the honourable member. I appreciate that this debate is chiefly for the purpose of discussing individual lines and I shall, therefore, use my time now just to make a few general comments.

The Treasurer, when presenting the Loan Estimates for 1962-63, foreshadowed a works programme totalling £7,000,000. He stated that new State borrowings were of the order of £34,529,000, an increase of only (and I emphasize "only") £345,000. He outlined a works programme from borrowings of £30,647,000 and a housing programme of £9,150,000, a grand total of £39,797,000. The Treasurer pointed out that he had to increase

the Loan deficit by £422,000 at June 30, this year, to approximately £1,000,000. Every member will agree that this is, to some extent, unfortunate but I hasten to say that I see no alternative whilst we have the present Commonwealth-State Financial Agreement in operation with a Commonwealth Government of the present type in power. The plain facts are that insufficient money has been made available at the right price to finance a more effective works programme.

Members who spoke this afternoon showed that they all think there is need for more money to supply the services that are necessary for our increasing population and industrial development. The member for Gawler spoke at length of his desire for a better adult education centre and more facilities. While he was speaking, as the interjections indicated, a need was seen for similar services at Whyalla, Port Augusta and Murray Bridge. I agree with the member for Gawler, who was supported in this by the member for Onkaparinga, that the Minister of Education deserves a tribute. I give the Minister credit for being not only desirous of achieving results in his office as Minister, but for being conscientious and considerate. The only reason why the necessary facilities are not provided is that sufficient finance is not available. I am confident that if the Minister had the finance he would supply the facilities as quickly as possible.

I do not deny that the Loan Council in its true spirit is a desirable institution and I admit that in past years it has proved to be a powerful force towards providing stability in the Australian economy. I have not recently studied or read the terms of the agreement controlling the operations of the Loan Council, but I seem to remember that it is the duty of the States and the Commonwealth to submit to the Loan Council a programme setting forth the amounts desired by each to be raised by way of loans to carry out a works programme. At a meeting of selected representatives from the States and the Commonwealth constituting the Loan Council under the terms of the agreement, the money to be borrowed for the year shall be divided and may, by a unanimous decision, be allocated between the Commonwealth and the States. Of course, the fact that there is a clause demanding unanimity makes this achievement almost impossible. That was realized when the agreement was framed and another provision was that, failing such unanimous agreement, the allocations should be made in the same proportions as those previously applying, provided that the

allocations should not be less than the expenditure of the States in the previous five years based on the net Loan expenditure of all States in the same period, and that these moneys should be distributed accordingly. That looks good on paper and, in fact, those provisions worked to the advantage of this State until recently. However, it is now clear that this State is getting the dirty end of the stick. Those provisions deprive South Australia of the protection it had as a claimant State when receiving consideration from the Grants Commission. The present system has also provided an opportunity for collusion. In my opinion, some people seem to be prepared to sacrifice principles for crumbs, thereby placing this State at a great disadvantage, particularly when we have in power a Commonwealth Government of gloom, a Government with no confidence in itself and no confidence in its people.

One cannot deny that this State, with the co-operation of all parties, has achievements that warrant consideration at least equal to that given to other States of the Commonwealth. This can only be denied for a limited number of reasons and I ask members at this stage to be patient and not rush in too quickly whilst I give the reasons. They are: collusion between a number of States and the Commonwealth; the inability of this State's representatives to put forward an effective case; and an extreme and common dislike of the attitude of this State's representatives. I dismiss the last two reasons at this stage. It has been suggested that there has been collusion resulting in a pay-out to those States that have agreed with the Commonwealth to reduce their Loan programmes. I am convinced that there is justification for suspicion. A most interesting article in the *Advertiser* of June 29, 1962, stated:

The S.A. Premier (Sir Thomas Playford) and the N.S.W. and Vic. Premiers (Mr. Heffron and Mr. Bolte) carried on the fight today for the £12,500,000 interest-free non-repayable grant to be increased to £15,000,000 but the Commonwealth would not budge. The

Commonwealth took the line that the Premiers were arguing over a mere £2,500,000 out of a total of £750,000,000.

In one exchange, Queensland was accused of "ratting". Queensland received the lion's share of the "gift" money, and Tasmania also received extra help. If the division of the grant had been strictly to formula, other States would have fared much better.

Was this a pay-out for "ratting"? On this evidence alone it may be wrong to come to a conclusion, but I refer to an article in the *Advertiser* of August 10, which stated:

It was becoming vital to the South Australian economy that the standardization work should proceed. The Federal Budget also made no suggestion of any help for the proposed Chowilla dam on the River Murray above Renmark. "It appears that the projects vital to S.A. are at low ebb indeed," the Premier said.

In the past four years the Commonwealth had spent £131,000,000 on special works in the various States, but South Australia's share had been only £1,351,000 or 1 per cent of the special grants. New South Wales had received £46,000,000, Vic. £55,000,000, Qsld. £16,000,000 and W.A. about £12,000,000. "These figures show that S.A. is being very sadly neglected," the Premier said. "By its own efforts South Australia has probably made more real attempts to develop its resources than any other State. S.A. people have been prepared to have rather inferior social services in the interests of building up the economy, employment and general prosperity."

Mr. Dunstan: The Treasurer means that he is prepared to have inferior social services.

Mr. HUTCHENS: I had no doubt that my colleague would seize upon this statement and compare it with statements made in the past by members opposite. However, I am trying to illustrate the need for action to protect this State from the unreal and unfair attitude of the Commonwealth Government. More money is needed. I have prepared a table setting out the States' borrowings for the years 1947-48 to 1952-53 and the Loan allocations for 1960-61 and 1962-63 (excluding semi-government and local authorities' loans) and I ask leave to have it inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

STATES' BORROWINGS AND LOAN ALLOCATIONS.

	The States' borrowings (in £'000) for the years 1947-48 to 1952-53.						Loan allocations (in £'000) for 1960-61 and 1962-63 (excluding semi-government, and local authorities' loans).	
	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1960-61.	1962-63.
N.S.W. . . .	25,490	16,283	29,467	40,744	64,000	51,178	79,301	80,102
Vic. . . .	8,324	15,163	15,131	36,089	26,000	39,971	63,602	64,245
Qld. . . .	4,687	6,560	7,861	17,026	22,500	18,531	29,700	30,000
S.A. . . .	6,046	6,520	9,808	16,524	26,413	21,825	34,184	34,529
W.A. . . .	2,646	3,788	7,218	14,309	16,500	15,615	23,287	23,522
Tas. . . .	1,600	3,897	5,359	14,691	15,100	13,062	17,426	17,602

The above figures are taken from *Australia in Facts and Figures*, except the 1962-63 figures, which were taken from the *Advertiser*.

Mr. HUTCHENS: The figures are most interesting and show that whereas in 1947-48 the amount granted to Victoria was £8,000,000, today it is £64,000,000, almost eight times as much; for Queensland £4,000,000, and now £30,000,000, more than seven times as much; and for South Australia £6,000,000, and now £34,000,000, only five times as much. If members study the table they will see that the States' demands are increasing annually, but that the amounts they are receiving from the Commonwealth are insufficient to meet their needs. The Loan Council was established and maintained on the assumption that the States' responsibilities would reduce from year to year, but this has not been the case and the States'

responsibilities are increasing annually. As the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) said, with an increasing population and an increasing industrial activity the demands for services must be greater. In order to substantiate my point I have prepared a series of tables, and I ask permission to have them incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading them.

The CHAIRMAN: Can the honourable member assure me that the contents of the tables are relevant to the question, because under Standing Orders the matter must be relevant?

Mr. HUTCHENS: Yes. They prove the point I am making.

Leave granted.

COMMONWEALTH YEAR BOOK STATISTICS, 1961.

	Area.	Popu- lation, 1960.	Popu- lation, 1961 Census.	Per- sons per Sq. Mile.	No. of Rural Hold- ings, 1959-60.	No. of Sheep, 31/3/59.	Average No. Sheep, 3 Years Ending 1939.	No. of Fac- tories, 1958-59.	No. of Fac- tories, 1938-39.	Gross Factories Output, 1958-59.	Gross Fac- tories Output, 1938-39.
	Sq. Mile.									(£'000)	(£'000)
N.S.W.	309,433	3,872,809	3,953,636	12.57	77,499	67,936,000	51,202,000	22,684	9,464	1,952,452	218,420
Vic. ...	87,884	2,925,533	2,949,848	33.29	69,778	26,925,000	17,845,000	16,527	9,250	1,431,041	152,967
Qsld. ...	667,000	1,466,879	1,522,329	2.20	42,912	22,148,000	21,389,000	5,651	3,087	451,186	63,321
S.A. ...	380,070	956,939	979,726	2.52	28,527	15,634,000	8,916,000	4,235	2,067	342,758	35,005
W.A. ...	975,920	740,245	746,169	0.7	21,832	16,275,000	8,972,000	4,125	2,129	196,202	19,549
Tas. ...	26,215	359,789	346,126	13.72	11,202	3,536,000	2,460,000	1,666	944	118,293	11,158

NET VALUES OF PASTORAL PRODUCTION BY THE STATES FOR THE YEARS 1955-56 TO 1959-60.

Year.	N.S.W. (£'000)	Vic. (£'000)	Qld. (£'000)	S.A. (£'000)	W.A. (£'000)	Tas. (£'000)
1955-56	163,287	104,820	86,313	44,625	36,578	*7,282
1956-57	231,674	129,883	112,566	62,093	47,343	*10,666
1957-58	157,679	115,970	80,301	44,861	36,947	*8,078
1958-59	162,366	110,392	90,760	38,425	30,582	6,652
1959-60	198,380	135,620	99,884	50,067	39,659	7,846

* No allowance made for cost of power, power kerosene, petrol or other oils.

NET VALUES OF PASTORAL PRODUCTION PER CAPITA FOR THE YEARS 1955-56 TO 1959-60.

Year.	N.S.W.			Vic.			Qld.			S.A.			W.A.			Tas.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1955-56	46	6	7	40	17	4	63	16	3	53	9	6	54	13	6	*22	16	3
1956-57	64	11	4	49	3	11	81	10	10	72	1	9	69	3	3	*32	14	1
1957-58	43	2	1	42	16	9	57	4	6	50	12	9	52	17	10	*24	3	7
1958-59	43	11	6	39	15	5	63	12	11	42	6	1	42	18	9	19	9	10
1959-60	52	6	2	47	11	5	65	19	5	53	12	7	54	13	10	22	11	8

* No allowance made for cost of power, power kerosene, petrol or other oils.

AREA OF RURAL HOLDINGS IN AUSTRALIA IN 1958-59.

	Acre.
New South Wales	172,978,000
Victoria	37,755,000
Queensland	370,240,000
South Australia	152,312,000
Western Australia	238,264,000
Tasmania	6,573,000

Mr. HUTCHENS: These tables reveal that the sums provided for State services are inadequate and have become more insufficient as population has increased and industrial activity developed. Some States are at a grave disadvantage because of their sparsely populated areas and their poor soil conditions.

There is continuing light rainfall in those States poorly endowed with natural watersheds, requiring the provision of costly transport to operate in sparsely populated areas, limited in their revenue-collecting properties. Water supply is costly in these sparsely populated States with few watersheds and a poor rainfall. Many important projects, even though they be costly, are required for industrial development and a further programme of decentralization. We cannot have a programme of industrial development and decentralization unless these services are made available, but the disabilities I have mentioned do not in any way indicate a lack of productive ability. We have proved that in this State by the co-operation of all classes of people, for we are endowed with few natural advantages and have achieved a fair measure of productivity. However, we must have special consideration in that respect. We must be considered as a part of the Commonwealth for, if the Commonwealth is to develop, every part of it must have equality of opportunity to develop.

I have read with some interest the debates about setting up the Commonwealth Grants Commission. It is clear from reading them that at that time it was realized that the representatives from the States must, of necessity, be imbued with an atmosphere of their own State and, to some extent, be prejudiced. The *Australian Encyclopaedia* explains simply and far more effectively than I could, and in few words, the functions of the Australian Grants Commission. It says:

The depression brought to a head the financial difficulties from which the poorer States had been suffering. Western Australia and Tasmania had been receiving special grants since before the First World War, and in 1929-30 South Australia joined those "claimant" (or "mendicant") States. Until 1933 the amounts paid were fixed by the Commonwealth Government on each occasion, but in that year the Commonwealth Grants Commission was established to systematize the procedure. The commission took the view that it was the obligation of the Commonwealth to make it financially possible for each State to give its people a standard of service approximately equal to that of the other States, without being forced to impose heavier taxes than the Australian average; and this principle (or this extension of the concept of the Australian's right to a certain minimum living standard) was accepted by the Commonwealth Parliament in making the grants the commission recommended. This idea of "equality of social benefits" in the different States was an important contribution to financial adjustment between Commonwealth and States, but it involved the principle of one government raising money for another to spend. For

example, a State Treasurer, instead of asking his Parliament to raise taxation for some purpose, such as a social service, had the alternative of persuading the Commonwealth Grants Commission that the social services in the particular State were inferior to those elsewhere in Australia, and that therefore the State was entitled to a higher Commonwealth grant raised by taxation levied on the citizens of the other States.

In 1959-60, the year in which South Australia first emerged as a non-claimant State, under the heading of special grants paid to this State we received something in excess of £5,000,000—an amount that was exceeded only in 1952-53 (£6,343,000) and 1953-54 (£6,100,000). So, in my opinion, we were cut off prematurely from this protection. It is now clear beyond all doubt that some better system and method of apportioning funds between the Commonwealth Government and the State Governments must be found. It is not a function and authority without responsibility. Another authority will have to determine what is adequate for a Loan programme for the future development of this State and for the Commonwealth. I believe that the responsibilities of the States will be increased more rapidly than ever before, for we should strive to double our population in the next 30 years in order that we may have an adequate defence and powers of production to satisfy our immediate neighbours and demand the markets that are reasonably and justly ours in South-East Asia. The Loan Council is a duplication of the Premiers' Conference and I am convinced, by its conduct of recent years, that it is now of doubtful quality. If the nation is to progress, as it must, the importance of each State must be considered, without prejudice.

Mr. Hall: What do you suggest as an alternative authority?

Mr. HUTCHENS: The honourable member has just beaten me to it. I suggest setting up a body to replace the Loan Council, modelled on the Commonwealth Grants Commission. This would have to be systematized to meet the requirements of the States, in accordance with their individual needs, to provide for the development of the nation as a union of partners or States equal in importance. I support the first line of the Loan Estimates.

Mr. MCKEE (Port Pirie): I refer first to the unreasonable attitude of the Commonwealth Government in not providing the Loan money needed for railway standardization in South Australia. I was rather amused this afternoon

when the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) referred to me as a "yes" man. I took it more or less as a joke, as it came from the honourable gentleman, but, if it was not a joke, I remind him that it could have serious complications. I remind him also that people in glass houses should not throw stones. I draw his attention to the debate earlier this session on the Bill dealing with electoral reform, when only one Government member spoke.

Mr. Clark: Who would that be?

Mr. Jennings: It was the Master.

Mr. McKEE: How right the honourable member is! I wonder what influenced the member for Torrens to remain in his seat, and in remaining there he was a "yes" man.

Mr. Dunstan: He was a nodder.

Mr. McKEE: About this time last year the Treasurer said that the State had suffered some severe shocks, but that it was recovering. However, he failed to convince the vast pool of unemployed, as well as the business people who suffered from the effects of unemployment. Because of the Government's inability to cope with the problem, the people decided to shock it and gave a majority vote to the Australian Labor Party at the last State election. The Government refused to be shocked and counter-shocked the people by remaining in office after being officially rejected by them. The Government carried on by shocking the Independents into pledging their support to it. I come now to the member for Burra who got a severe attack of secondary shock. He weighed up the situation and found that his position as an Independent was rather insecure, so he hot-footed it to Uncle Tom's cabin and knocked loudly on the door. He cried, "Please let me in."

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is reading something into the Loan Estimates that I cannot see there.

Mr. McKEE: When he arrived he said, "If you let me in I will be a good Liberal boy and never, never join another Party." I remind the honourable member for Burra who is missing from his seat (although I was missing when he spoke, so I suppose it cuts both ways) that smoke signals from Liberal and Country League camps in his district do not look favourable. With all these shocks, one way and another, we have had a shocking time, but I should say that more are to come. After perusing the Loan Estimates I shall be surprised if the present shocking situation improves.

The Loan Estimates deal with normal commitments and essential development, such as urgently needed schools. Most speakers today mentioned schools. Some have appeared in the 1960-61 and 1961-62 Loan Estimates, but have disappeared from the 1962-63 Loan Estimates. I thought it would have been in order to refer to the Minister of Education as the Minister of Magician Department. I have a school in my district that was mentioned in the 1961-62 Loan Estimates but is not in the Loan Estimates for this year. The school is urgently needed, because of overcrowding. We have lines dealing with schools, housing, hospitals, roads, water reticulation and many other essential services, particularly Housing Trust houses, thousands of which require long overdue maintenance. This maintenance work is necessary to provide a reasonable standard of living for the occupants. The State also has the added expense of standardizing the Broken Hill to Port Pirie railway line.

Mr. Riches: There is no provision for that.

Mr. McKEE: If this work is to be done it is obvious that many essential works will have to wait. The refusal by the Commonwealth Government to provide money for this important national project is unreasonable, and it will result undoubtedly in a severe strain on the State's finances. Everybody in South Australia realizes the importance of rail standardization to both the Commonwealth and the State. It is plain common sense that the line should be standardized as soon as possible: it should have been done years ago. If the Treasurer's proposal to broaden the gauge is a possibility I am sure it will have the support of all members. He will most certainly get my support. The long delay in proceeding with the work over the years has cost the State millions of pounds and it has been a major cause of the stagnation at Port Pirie, including the deterioration of the wharves. At one time Port Pirie was the fourth shipping port in the Commonwealth, exceeded only by Sydney, Melbourne and Newcastle. Over the years there has been enormous expenditure in deepening and improving the channel at Port Pirie. The rehabilitation work now going on will mean a large expense. The expenditure could be recouped much sooner if this line were standardized as soon as possible. I consider that the people of the State just cannot help thinking that the Menzies Government has purposely delayed the standardization of this line for the purpose of suiting shipping interests or for political tactics.

Prior to the Second World War Port Pirie was thriving in shipping and rail freights, and this was a tremendous asset to the State's revenue. Of course, in those days the colliers and timber ships called with supplies to be railed from Port Pirie to the Broken Hill mines, and I believe there were as many as 30 trains inwards and outwards in one day on this Port Pirie to Broken Hill traffic. The completion of the railway from New South Wales through to Broken Hill in 1941 saw the end of the timber shipments, and then the colliers ceased to call at Port Pirie, with the resultant decline in shipping and rail freights and the deterioration of the wharves.

Because of the slow and expensive haulage on the present obsolete line, we are now losing ore traffic to the Eastern States. I was not surprised when the Menzies Government refused to provide the finance for this important work. Any Government with the qualifications to practically bankrupt the economy of a young and virile country such as Australia under the present conditions, is not capable and should be forced to resign. I do not begrudge the sums allocated to other States, for they need the money. All the States need money to develop. However, it is a crime for any Government to play politics with the taxpayers' money. A brazen example of this occurred recently when the Commonwealth Government allowed Senator Cole of the Democratic Labor Party to retain the official status of a Party leader.

Mr. Shannon: Which line is that on?

Mr. McKEE: We could put two or three more men in work today for the cost of the privileges being afforded Senator Cole. Although he is the only member of his Party in the Commonwealth Parliament, this privilege entitles him to use a Commonwealth car in any part of Australia where there is a Commonwealth car pool.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: That is probably a Parliamentary practice, rather than a Government move.

Mr. McKEE: To be honest with the Minister, I doubt whether the people condone this sort of thing.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Do you know that the Government granted this concession, or are you only guessing?

Mr. McKEE: I know that what I am saying is correct. This privilege entitles him also to take a secretary to Canberra at the expense of the people. He is also provided with a private

office, but I do not think members of the Opposition would be greatly concerned about that. This decision to allow Senator Cole to retain his position as Party leader without a Party for the sole purpose of wooing his vote is a brazen insult to the taxpayers of Australia.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Now you are imputing motive.

Mr. McKEE: There must be some purpose in it, and if I am wrong I stand corrected. I doubt whether any other country in the world or the people of any other country in the world would tolerate such an action. On the question of gauge standardization, if it is the Treasurer's intention to go ahead with this work soon, I suggest he consult the State Railways Commissioner as soon as possible, otherwise this work will cost much more than the Treasurer thinks.

Re-laying of the lines on the reconstructed wharves at Port Pirie has already commenced; as the berths are completed, so the line is laid, but no provision is being made for the change-over to the standard gauge. Sleepers of a length of 6ft. 6in. are being used on the laying of the new line, whereas I understand it is necessary to use 8ft. sleepers for the standard gauge. In addition, this whole area is being sealed with bitumen. If the State Government intends to go ahead with this work, to my way of thinking it would be wise to make all the necessary provisions now, such as laying sleepers to take the 4ft. 8½in. gauge and placing one of the lines in position so that if and when the time comes for the change-over the work can be done quickly and at a minimum cost. If 6ft. 6in. sleepers are down when the time arrives for the changeover, all this bitumen will have to be ripped up and the sleepers taken out and replaced, and I imagine the cost will be much heavier than it would be if the provision were made now for the changeover. I shall have some comments to make regarding schools when we come to the lines.

Mr. RICHES (Stuart): I have tried to understand the statement with which the Treasurer introduced these Loan Estimates, but I admit frankly that some of it is beyond my understanding. Perhaps that is my fault and not that of the Treasurer. However, I rise now to indicate the situations that I do not understand, in the hope that they may be explained to me, if not during the discussion on the first line then perhaps at some time when we are dealing with the individual lines. I cannot see anything in the Loan Estimates

that would give any hope at all for an improvement in the employment position, nor can I see anything that would lead us to believe that decentralization will receive any consideration. Three of the most important works, to my mind, which are outstanding and of first priority as far as the degree of urgency is concerned are referred to in the Treasurer's speech, but no financial provision has been made for them in these Estimates. The Treasurer has outlined a programme which he says will involve a total expenditure of £57,000,000; he has assured us that this programme does not cover all the things that he would want to cover, and because of that he is confident that it would not cover many of the things for which members generally would wish some provision to be made. However, he assures us that that is the maximum available to him and that he is stretching his money to the limit to finance the works included in the Loan Estimates.

Having said all that, he proceeds to tell us that there is a need for an improved water supply from the Poldia Basin on Eyre Peninsula, but that is not provided for in his Estimates, yet somewhere out of the sky he will get money to carry out that work. He also tells us that only a token amount has been provided for new buildings at our mental institutions, but somewhere along the line he will pull money out of the blue to undertake this work. He has assured us that one of the most urgent undertakings for the development and maintenance of industries in South Australia is the standardization of the Port Pirie to Broken Hill railway. Contrary to what certain country papers have published, there is not a penny provided in these Estimates for that work, although he has stretched the funds to the safety limit. He will therefore pull some more money out of the blue and have that work put in hand. I cannot reconcile those statements and that is what I want cleared up if possible. Do the Loan Estimates represent the maximum expenditure of which this State is capable? In his speech the Treasurer said that the Treasurers of the various States at the Loan Council meeting placed before the Commonwealth authorities the statement that £260,000,000 was required to maintain the present level of employment in essential services. I want the House to remember that—£260,000,000 not to provide additional works, but to maintain the present level of employment and continue the existing programme of Government undertakings. The Commonwealth authorities said, "You cannot have all that

money; you must reduce the amount by £10,000,000." Our Treasurer regrets that action because the South Australian programme will of necessity be curtailed below what he would have wished. Does that mean that the necessary finance to maintain employment at the present level is £10,000,000 short of what the State Governments thought necessary? It seems to indicate that the best we can hope for is that 1.6 per cent of the total work force shall be permanently unemployed. There is no provision in these Estimates for any increase and the indications are that we shall have great difficulty in maintaining the present position.

Mr. Hall: Governments are not the only employers.

Mr. RICHES: I realize that and imagine that the State Treasurers who attended the Loan Council meeting would also recognize that Governments are not the only employers. I can only accept the case they put to the Commonwealth Government. As regards South Australia, we have only the Treasurer's report of what happened at the meeting, and this is what he had to say in his speech:

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.

That figure is £10,000,000 short of what was considered by the States as necessary to carry on their works at the present level, and therefore how can we hope for an increase of employment? The Treasurer had something to say about the unemployment situation, as also did the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe). There is no comfort in these Loan Estimates to those interested in decentralization or to those looking for work and development in the country.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: What do you suggest should have been done?

Mr. RICHES: I should like to have seen the votes under the various items of expenditure maintained this year at something like the same level as last year. I have gone to the trouble to study *Hansard* and examine the votes for this year compared with those under the same headings for last year. A few items have been increased, but none of them applies to the country. Many of the items have been reduced and I shall refer to those. In the

first place, money for loans to producers has been reduced by £40,000 and advances to settlers from £208,000 to £100,000. An examination of the position will show that those who really get the money are not people whom we usually regard as primary producers at all. Nearly all are secondary industries, which, admittedly, are important to our production. Finance should be more readily available to those who, in a small way, want to start in the actual field of primary production. I have applicants in my electorate who have been seeking finance to carry on and improve their dairies and others who would undertake primary production in a small way, but there is no lending institution I know of that will come to their assistance. I wondered as a last resort whether they would have a claim under the line "Loans to Producers". The Treasurer's statement shows how those loans are distributed. An amount of £445,000 was spent under this line last year, made up of £236,000 for advances 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.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: They are all very worthy causes.

Mr. RICHES: I agree, but I am pointing out that this line has been substantially reduced and that there does not seem to be any provision to assist the real primary producer—the small man who wants to go in for primary production.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Aren't they all primary producers?

Mr. RICHES: I am talking about producers as the ordinary man in the street understands the term; there are processors of foodstuffs that have been produced. I know they are essential and I regret that the amount has been reduced, but I am thinking about the need to help financially those men who want to embark on the growing side of production and whom the member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell) has mentioned on several occasions. I do not suggest that this is a departure from previous procedure, but I point it out to show that there is no comfort in these Loan Estimates for those looking for some semblance of decentralization.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Give the items that have been increased as well as those that have been reduced.

Mr. RICHES: I shall be pleased to read the whole of the Loan Estimates if the

Minister wishes, but I could go a long way before finding increases. Advances for homes have been reduced from £800,000 to £300,000, advances to settlers from £208,000 to £100,000, advances for operations under the Crown Lands Development Act from £30,000 to £14,000, irrigation and reclamation from £200,000 to £180,000, South-East drainage (I suppose the work is nearly completed and that is the reason for the reduction) by nearly £200,000, and afforestation has also been reduced. I had hoped that afforestation would be increased.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: There will be even more this year.

Mr. RICHES: Then perhaps the Minister will be good enough to say why the sum has been reduced by £50,000. Although no provision has been made for commencing railway standardization work, the expenditure on railways accommodation and laying has been reduced by £300,000. There is an increase of £200,000 in harbour expenditure and a slight increase on waterworks and sewers.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Doesn't Harbors Board work help decentralization?

Mr. RICHES: I do not know where the increased expenditure will be; I have a feeling that it will be at Port Adelaide, but I may be wrong. I could suggest ways in which the money could be spent to better advantage in assisting decentralization.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Port Adelaide is the last port to have bulk handling of grain.

Mr. RICHES: The provision for the Electricity Trust is the same as last year. I think it is high time that Parliament decided that major undertakings of the trust should be subject to investigation by the Public Works Committee. Every other Government expenditure of over £100,000 has to be reported on by that committee, yet the Electricity Trust can spend millions of pounds without there being any check whatever on the methods or engineering practices to be adopted. That undertaking is, I think, the only major undertaking in the State in which there have been blunders in recent years.

Mr. Laucke: To which blunder (if any) do you refer?

Mr. RICHES: I thought the honourable member heard me on this subject on a previous occasion. However, I shall be happy to mention this again.

Mr. Harding: Do you mean the South-East powerlines? Is that the blunder?

Mr. RICHES: I am referring to power stations. I do not know that anyone can be

criticized for these blunders, but just outside Port Augusta a power station was built without any thought being given to the treatment of ash that would be coming from it. The station is so designed that nothing can ever be done about this. The chief concern of engineers asked to design a power station is a station that can produce electricity at the cheapest possible rate. I do not suppose the designer can be blamed if he fails to consider what effect a power station will have on the community and the terrific expenditure that must be incurred to correct it. Some other thought must be brought to bear on that. Generally, that is the kind of thing that the Public Works Committee discovers when it conducts its inquiry, but there is no inquiry into any undertaking by the Electricity Trust.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: When the first power station was constructed, the collection of ash was not an engineering practice anywhere in the world.

Mr. RICHES: Oh yes, it was! At that time I had correspondence from American engineers who, having had an assay of Leigh Creek coal, claimed they could build precipitators to deal with the problem.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: At an economic cost?

Mr. RICHES: Yes. The second power station, which was twice as big as the first, had precipitators installed, and they have been completely satisfactory.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Exactly.

Mr. RICHES: Precipitators could and should have been installed in the first station, but two great chimney stacks were built instead; I do not know how many thousands of pounds they cost. I am not harping on the past, but another power station is in the offing and I suggest that, as millions of pounds is involved, it would be a good thing to have the plans examined by a committee like the Public Works Committee.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Would you have this power station on Torrens Island?

Mr. RICHES: No. Another reason for suggesting that the public Works Committee should examine the proposal is that it would give an opportunity for representations to be made on behalf of other locations. Don't tell me that everything is necessarily cut, dried and decided on the spot in connection with that! The Port Augusta power station was hawked from site to site and that town was not the first place mentioned, but it was, for political reasons, banded around prior to one election.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Where would you put the Torrens Island power station?

Mr. RICHES: I do not see why it could not go to Port Pirie. That town has everything the Electricity Trust has stated to be the requirements for the station. One possible exception is that Port Pirie is farther removed from the chief outlets for consumption. Somebody should be able to examine this matter of whether transmission costs from a centre such as Port Pirie or Wallaroo to Adelaide would not be more than offset by the value of the city that would be built up through the location of that station. If the power station were built at Wallaroo (and fuel can be offloaded there as easily as at Port Adelaide), the district would be rejuvenated far beyond the industrialization caused by the copper production of former years, and surely that upsurge would be worth something to South Australia.

Mr. Nankivell: How many people are employed at the Port Augusta power station?

Mr. RICHES: It employs 600 or 700 people, but we are now talking about a £150,000,000 project. Think what that would be worth to South Australia! I am not convinced that the value of a rejuvenated and revitalized community on the shores of Spencer Gulf would not be worth more than the cost of transmission between that place and the city; but whose job is it to examine that situation. Whose job is it to assess those values and to inquire into them? I do not hold that it is necessarily the job of the designing engineer. That is only one aspect of the work. It cannot be held that any work has been hindered or unduly held up or that there has been any disadvantage resulting from inquiries conducted by the Public Works Committee. Nothing but advantage has accrued from its investigations. When the Electricity Trust was initiated I voted for the provisions to exclude the development of Leigh Creek from inquiries by the Public Works Committee because of the urgency of the situation then prevailing. However, I did not then dream that that was to be a permanent arrangement. When that was done the Treasurer assured us that, in order that members of the House should be fully advised on what was going on, there would be regular trips to Leigh Creek. The whole Parliament was taken up to see what was being done, that it was being done properly, and that the expenditure was warranted. That procedure was followed, but I do not think anyone expected that that procedure would become a permanent feature of our legislation. I suggest it is now time to examine this position. I do not think the Electricity Trust, any more than any other Government undertaking, would

be embarrassed by having these proposals examined.

Mr. Laućke: The trust has done a wonderful job so far under its own steam.

Mr. RICHES: With the exception of the blunder I have referred to!

Mr. Laućke: That was inevitable because of the then current engineering practices.

Mr. RICHES: That is definitely not so.

Mr. Nankivell: That position was corrected in the next power station.

Mr. RICHES: Yes, it could have been corrected in the first one, but it was held not to be necessary. It was not that it could not have been done. There was much agitation about it at the time but nothing was done about it. Chimneys had to be added afterwards. We do not know what expenditure has been incurred to cope with the situation. The installation of electro-static precipitators was not a new departure. The principle operated in Germany and the United States of America and information on precipitators was available in South Australia before the first Port Augusta power station was built.

I was dealing with the lines that had been reduced. The line for buildings and plant in connection with the Mines Department has been reduced by £100,000. The vote for the Government Printer has been reduced by £5,000 and, as a printer by trade, I know that that is, perhaps, the most glaring reduction of all. The vote for the Produce Department has been reduced. The provision for fishing havens has been reduced and the allocation for Education Department bus services to bring children to school has been reduced by £32,000. I understand that this is the fund with which vehicles owned and operated by the department are purchased. I hope it is not the fund from which payments are made to the operators of bus services because I know that some operators owning their own vehicles are experiencing extreme difficulty in maintaining the services and that they have asked the department for increases. The State cannot afford to cut down the provision for costs of taking children to school.

Mr. Hall: This would not affect private operators. It deals with capital payments for buses.

Mr. RICHES: Housing funds have been reduced as far as the State Bank is concerned. This is another item I cannot understand. The Treasurer stated that the State Bank's advances for homes were to be reduced from £800,000 to £300,000. He went on to say that funds were available to the State Bank from

other sources and he said that these would make a total of £5,000,000 available. Last year, when the Loan Estimates were before us, we were asked to vote £800,000 under the same heading, and the total amount available was the same as the amount that will be available for expenditure for this year. I do not know whether I have made that clear. Last year Parliament voted £800,000 under the heading "Advances for Homes" which, with other moneys available to the State Bank, gave a total of £5,000,000. This year the vote has been reduced by £500,000 but the total amount ultimately available will still be £5,000,000.

I have mentioned some conflicting statements that are difficult for a layman to understand completely. The amount available to building societies has been reduced, but the amount available to the Housing Trust has been increased by the amount by which the grants to the State Bank and building societies have been reduced. I hope that there will be no reduction in the number of houses built because of that. The Housing Trust has increasingly to find money for the construction of factories. Factories are essential and represent progress, and no-one criticizes their erection, but the sums that the trust has to find for factories should come from sources other than the funds that are made available for housing. I hope that the fact that the State Bank and building societies have less money will not mean that fewer houses will be built.

I plead for building to be resumed at Port Augusta on a larger scale than the Housing Trust is prepared to embark upon at present. Twelve months ago I asked a question on notice about the number of current applications for rental houses at Port Augusta, the number of houses being built and the number that the trust intended to build. Three weeks ago I asked a similar question. Twelve months ago 60 applications were current for rental houses, but three weeks ago there were 98 applications. Twelve months ago 28 houses were under construction, but now only nine are, so when there were 60 applications 28 houses were being built, but now that there are 98 applications only nine are being built. The building programme is the same, and we are concerned that we are not keeping pace with the demand but are losing ground. I do not know whether that is the experience in other parts of the State, but that is the position at Port Augusta according to the trust's figures. I urge that the trust be prevailed upon to step up its building programme because we are concerned about the standard of those that are housed at

present as well as the need of providing houses for those seeking them.

At Port Augusta we have been asking for the establishment of a senior opportunity class, and for some years we have been told that the department recognizes that such a class should be established but that the delay has been caused through the need of a building and a teacher. I wonder for how many years we will be told that. We have an opportunity class for children up to the age of 12 years, and it is doing a remarkable job, but there is need for another opportunity class. A child is compelled to remain at school until 14, but when he reaches 12 years of age he is forced to leave the opportunity class. We have no provision for special work or for additional help that this type of child may need after he is 12. He is in an unhappy state and is an embarrassment to whatever class he is put in. This is an untenable situation, and it is of major importance—more important, with great respect, than the teaching of chess and many of the other provisions that operate in adult education centres.

I do not criticize adult education because I favour anything that will bring the community together and I should like to see adult education, with all of its ramifications, expanded, but let us have a proper perspective and see that none of the essentials are neglected at any level. I can appreciate the difficulty in obtaining suitable teachers, because this type of teaching is a dedicated task and not any

teacher can be put in charge of an opportunity class. A teacher would need not only special qualifications but a special interest in this type of work. Those in opportunity classes need the most assistance, but they are the last to get it under the present system. I do not think that that is an exaggerated statement. I know that the Minister and the officers in his department are seized with the need and would do more if they could, but that is the situation as I see it. These young people need help most, but they are the last to get it. It seems to me that we should reverse the order and give them the first opportunity. I support the first line, but may have more to say when we discuss the lines individually.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 9.3 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, August 22, at 2 p.m.