

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, August 22, 1962.

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

QUESTIONS.**NORTH PARA RESERVOIR.**

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Will the Minister of Works say whether his department has ever investigated the economics of impounding the waters of the North Para River as a supplementary supply for the Barossa Valley and other adjacent districts?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The department has made preliminary investigations into practically all streams in the Adelaide Hills area and some streams in other parts of the State—the northern areas and elsewhere. We have exploited the resources of most of the major streams in the Adelaide Hills catchment areas and other places because, in the first instance, they were the streams that were most easily exploited and would return us the greatest yield. Because of the development of the State generally and the requirements of the metropolitan area, it is now necessary to exploit the smaller streams to see what yields can be produced from them and what the economics of storages on them would be. A case in point, of course, is the reservoir proposed to be constructed on Kangaroo Creek, and other streams, including that mentioned by the honourable member, are being investigated. The order of priority for further exploitation has not been determined, but the river mentioned by the honourable member has had stream gaugings taken from it for some time. As soon as the Kangaroo Creek reservoir is well under way, the department will look at this and other streams with a view to determining which should be the next river to be developed and what the storage capacity would be.

As a matter of interest, I point out that some of our rivers are sufficiently reliable to almost fill their storages each year. Others, including the South Para, have the storages constructed with a capacity greater than the normal annual flow of the river, and in good years the flow increases substantially and the capacities have been provided so as to gather the peak flows in wet seasons for storage against the drier seasons, thus avoiding having water running to waste. I do not know the capacity of the stream the honourable member mentioned, but the department has taken

stream gaugings and will be examining that and other rivers as soon as the opportunity arises.

HOUSING TRUST ACT.

Mr. LOVEDAY: In April last the Whyalla City Commission wrote to the Minister of Lands about a proposal to amend the South Australian Housing Trust Act to give the trust the right to purchase business sites either before or after subdivision without the land being offered for auction, with a view to having shops established in the Whyalla West residential area earlier than planned. At present a delay of two to three years occurs before shops appear in residential areas and this causes much inconvenience: it has been suggested as one reason for the labour turnover. Can the Acting Minister of Lands say whether it is intended to amend the Act in accordance with that request this session?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will examine the question and get a reply as soon as possible.

SPRINGBANK ROAD BRIDGE.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked him to transmit to the Minister of Roads about the Springbank Road bridge?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, informs me that plans are now complete for the above bridge, and it is anticipated that tenders will be called early in October.

EDUCATION.

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Minister of Education taken steps to institute an independent inquiry into education in South Australia as suggested by the South Australian Institute of Teachers?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: No. It is not within my competence to institute such an inquiry, but I have referred the matter to the Director of Education for discussion with representatives of the central authority of the institute to ascertain the specific proposals. I think he is meeting them one day this week, probably Friday. When the matters are crystallized I will consider them and, if and when I consider it necessary, I will submit them to Cabinet for discussion and, later, decision.

WIG-WAG SIGNAL AT ROSEWORTHY.

Mr. LAUCKE: I recently asked the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Railways, whether he would obtain a report

from his colleague about the installation of a wig-wag signal at a crossing north of Roseworthy. I believe that he has a reply, and I ask him to give it.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Railways, has informed me that his officers have been unable to trace any recent request for the installation of an automatic warning device at the level crossing at 31 miles 40 chains, Morgan line. However, conditions at this crossing have been investigated by the Railways Commissioner who advises that no unusual hazard exists and that in the circumstances he is unable to agree to the installation of an automatic warning device.

ROAD HAZARD.

Mr. TAPPING: I notice lately a tendency on the part of some owners of vehicles to permit metal and tin to fall on to the roads, particularly in the districts of Semaphore and Port Adelaide. I understand there is a provision in the Local Government Act, the use of which might be able to combat this menace. Will the Minister of Works take this up with his colleague, the Minister of Roads, to see whether the power under the Local Government Act is sufficient? If it is not, will he suggest something to overcome this menace that is endangering public safety and destroying tyres, etc.?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes, I shall be pleased to do that. I agree with the honourable member that it is an offence under the Act for a person to allow a portion of his load to fall on to the roadway. That is a general provision and I should have thought that, if an offender could be caught or if an incident could be observed by the police or other responsible officials, prosecutions could be laid. I will direct this question to my colleague for a report.

MERINO SHEEP.

Mr. HARDING: I have already asked the Minister of Agriculture a question regarding the banning of the export of merino sheep. Great strides have taken place recently in the successful artificial insemination of stock and the transportation of deep-frozen semen. I wonder whether the ban is needed now to the same extent as previously, as this semen can be smuggled out of this country. Can the Minister of Agriculture say what steps the Agricultural Council has taken in this matter?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The embargo on the export of merino sheep has existed for a long time and from time to time the possibility of lifting it has been considered. The

Agricultural Council discussed it in 1951, and apparently it did not object strongly to the lifting of the embargo. I am not sure of the details, but a submission was made to the Commonwealth Government, which decided to take no action about it. It was discussed again at the last Agricultural Council meeting, at which I was not present, but my own attitude about it was to indicate some reserve about any lifting of this embargo.

I am perfectly well aware of the strong arguments that can be adduced for both points of view. It is necessary to be able to demonstrate a clear advantage to be gained by lifting this embargo. Also, it is necessary to get the full facts in order to make a considered forecast about the effect. It may not have much effect; on the other hand, it could be far-reaching, but it is a subject on which we require further expert opinion. The Agricultural Council decided to refer the question to the Australian Wool Industry Conference for an opinion from that conference. When a reply is received, I have no doubt that the matter will again be raised in the Agricultural Council, probably in another six months or so.

PORT PIRIE DRINKING FACILITIES.

Mr. McKEE: My question concerns the unsatisfactory drinking facilities at the various sections of the Port Pirie railway buildings and I refer to a report that I have here. At the Ellen Street station, the drinking facilities for the employees are in the toilet. They have to get their drinking water there. Drinking facilities for the travelling public there are nil. At the Port Pirie South shunting yard and offices there is an Oodnadatta cooler, in bad condition, and the taps there are exposed to the hot sun. At the goods sheds there is another Oodnadatta cooler, also in bad condition. In other sections of the goods sheds they have to drink from taps over hand wash-basins. At the goods office there are no facilities. The transfer sheds have an Oodnadatta cooler, again in poor condition. The transfer contractor supplies some ice during very hot weather. The broad gauge loco has water bags or taps. At the Port Pirie Junction platform there is a refrigerated water fountain supplied by Commonwealth and State Railways Departments. The signal cabin has a tap or water bag. At the narrow gauge loco there is a refrigerated water fountain. In view of these unsatisfactory conditions, will the Minister of Works take this matter up with his colleague, the Minister of Railways?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

PORT WAKEFIELD ROAD.

Mr. HALL: I understand the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Roads, has a reply to my question about the reconstruction of the Port Wakefield Road?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, informs me that plans are being prepared for the duplication of the Yorke Peninsula Main Road No. 6 from Gepps Cross to the Salisbury Highway turn-off. Subject to funds being available, it is anticipated that a start will be made during the next financial year on the duplication from Gepps Cross northwards.

SPECIALISTS' FEES.

Mr. BYWATERS: A constituent of mine came to me early yesterday morning and told me of an incident that happened in relation to a specialist's fees. A doctor at Murray Bridge recommended a certain specialist in Adelaide for the treatment of his daughter who has from time to time certain conditions that bring about epilepsy. She went to this specialist for an appointment at 12 noon. At 12.45 p.m. she was admitted to the specialist's room. The specialist made the daughter do deep breathing exercises, which apparently bring on this condition, and she went into this awkward position. The doctor told her it was one o'clock and he had to go to lunch, and the parents were left with the child to get out into the streets to the best of their ability.

They then received an account for six guineas for the specialist treatment. They were upset at the price as well as the treatment they had received, and wrote a letter to the specialist, sending the money that would have been payable by the hospital benefits association. The specialist wrote back a letter, which I have here, saying that he wanted in full the six guineas for the treatment he alleged he had given. The parents are dissatisfied with the treatment. First, is there any price control on specialists' fees, as six guineas was charged? Secondly, if I gave the Premier a full report on this matter, would he take it up with the Australian Medical Association to see whether unethical practices were indulged in?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The answer to the first question is "No". Medical fees are not under control. They have always been subject to some discussion but they are not actually controlled. Obviously, it is not practicable to control specialists' fees, because special conditions apply. The answer to the second question is that I do not think I can

comply outright with the honourable member's request. Before making a complaint of unethical practices against a person, it would be necessary for me to make some prior investigation to see whether a case could be substantiated. We have heard only one side of the case so far.

Mr. Bywaters: Would the Premier do that if I submitted the facts to him?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes, but I think the honourable member would agree with me that, before one could make any charge of unethical practices against a person, one would have to go a little further than hearing one side of the argument. If the honourable member will give me the correspondence I will see what would be the appropriate action and inform him later of my decision.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

Mr. RICHES: Last week I asked the Minister of Agriculture whether he would obtain from Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society officials an assurance that there would be no cruelty or suggestion of cruelty associated with any buck-jumping events that might be arranged at the forthcoming Royal Show. Has the Minister a reply?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have a letter from the Director of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society, which states:

In reply to your letter of August 17 we wish to advise that we have no knowledge of cruelty having been inflicted on the four or five horses used in a buck-jumping demonstration at the 1961 Royal Show. The only representations made to this society regarding buck-jumping at this year's Show were those received from the editor of a country newspaper. At next month's Royal Show we plan to stage a "rodeo in miniature" which will involve three 25-minute demonstrations including a bare back ride and several attempts to ride the well-known South Australian buck-jumper "Cannonball".

The four buck-jumpers to be used are, we are assured, all beautifully cared for: so much so that they will be stabled with our horse event performers. This society has always been opposed to cruelty to animals and endeavours, to the best of its ability, to discourage it. It has been assured by the South Australian principals of this year's "rodeo in miniature" that none of the horses or steers involved will be subjected to any cruelty. We find it difficult to understand why this society, which staged buck-jumping merely as a programme "fill-in" last year, should be singled out for attack when day-long rodeos such as that conducted at Marrabel and other northern centres each year attract no critical attention.

MENTAL HOSPITALS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Yesterday the Premier was good enough to provide some information about staff problems at certain

mental hospitals. I understand that provision exists at Parkside for the training of both male and female attendants. Will the Premier take up with Cabinet or some other appropriate authority the question of advertising for this type of staff and explaining the opportunities that exist? I have seen the staff working at this institution under torrid conditions. Will the Premier take these steps with a view to encouraging people to take on this honourable work?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: As I said yesterday, the problem is not so much a financial one but one of getting the suitable staff. As a matter of hard fact, the provision being made for our mental hospitals this year contains everything that the Director of Mental Health has asked for. It is the only department in which the Treasury has not exercised any pruning at all: its Estimates have been accepted completely. As considerable increases in staff will be involved, I discussed this matter with the Public Service Commissioner, and I told him to get right on with the job and not to wait until the Estimates had been passed. I think honourable members will agree that that was a wise thing. I shall be happy to discuss with the Commissioner the question of advertising, and if some useful purpose can be served in doing that then it will certainly be done.

EAST ADELAIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. DUNSTAN: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked yesterday concerning the East Adelaide Primary School?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes. The Director of the Public Buildings Department states that public tenders will be called this week for the erection of toilets at the East Adelaide Primary School. Those tenders will close on September 11.

SCHOOL GROUNDS.

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked last week about the desirability of the Education Department's wholly controlling and maintaining school sporting grounds and facilities?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I think it would be better if I let the honourable member have a considered reply next Tuesday, because this matter affects the whole policy of the Education Department in relation to the control and management of school grounds. In addition, it also affects Government policy.

SITTINGS.

Mr. LAUCKE: Can the Premier say when the House will rise for the Royal Show?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I understand that the Show commences on Thursday, September 6, and, as it is the desire of the Government that the House adjourn for the Show, it will adjourn on the night of Wednesday, September 5. The Government desires the House to sit on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings next week, and intends to introduce the Budget on either Tuesday or Thursday next week.

Mr. Frank Walsh: What about the Auditor-General's report?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I understand that the printing of that report has not yet been completed. I point out that the Budget will be available to members over the whole of the show period before they are expected to debate it. I hope the Auditor-General's report is not far away, but I have no information as to whether the printing of it is yet complete. I understand the Auditor-General has long since completed his report and that it is only a matter of printing. I believe it will be available to honourable members before the Budget debate takes place.

ETHELTON WHARF.

Mr. TAPPING: I believe the Minister of Works has a reply to the question I asked on August 15 regarding the provision of facilities at the Cable Company's wharf at Ethelton for the trawler *Southern Endeavour*.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Following on the honourable member's question, I obtained a report, which I showed the honourable member yesterday, from the General Manager of the Harbors Board. To do the honourable member credit, I think he desires to put this matter in its proper perspective and has therefore asked his question. He suggested that the Harbors Board might have been put to considerable expense in order to accommodate the *Southern Endeavour*, but the report is to the contrary. It states that the authorities controlling the ship made such alterations and improvements at its own expense to the Cable Company's wharf as were required for its purposes, and that the Harbors Board therefore incurred no expenditure, so it is not out of pocket at all because of the cessation of the ship's operations. I appreciate the honourable member's question and the opportunity to clear up the matter.

POWER STATION.

Mr. HARDING: My question, which relates to the the proposed establishment of a large power station on Torrens Island, is directed to the Premier because it involves Government policy. Yesterday it was said that there were alternative sites. Will the Premier say whether a complete investigation has been made, whether he is satisfied that the site is a good one, and whether a power station will be built on it?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The establishment of a power station requires much consideration; it is not a matter that can be undertaken lightly. The Electricity Trust's officers, who are most capable, have been examining this matter for a considerable period. This is one of the largest expenditures that the State will undertake for many years. Officers of the trust have been making detailed investigations into the most suitable location for this power station, and I have been informed by the Chairman that no other site can be found that will not be at least £1,000,000 less advantageous than the site proposed. Apart from this, it gives a much better operating figure because of the higher efficiency it can provide compared with any other site. This is not a snap decision: it has been arrived at after careful and prolonged investigation. In due course legislation will be brought before members and they may express their views, but I assure them that it is of the greatest importance to this State that the cost of power be kept at an absolute minimum. If it is not, and if the trust is involved in expenditure that does not provide power at the cheapest rate, there will be increased unemployment and this State will gradually lose its present advantages regarding industrial development.

Mr. RICHES: I understood the Premier to say that he had been informed that it would cost £1,000,000 more to build a projected new power station in the country than to build it on Torrens Island. Would he obtain some figures from the trust to substantiate that difference in building cost, as I think many people would be interested to know where the difference would be made up? Will he say whether anyone has measured or evaluated the additional cost, if there is any, as against the advantage that would accrue to a country area if the station were located, say, on the shores of Spencer Gulf? In the absence of figures that can be substantiated, many of us would query the statement that it would cost £1,000,000 more to erect the same station at, say, Port Pirie than on Torrens Island.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I heard the honourable member's remarks about this matter yesterday, and my mind went back to the time when we were establishing two major stations at Port Augusta; I did not hear him say then that it was necessary to have these projects referred to the Public Works Committee. For the benefit of the honourable member, I shall summarize the advantages of Torrens Island. It is intended that the water for cooling the power station will be taken out of the river on one side of the island and released into the arm on the other side, thus ensuring that the station will have available the coldest water. That type of condition is of the greatest importance to the economics of the station and to the whole project. This feature makes Torrens Island so important. To emphasize how important it is, although the honourable member has probably heard this before, I can say that, before the power stations at Port Augusta were designed, we had to make intensive investigations to try to find some way to get rid of the water from the cooling system so that it would not gradually raise the temperature of the water close to the area. Indeed, I believe it was the subject of investigation by the University of Adelaide for nearly two years. A coffer dam ultimately had to be built to enable this to be done, but it is still not nearly as satisfactory as the conditions that obtain on Torrens Island. Wherever the proposed station is built there will be some local advantage; no doubt there will be some local advantage at Port Adelaide. That, however, does not accrue in one place only; it accrues wherever a station is built.

NORWOOD PROPERTY.

Mr. DUNSTAN: A constituent of mine who has a property at the intersection of Kent Terrace, Norwood Parade and Kent Road, Norwood, and who wants to sell the property, has asked the local council whether it intends to acquire portion of it for the purposes of re-aligning the intersection, which is a particularly difficult one. The council has informed him that it is unable to give this information until it has had a report from the Highways Department on that department's intentions and recommendation regarding the intersection. I understand from the Highways Department that it has no immediate plans, but my constituent has been unable to get definite information about the future and in consequence is unable to dispose of his property because he cannot tell vendors what may occur. Will the Minister of Works ask

the Minister of Roads whether he can give definite information to the local council on whether the Highways Department has any intention in the foreseeable future of doing anything about this intersection or whether it has any recommendation regarding the acquisition of further property in relation to the intersection?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will do that. As the honourable member has premised in the question, if the knowledge is not at present within the scope of the Highways Department plans, obviously the department cannot provide the answer either, but I will address the question to my colleague and see what information is forthcoming.

MALLALA-BALAKLAVA ROAD.

Mr. HALL: Last year, in reply to a question about bituminizing nine miles of the road between Mallala and Balaklava, the Minister of Roads said that possibly it could be commenced this year. Will the Minister of Works ask his colleague whether this time table can be adhered to and the road commenced this financial year?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will make inquiries.

HIRE-PURCHASE AGREEMENTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Hire-Purchase Agreements Act, 1960. Read a first time.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

I thank members for their courtesy in permitting me to give the second reading of this Bill forthwith. Its purpose is to prevent hire-purchase traders and financiers in South Australia from evading the provisions of the Hire-Purchase Agreements Act, and depriving instalment purchasers of goods of the protections intended to be given by that Act and by the Bills of Sale Act and to prevent the harm caused to innocent purchasers by what are called "floor plan" operations. At the moment, there are two ways in which large commercial concerns and finance houses in South Australia are evading the provisions of the Act. The first of these—and it is the most usual form of evasion—is to provide that people purchasing goods by instalments will have the goods delivered to them and will sign a contract not for hire with an option to purchase, but simply for purchase, the

purchase price to be paid in instalments over a period, the interest charge being included in the price. By not completing hire-purchase agreements in the prescribed form, the commercial concerns are avoiding the payment of legitimate stamp duty charges, thus depleting Government revenue, but, in addition, the protections to the purchaser of a required deposit, the consent of spouse, notice of the interest charged, and the protection of the hirer's equity in the goods, are also being avoided. Under the method now being widely adopted, none of these protections is given to the purchaser. The purchaser cannot return the goods and, while the goods cannot be seized immediately if he defaults in any of his instalment payments, the enforcement of the purchase contract against him places him in a much more disadvantageous position than a purchaser who has the protection of the Hire-Purchase Agreements Act.

The way in which companies enforce these instalment purchase contracts is to obtain judgment against the purchaser for the whole balance of the purchase price and to issue a warrant of execution against the goods which are then sold at a bailiff's sale where they are likely to realize very much less than if the purchaser had the rights provided by the Hire-Purchase Agreements Act on the sale of repossessed goods and those rights were exercised by him. If the goods sold at a bailiff's sale do not realize as much as the whole of the judgment, then an unsatisfied judgment summons is issued against the purchaser. The House can see that there is very little real difference between the enforcement of this type of purchase contract and the enforcement of agreements under the old Hire-Purchase Agreements Act other than that the purchaser is in an even worse position.

The other way in which some companies are evading the provisions of the Hire-Purchase Agreements Act is to execute what are, in effect, bills of sale, that is, assurances or charges on the goods, but these bills of sale are not in the form stipulated by the Bills of Sale Act and, consequently, are not eligible for registration under this Act. The fact that they are not registrable does not at the moment render them void. It means only that in the absence of registration, the vendor has not the priorities as against purchasers of the goods in open market or against creditors in insolvency that he would have if the bill of sale were registered. The owner may, however, under the agreement, enter premises and repossess the goods and sell them

to satisfy the balance of the purchase price and, again, none of the protections so carefully provided by this House in the Hire-Purchase Agreements Act, 1960, applies.

Clause 3 amends the principal Act so that future instalment purchases of the kind I have described will come within the definition of "hire-purchase agreements" in the Act, and, in consequence, they will be required to be hire-purchase agreements in the form prescribed by the Act. As the Act now stands, a contract whereby property in the goods comprised in it passes at the time of the making of the contract or upon or at any time before delivery of the goods is exempted from the provisions of the Act. The Bill proposes to restrict that exemption to two types of instalment purchase only—the first being the ordinary lay-by system whereby a purchaser pays in instalments and receives the goods only when he has paid the full price; and the second, the ordinary monthly account and the budget account system—but only so far as no interest charge is made.

Clause 4 provides, first, that any agreement which operates as a bill of sale within the meaning of the Bills of Sale Act 1886-1940, but, because of its form, is not eligible for registration pursuant to the provisions of that Act, shall be wholly unenforceable by the grantee of the assurance. That will mean that, where companies seek to evade the provisions of the Hire-Purchase Agreements Act by getting from their hirers these types of bill of sale instead of hire-purchase agreements as provided for in the principal Act, they will be unable to enforce the provisions of those bills of sale. The ultimate effect of the two provisions I have outlined so far is that in future there will be only four forms of enforceable instalment purchase in South Australia. The first two I have already mentioned as exemptions from the Act. The only other two forms of instalment purchase will be hire-purchase agreements as provided in the principal Act and sales on the security of bills of sale eligible for registration under that Act.

The second provision in clause 4 is aimed at the activities of certain companies, particularly in relation to sales of motor vehicles where the contracts involved were made under the provisions of the law relating to hire-purchase agreements prior to the passing of the 1960 Act. Under those old agreements, the usual provision upon default or return of the goods was that, if the purchaser had not at any time paid a sum equal to 50 per cent of

the total hiring charge for the article, he must pay the difference between what he had paid and that sum as liquidated damages for the depreciation of the article. Numbers of firms (and I will give here several instances of this) have chosen to attempt to mislead purchasers into paying them far larger sums than they were entitled to under these old agreements. The action of these companies has been deliberate and fraudulent. In case A, that of Lombard Australia Limited, an agreement was dated May 30, 1960, for the purchase of a 1957 De Soto utility at a total, including interest, of £1,058. The utility was voluntarily returned after £390 had been paid. The total remaining liability was £198 under the agreement. The company demanded and issued a summons for £307, an excess of £109. The demand notice by the company grossly misrepresented the position. When faced with a fight, the company agreed it was entitled to only £198.

Case B concerned the same company. An agreement dated February 10, 1960, was entered into for a 1954 Holden utility for £618. The car was repossessed after £123 12s. had been paid. The outstanding liability by the hirer was, under the agreement, £191. The company demanded and sued for £291. Its solicitors agreed that only £191 was due.

In case C, the same company, in similar circumstances, wrongfully demanded and sued for £261 8s. Its solicitors agreed that it was entitled to only £134 16s. In case D, the same company demanded and sued for £322 1s. Under the agreement it was entitled to only £185 12s. 6d., and its solicitors agreed that that was so. In case E, Industrial Acceptance Corporation in similar terms demanded in a grossly misrepresenting letter £150 10s. when it was entitled to only £57.

It is proposed, therefore, that any person who knowingly makes demands upon the hirer of goods under any hire-purchase agreement, whether entered into before the commencement of this Act or not, for payment to the owner of any sum in excess of the amount properly due to the owner pursuant to the agreement, shall be guilty of an offence. That section will not imperil any employee of a finance company who makes some innocent mistake in calculation, but it will stop the extremely undesirable practice, instances of which I have detailed to the House.

The next paragraph of clause 4 of the Bill is aimed at the difficulties of innocent purchasers who have been victims of what is

known as the "floor plan" system. In numbers of cases, both with secondhand cars and with television sets and other household goods, the purchaser has gone to a retailer who is in fact acting as agent for a finance company. The finance company has allowed the agent to have its property on his premises for sale, for rental or for hire. The agent enters into a contract with a purchaser for the rental or hire of the goods, collects money from the purchaser but does not pay it to the owner. He then either disappears or goes insolvent. Depending on the circumstances, the finance company denies all knowledge either of the transactions or of the payments, or points out to the purchaser that the selling agent has contravened the conditions of its "floor plan" agreement and therefore he, the purchaser, has no legal right to the goods. The finance company is then within its legal rights in insisting upon a second payment for the same goods or upon repossessing them. In either case the innocent purchaser incurs considerable financial loss.

While some judgments of the courts have hinted that there is some protection to innocent purchasers in some of these circumstances, because the owner of the goods is estopped from denying the ostensible authority of the agent, the law is by no means clear, and a large number of innocent persons have suffered. I am aware that the Government has been concerned about this problem and has thought about some way of coping with it but, apparently, without success. Business is built on trust and a private person entering a selling organization of apparently good repute should not be expected to know of its financial ramifications with some finance organization. Also, he should not be expected to be aware of private arrangements between the agent and the finance company regarding any particular restrictions on conditions of hire or sale. When a purchaser makes all payments to a certain organization of apparently good repute, that should be the end of his responsibility in regard to the transaction, and the purchaser should receive a good title to the goods.

It is the view of the Labor Party that the onus should be placed upon the finance company and not that the purchaser should be satisfied of the probity and substance of the agent into whose hands the finance company places its goods. The clause therefore provides that, where a finance company places goods in the hands of an agent in this way, payments to the agent under a contract made by

a purchaser or hirer with him in respect of the goods shall be deemed to be payment to the owner.

The clause is restricted in operation to the placing of goods in the hands of traders by licensed money-lenders. All hire-purchase companies should have a money-lender's licence and it is felt that this is as wide as the clause should go. If a money-lender places goods in the hands of someone whose usual trade it is to sell or hire goods of that kind, then, under the new section 46c, the selling or hiring or hire-purchase transactions of the trader will be deemed to be valid as against the money-lender. Payments to the agent will be taken to be payments to the money-lender in all cases of sale, and with rental or hire-purchase agreements the same conditions will apply until notice is given to the purchaser that future payments must be made to the money-lender. Money-lenders should be in a reasonable position to accept the onus of finding credit-worthy or reputable agents through whom to deal with the general public and should not be allowed to deny the transactions with the general public concerning their goods made by those traders in whose hands they place them. The new section does not lessen the liability of defaulting traders for tort or crime, nor does it derogate from the existing rights of innocent purchasers.

I know the Government is concerned about many aspects of the hire-purchase legislation, and I know that it sympathizes with me in this matter, particularly in relation to the "floor plan" operations that have been practised in the past. Some of these traders have gone insolvent and defaulted in every way possible, and as a result hardship has been inflicted on the community. People have taken television sets on hire-purchase and then paid as much as £90 and more in hire-purchase payments. I recall a case in which a company was suing for £167. These hire-purchase companies have sought another method of extracting money from people. In the case I have just referred to, the company concerned issued instructions that it would accept about half the amount—this despite the fact that the person had already paid the full price for the article. In the meantime, the people had consulted a solicitor. When the solicitor was told that the set had been working well, he pointed out that its value would have been at least £50 or £60 and suggested that the people offer about £30 in full settlement.

Mr. Bywaters: They would have jumped at it, too.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Quite. I inquired and discovered that it was the intention to make a test case out of the dispute. The Government had asked the Crown Solicitor to give an opinion, and that opinion was that no test case should be brought. It was known that the goods in question could not be traced. These companies cause all this hardship and anxiety, and this concerns all people in responsible positions. As the Opposition considers that it is necessary to review this legislation, it has introduced this Bill for that purpose. We know that legitimate traders have been supplying a service to the public. They are honest business people, and they are still in the business, but they have had to compete with the type of trader I have mentioned. It has been hard to solve this problem. This Bill has been given most mature consideration; the Opposition believes it is essential, and on behalf of my Party I commend it to the favourable consideration of all members.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD secured the adjournment of the debate.

EXPLOSIVES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Agriculture) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Explosives Act, 1936-1958. Read a first time.

LOAN ESTIMATES.

In Committee.

(Continued from August 21. Page 622.)

Grand total, £30,647,000.

Mr. BYWATERS (Murray): I support the first line. I wish to speak on a few matters affecting my district. I am indebted on this occasion to my venerable friend, the member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Shannon), for the kindly remarks that he made in this debate last evening. I know that the honourable member has always looked upon younger members with a degree of fatherly (or perhaps I should say grandfatherly) interest in the way that he oversees our work. He is willing at all times to draw our attention to what is correct and in the best interests of Parliament, and I appreciate the nice way in which last evening he drew attention to me and made kindly remarks about me. He told members of an article in last Saturday's *Advertiser*, to which he referred as the twin commentaries of the Labor Party and the Liberal Party. Although I cannot claim credit for having written the article relating to the Labor Party, I congratulate its author on having collected from my Address in Reply speech certain references I

made to my district. The article was, in the main, in the author's own words, although he used points from my speech.

As I know the member for Onkaparinga would not willingly make wrong statements about such an article, I am sure he would be pleased if I corrected one or two inferences he drew. He referred to the article as "a bit of puff pastry to make a pie"; and said:

I discovered that the meat in the pie all came from the Government's activities. The member for Murray 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 Tailem Bend to Keith water scheme.

I just cannot read that into it, as the actual wording of the article is as follows:

The Tailem Bend to Keith water scheme, for which he has pressed the Government for some time—

Mr. Shannon: That is a useful word!

Mr. BYWATERS: I think the member for Albert knows something about my activities in this matter. The Minister of Works may know even more than he; I am sure he knows much more than the member for Onkaparinga about representations I have made on this issue.

Mr. Shannon: I like the use of the word "pressed"!

Mr. BYWATERS: I do not know whether that is the right word or not, but it is not my word. However, I have made persistent representations for this to be brought about.

Mr. Clark: You have pressed for it, haven't you?

Mr. BYWATERS: I will use the word "representations", if that suits the member for Onkaparinga better. The author of the article said that—

Mr. Shannon: Quote it verbatim.

Mr. BYWATERS: Very well; I will do so. The article states:

The Tailem Bend to Keith water scheme, for which he has pressed the Government for some time, is now meeting with success, and the pumping station at Tailem Bend is scheduled to commence soon.

I do not think there is anything wrong with that. It continues:

Mr. Bywaters said that he hoped the position at Tailem Bend and Cooke Plains would improve as a result.

I do not see any objection to that either. Yesterday the member for Onkaparinga said:

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 called him to order then and said that I should have been referred to as "the honourable member for Murray". I should like to trace the history of this matter. The Minister of Works can bear me out on this, although he did not hold that portfolio at the time. This issue started with a deputation from Cooke Plains which asked for an extension of water supply from Taillem Bend to Cooke Plains to serve that area. It was the Hon. John Cowan and not the Hon. L. H. Densley who came with the deputation.

Mr. Shannon: He was later in the piece.

Mr. BYWATERS: He came into the deputation at the request of Sir Malcolm McIntosh, who was then Minister of Works. Sir Malcolm received the deputation sympathetically. We had some talks on it, and he pointed out the costs and said the scheme was not practicable. Some time afterwards he asked members of this committee whether they would form a larger committee to work for a scheme from Taillem Bend to Keith, and that is what happened. It was formed as the central water committee and, if any credit is due, it is due to men like Mr. Gordon Kennedy and Mr. Don Crouch, who were members of that committee from its inception and who toiled almost night and day to see that every assistance was given to the Government to make the scheme practicable. They went into facts and figures and put them before the Government, for which the present Minister has thanked them. They have done a tremendous job. I do not claim credit for this, as the member for Onkaparinga tries to lead others to believe I do. I believe that as members of Parliament we are here to represent the people who seek our assistance, and that is what I have done. The member for Albert came into it some time later. I give credit to the member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell) for his persistence in this matter; we have worked in perfect harmony on this scheme. I think any of these schemes should be the result of a joint effort and co-operation. As you, Mr. Chairman, as member for Angas, recall, I have worked in with you for the extension of any service for the benefit of this State. The member for Onkaparinga went a little further; he said:

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 do not know whether I was or not, but that is not implied in the article, which went on to say (here again it is taken from a speech I made in Parliament):

The scheme for a water main from Murray Bridge to Adelaide, he said, would benefit the people *en route*, and he looked forward to this scheme to help people in the Callington area who had been long suffering.

If any member can read into that that I was responsible for bringing about the main from Murray Bridge to Adelaide, it is the effrontery of an over-fertile brain, or perhaps of an infertile brain. I would have preferred not to have another main come to the metropolitan area. I think it would be far better if we were taking people to the water rather than bringing water to the people. I have in mind an area at Murray Bridge near the river where people could have been settled so that it would not have been necessary to bring a water main to serve the metropolitan area, built up by this gerrymandering Government because it is so obsessed with the idea of bringing people to the city instead of bringing about decentralization, which we should have. We have to co-operate to see that people are not, due to no fault of their own, left without services. I support the provision of a main from Murray Bridge to Adelaide because it will benefit people in my electorate *en route*.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: How would you have gone about putting people near the water?

Mr. BYWATERS: Ever since I have been a member, and before, the Opposition has put forward many constructive suggestions in that regard. Members opposite always overlook what they do not want to know. I believe that industries could have been encouraged to have established in country districts by being offered the facilities that exist in the metropolitan area. Country areas should have the same electricity and freight charges and other concessions that exist in the metropolitan area. May I refer to an incident that occurred in the Wallaroo electoral district? An industry transferred from Wallaroo to the metropolitan area, and the manager of that firm when in Murray Bridge recently said to me, "I would have preferred to stay at Wallaroo, but it cost me so much more than it cost my competitors in the metropolitan

area." Had the firm enjoyed similar concessions it would have remained at Wallaroo.

Mr. Heaslip: Who is going to pay for these concessions?

Mr. BYWATERS: Who pays for any services in the metropolitan area? Money is spent throughout the State, and if it can be spent in one section, why not in another? It would be better to have the people situated nearer the water than to have to provide another main from Murray Bridge to Adelaide.

Mr. Heaslip: People weren't placed in the metropolitan area: they went there.

Mr. BYWATERS: Yes, and I have told members why. They have come to the metropolitan area to gain the concessions that apply there and because goods are cheaper. If I were a business man I would do the same. I would establish my business where I could produce my goods most economically. That is why people come to the metropolitan area rather than to Murray Bridge.

Mr. Heaslip: Why would you put them at Murray Bridge?

Mr. BYWATERS: Perhaps we could talk about Booleroo. It was because I am concerned with the situation at Callington that I spoke of its plight earlier. I have introduced five deputations to the Treasurer, some with the member for Stirling (Mr. Jenkins), with whom I have worked on this issue. Although we represent opposite Parties, I have been thankful for his assistance in trying to achieve something to benefit the State. I appreciate assistance given by other members. The people at Callington have been long suffering. They have no underground water of any quality. They do not even have stock water. The water contains 1,400 grains of salt and has a high mineral content. They have had to cart water, and many of them are in the lower income group—pensioners living in the town. I hope that through Mines Department explorations some benefit will accrue to this area and that the people will get some added advantages to which they are rightly entitled. I believe that the Government could have provided them with a service quite apart from the trunk main to Adelaide, but as the main is to be provided I am grateful that these people will benefit from the scheme.

As far as taking credit for these projects goes, the people will decide who should get the credit. I think the results of the last election supplied an answer to the question. The member for Onkaparinga spoke about

claiming credit and puff pastry for a pie, but I am reminded that prior to the election some startling announcements were made by the Chairman of the Public Works Committee—announcements that could have been advantageous for publicity purposes. We often hear the member for Onkaparinga in this House refer to "my committee" rather than to the Public Works Committee that was established by Parliament. He says that it is "my committee" and infers that he is responsible for the announcements that are made. Let us further examine his assertions about people claiming credit. During State elections, and on Thursday evenings over the television and radio, we hear the Treasurer announcing what "my Government has done", "our Government has done" or "I have done". The Government claims credit for many things, but who are responsible for the work that is done? I have led deputations to Ministers, as have all members. Invariably the deputations are discouraged. If they ask for something they are told, "We would like to help you, but this is the trouble—" and various reasons are advanced why assistance cannot be given. On every occasion one has to battle all the way and, usually after a lengthy period elapses, the Government does something, but it is done because of those representations. The people who work behind the scenes are entitled to credit.

Mr. Shannon: It is the pressure groups that do it.

Mr. BYWATERS: I have not been talking about pressure groups. Pressure groups do not enter into the question. Work is done because of persistent and honest representations. I can remember an instance when the people in the Rocky River electorate wanted something. They had to go to much trouble and engage in press publicity. When they got what they sought, the Government claimed credit for it.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: If the honourable member can do these things for himself he need not bother to bring any more deputations to me.

Mr. BYWATERS: I did not say that. Here again one can see things being read into or pushed into a speech.

Mr. Lawn: The usual misrepresentations.

Mr. BYWATERS: The Minister has belittled himself and also the position he holds.

Mr. Coumbe: Oh, rubbish!

Mr. BYWATERS: The Minister does not occupy his position as Minister for Pearson, but as Minister of Works representing the

whole State, and it does not matter whether I introduce or any other member introduces deputations to him. We do not do it for our own benefit, but on behalf of the people we represent. Let the Government remember that! I represent people, and if I take a deputation to the Minister of Works, or any other Minister, it is not for my own benefit but for their benefit, and I introduce them as their representative. I have not claimed credit for what has been done. I have tried to point that out, but apparently the Minister—

Mr. Lawn: The Government is jealous that it has been Mr. Bywaters and not Mr. White who has introduced the deputations.

Mr. BYWATERS: Perhaps, or perhaps some other person who has opposed me.

Mr. Heaslip: If the Government does something, you take the credit.

Mr. BYWATERS: No! I am pleased that the member has interjected because it gives me the opportunity to say something that I did not intend to say. The honourable member asserts that I claim credit for the matters I introduce. I want to show the honourable member—it is in the Parliamentary Library if he would care to look at it with me later—an election advertisement that appeared in the *Murray Valley Standard*.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member will confine himself to the Loan Estimates.

Mr. BYWATERS: I think I can connect this point with practically every line of the Estimates because there are a few things in the various departments I referred to on that occasion.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member should confine himself to the Estimates.

Mr. BYWATERS: You have given many other honourable members much latitude so I would appreciate it if I could be given an opportunity to deal with this.

The CHAIRMAN: I gave the honourable member some licence when he replied to the member for Onkaparinga.

Mr. BYWATERS: I respect your ruling, Mr. Chairman, as I have always respected it. I have always tried to keep within Standing Orders and you, Mr. Chairman, know that better than any other member. When leading interjections are made to me, I appreciate it if I can deal with them. I will answer the member for Rocky River (Mr. Heaslip) because he did cast some aspersions on me for taking credit for things that I represent. However, if he will look with me at the *Murray Valley*

Standard he will find that my committee submitted many things to the press on that occasion as things that I had represented.

Mr. Heaslip: Whose committee?

Mr. BYWATERS: It is not my committee; it is an Australian Labor Party committee. Perhaps honourable members will be patient and wait a moment to hear the rest of it. At the bottom of the article to which I am referring it can be seen that:

Mr. Bywaters has insisted that he does not take the credit for this work but that it is the credit of the committees that he has been proud to represent.

That is in there. That is an answer to the allegation by the member for Rocky River.

Yesterday, the member for Gawler (Mr. Clark) raised pertinent points about the adult education centre in his district, in which he is interested. I know that he appreciates other members' difficulties in this field. The Minister of Education has been most eulogistic about the work of adult education centres and has seen fit to appoint full-time principals. I should appreciate it if the Minister of Education would listen to this and not be interrupted by the member for Onkaparinga in his staggering way. Since the Minister appointed a full-time principal in place of the part-time registrar, the Murray Bridge Adult Education Centre has increased in numbers from about 250 to 2,650, a ten-fold increase. As the Minister knows, this is a large centre. It is in the first three in the State. We have been told that, since we have graduated from being a Class III school to being a Class I school in a little over two years, we are to have a vice-principal as well. This is good, as it will allow the principal and vice-principal to extend their activities.

There are, however, a few difficulties when expansion takes place and there is nowhere to accommodate it. Where do we go? Yesterday, the member for Gawler drew attention to the position at Gawler. Today, I want to draw attention to the position at Murray Bridge. There, the centre is housed in a old war-time hut, which gave good service when we had only 250 but, now that our numbers have increased so greatly, I do not think it is good enough. It is time we had the building that we were promised six or seven years ago we would have in due course. The then Superintendent of Technical Schools (Mr. Walker) on one occasion told us just what he had in mind. This has not varied because from time to time I have consulted with the present Superintendent of Technical Schools (Mr. Bone), who, too, would like to see this come about.

For that reason, I make a plea to the Education Department through the Minister. Here again, I am representing not myself but many people in my electorate because I know the value of adult education work in country areas. We have not the same facilities in the country as are provided in the city. In the metropolitan area, technical schools are set up apart from the high schools, and they provide a service that is not available to people in the country. I hope the time will come when more technical subjects will be available to students in the country who cannot perhaps master the academic subjects taught at high schools. It is necessary to extend this work and the adult education centre in association with the Murray Bridge High School.

At the moment they are closely allied. The two staffs work together amicably. The high school uses the adult education centre for woodwork and other craft work. We have a situation there at the moment where art classes have to be curtailed because of a shortage of accommodation. Half of the students from the high school do woodwork there but they cannot be accommodated in the present building as it is not big enough. These things should be looked into. At present, students are travelling to the primary school, which is about one and a half miles away; their lessons are disrupted and time is being lost in travelling. It is an obsolete building that should not be there.

I make a plea, with the member for Gawler, that consideration be given to the work of the adult education centres being facilitated by better amenities being provided than are available at present. The staffs are dedicated men. I can say that about the principal of the Murray Bridge Adult Education Centre and I know the same applies to the principal at Gawler. These men are not concerned with working a certain number of hours a week and then finishing; they put in extra hours and travel the extra mile because they are keen to see this work develop. I know that our principal has travelled many miles in his time to extend the work and promote the adult education work in Murray Bridge and district. These things should be encouraged and men like these should be helped in the conditions in which they have to work.

I appreciate the action of the Minister in seeing that extra staff is available, but it is no use having extra staff available without having a place in which to put them. I make this plea to the Minister and his Director—because I know the Minister is guided by his Director

on many things, and that is only natural. The Minister is sympathetic. The member for Gawler quoted a statement by the Director, so he must be sympathetic. I know there is a need for other buildings for primary, secondary and tertiary education but let us not to lose sight of the fact that today we are living in times different from those of a few years ago. With more leisure hours available and the shorter working week (which will become even shorter in time, regardless of what takes place), the future and scope of adult education work is something we need to develop. I shall leave other items of the Loan Estimates for later discussion. I support the first line.

Mr. HALL (Gouger): It gives me much pleasure to support the first line. When I look over these Estimates I realize the workmanlike job that has been done in sharing out the available funds for this year's developmental programme in this State. My own district has not been a large recipient of funds; indeed, one has to look closely to find any allocation of money that directly affects the area I represent. However, I know that most of the areas in my electorate were developed early in the State's history and, of course, now provide much of the State's production which in turn provides sources of funds for the development of the State's newer areas.

Some statements that have been made are controversial. One thing that we have not heard much about is the tunnel that was mooted by the Leader of the Opposition during the last election. This has some significance when one recalls some of the doubts of members opposite regarding moves suggested by this Government—doubts about the Government having the financial resources to carry them out. Some of these doubts were expressed at the time the Treasurer announced that this State would go on alone in standardizing the Broken Hill to Port Pirie railway line. Several Opposition members at that time were worried that perhaps we would not be able to find the money to carry out this important work, and that if we did carry it out some other works would be detrimentally affected, but how do they reconcile this thinking with the Opposition's election promise to tunnel through the Mount Lofty Ranges to take water (and, I believe it was suggested, rail transport) underneath those ranges? How can they substantiate the suggestion of this immensely costly project, which they promised they would start immediately they were put in office as

the South Australian Government? This programme, at a conservative estimate, would have needed four times the funds necessary to standardize the Broken Hill to Port Pirie line. How can they express doubts about the Government's ability to proceed with this standardization, yet at the same time advocate a programme which, at a conservative estimate, would have cost at least £100,000,000 and, on a well thought-out basis, £200,000,000? I think we need a more responsible approach to the State's finances than this type of electoral juggling. In all seriousness, members opposite know that the tunnel could not have been completed by this State at this time.

Mr. Heaslip: Why did the Opposition promise it?

Mr. HALL: That is what I am asking. This project was solemnly promised by the Leader, and he said that it would be commenced as soon as his Party took office. This should cause people to think seriously about such election proposals, because either we take them seriously or we treat them as some sort of joke or bait. I hope that more responsibility will be shown in future election promises.

One would think, from the way the member for Murray (Mr. Bywaters) wishes to transport city people to the Murray Bridge area, that the tunnel might be of some use to people as they wend their way there. I hope that people are not forced too much into a decision that they may have to make in this matter, because unfortunately this is one of the traits of master planning that often ignores the human factor. Too much loose talk has been indulged in regarding decentralization, without any regard to the fact of whether or not people actually want to go to country areas. It is easy to say that the Government could make it attractive for an industry to go to a certain area; we all know that it is possible for Parliament to vote money to make it attractive for an industry to go anywhere in the State, but although it may benefit that industry, does it benefit the State? We know that we cannot promote uneconomic industries willy-nilly in the way that has been suggested. The Opposition is worried about whether we can afford to take certain steps, but on the other hand it makes the most extravagant claims about what should be done.

Under the heading of "State Bank", I am happy to see that £150,000 is allocated for student hostels. I take it that this amount has been arrived at with some knowledge of

the demands that will be made as a result of the legislation passed last year. I am happy to see that this legislation is being so quickly availed of, and I know that it will provide a necessary amenity, especially for the education of children from country areas.

The Woods and Forests Department is to be voted £1,150,000 and this is another facet of our State's development which we are happy to support. I hope that the department will continue with its research into the use of radiata pine, which has valuable uses. However, as I have stated previously, it is over-promoted in some areas of use. This timber has recently been brought into the field of fencing posts in a desirable way; although salt-impregnation has been necessary, it has cheapened not only the cost of materials for the fences but also the erection costs. I know that radiata pine is used in certain buildings where it has a detrimental effect and is most uneconomical. Only last Saturday I attended an inspection of a youth hall that had an excellent floor of foreign timber. I remarked to the gentleman in control that it was an excellent floor. He replied that they were pleased with it, but he went on to say that a similar building on the other side of the district had had a radiata pine floor installed with disastrous results. He said, "You should see it now; it is an absolute shambles and a wreck, because it could not take the constant hammering and pounding given to it by the youths that used it."

We need a sensible approach to the use of radiata pine. Although it is a product of a good and an essential industry in South Australia, we should not ruin its reputation by expecting too much of it in certain instances. It has its value, but it must be realized that it is not a highly grained wood or as strong as many of its competitors. It must be kept within the fields for which it is suitable, or we will have a public reaction against its use, such as the reaction that is now apparent amongst furniture buyers. It is not always suitable for flooring.

Mr. Corcoran: Do you think it would be suitable in normal house-building construction?

Mr. HALL: I take it that it is suitable in some house-building construction. I have had radiata pine used in repairs in my house, and I have found that it is not as strong as some imported timbers. However, it can be strong enough if it has a floor covering over it.

Mr. Dunstan: It can be strong without having any floor covering over it.

Mr. HALL: It can be, but in the youth hall it was a complete failure because it was subjected to greater use than in a household. I hope the department will press forward with research and that it will be able to overcome the deficiencies that show up from time to time.

I am puzzled about the provision made for cement lining of pipes in these Estimates. I know cement lining of many of the older pipes laid many years ago is necessary, as these pipes are of cast iron and there has been a resultant bad accumulation of rust. This year's provision for cement lining is smaller, although not much smaller, than last year's. I am alarmed when I realize how many hundreds of miles of pipes in the hundred of Gouger will need cement lining, if not in the immediate future, within the next few years. Although I am not criticizing the Government, I wonder why money for repair work comes from the Loan Estimates. This appears to me to be maintenance of a capital asset. If the capital asset were older than the term of the loan repayment, we would, in effect, be providing a new main.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: That is, in effect, what is being done. They have given a much longer life than was originally thought possible.

Mr. HALL: This has now been satisfactorily explained to me. I thought that, if a main were down for 30 years and it were cement lined, it would possibly have 20 years to run on these Estimates and we would in effect be doubling the capital cost of the main as it stood, but I realize that, generally speaking, mains would be down for about the full length of repayment of the Loan moneys.

I am sorry that the Mallala Area School has been removed from this year's Loan Estimates. Last year I rejoiced to find that it was included, but that was only a passing phase, as the school is no longer proposed. Local residents are disappointed at this reversal of departmental thinking about having an area school in the district, but they are at least pleased that the department has reached some decision because, in one way or another, many parents were greatly worried by the indecision shown previously, as they did not know what to plan for their children's secondary education. Now that no area school is likely, existing primary schools can be built up to a greater degree of efficiency and can be more carefully maintained with confidence. Also, transport services can be confidently extended to cater for a greater area, drawing in to the Balaklava High School.

A report was presented by the Minister in the last week or two about investigations into the greater area served by school buses. I hope that what I regard as a promise is fulfilled, and that the whole of the area that would have been served by the Mallala Area School will be covered by a secondary school bus service. If this is done, perhaps an even higher standard of secondary education will be available for children at Gawler or Balaklava than would have been available at the Mallala Area School, which would necessarily have had a rather restricted enrolment in the secondary portion. Although I am disappointed that this school has been removed from the department's programme, at least the district is pleased that a decision has been made.

The Electricity Trust has figured in this debate, and naturally so, as it is a big undertaking that uses a big proportion of State funds. The member for Stuart made a sweeping statement that no country vote had been increased this year. This is, at the least, a great misconception.

Mr. Millhouse: What was it at the most?

Mr. HALL: I leave that to the imagination of members. If one goes through last year's Loan Estimates, one finds that about £720,000 was allocated to rural extensions; this year £1,250,000 is provided. If this is not an increase, someone's figuring has gone sadly astray. I congratulate the Government on its recognition of the need for rural extensions, not only to towns but right down to individual consumers on farms. I hope that this programme will be speeded up as much as the increased allocation suggests. Before leaving the remarks of the member for Stuart, I should like to mention one or two of the misconceptions he expressed. He deplored that this year's vote for school buses had been decreased. That is not so; the figures in the Loan Estimates do not tally with that statement.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Mr. Chairman, I draw your attention to the state of the Committee.

A quorum having been formed,

Mr. HALL: I was about to refer to the many misconceptions placed before this Committee by Mr. Riches. I had already pointed out how wrong he was when referring to the vote being decreased this year, especially the vote devoted to rural extensions. That was not a small increase, but an increase of at least 25 per cent—a major factor as regards country amenities. His statement that the vote for

school buses had been reduced was not a statement of fact. One has only to look at the amounts allocated. Last year the vote for school buses was £100,000 (in actual fact £135,000 was spent) and this year it is £132,000, an increase of £32,000 on last year's vote.

Mr. RICHES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The honourable member claims that I gave wrong information to the Committee and that my statement was not in accordance with fact. I draw your attention and his attention to the Loan Estimates before us in which the amount proposed this year is shown as £100,000.

Mr. Nankivell: Have a look at page 3 of the Loan Estimates where it is shown that the amount this year is £132,000 as against £100,000 last year.

Mr. RICHES: I now see that the amount provided for this year is £132,000.

Mr. HALL: That is exactly what I said, and not what the honourable member said in yesterday's debate. He also decried what he termed was a decrease in the vote. He also said that country school bus operators had submitted applications for increased fees for running the buses because the present fees were having a detrimental effect upon their costs, or something to that effect.

Mr. RICHES: No.

Mr. HALL: That was my impression. The amount provided is a capital vote for the purchase of buses and has nothing to do with the amounts paid yearly to private bus owners for their school bus services. These are only one or two of the serious misconceptions put before the Committee by Mr. RICHES. I have before me what the honourable member said yesterday when speaking about the fund from which buses are purchased by the department. It was as follows:

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.

I should have thought that the honourable member, having spent so many years in Parliament, would have known that we were considering the Loan Estimates and not the Budget. I leave him to think about that before he speaks again on these matters next year. I have much pleasure in supporting the Loan Estimates and once again suggest that in considering the criticism of the Opposition we must

be careful not to run out of resources. At least they should tell us how they intended to finance the tunnel under the Mount Lofty Ranges.

Mr. HUGHES (Walleroo): It was not my intention to speak in this debate, but after having listened yesterday to Mr. Coumbe's remarks relating to unemployment I felt I should let him know the position as it really exists, at least in my district. I congratulate him on his excellent contribution to the debate, apart from the matter to which I have just referred. It was one of the most thoughtful speeches made during the debate and therefore I am sorry that I have to draw his attention to some of his remarks relating to unemployment. One would think, having listened to him, that the unemployment position in South Australia had been rectified, but that is not so. There are still about 7,000 unemployed persons here.

Mr. Jenkins: How many of those are employable?

Mr. HUGHES: I am referring to a remark by Mr. Coumbe, and perhaps I can deal with interjections later. The figure relates to those registered as being unemployed, and there would be many others unemployed who did not register, as I will show from official figures supplied by the Treasurer recently. These figures were not taken from press statements nor are they figures that have been incorrectly worked out: they were given by the Treasurer. He stated that the number of persons registered for employment, claiming that they were unemployed as at February 1, 1962, was 10,261. On July 1 the number was 6,934. He also said that the recipients of unemployment benefits numbered 3,517 and 3,071, respectively.

Although 10,261 were registered as being unemployed on February 1, only 3,517 were in receipt of unemployment benefits. That goes to show that every unemployed person does not register for unemployment benefits. I think that the same applies, as Mr. Coumbe would realize, when it comes to registration for employment. A big percentage of unemployed people in the State never register at the Commonwealth Employment Service. Even though about 7,000 people were registered as being unemployed, I am sure that if a census could have been taken at that date the number would have far exceeded 7,000. As there is nothing significant in the Loan Estimates to alleviate the problem of unemployment in my district, I want to acquaint the Committee of the position that really exists there. The vast irrecoverable loss of production, brought about through the

unemployment of so many of our young people in country districts through no fault of their own, has been due entirely to the mistakes of this Government and its advisers and they must bear the full responsibility for that. Government members run around the country, rattle off speeches, open shows, and visit various places, laying foundation stones with all the gusto of politicians hoping to consolidate their positions.

Mr. Jenkins: And members of the Opposition try to cry the country down.

Mr. HUGHES: I do not know what the honourable member means by that interjection, but if he could make himself a little clearer perhaps I could adequately answer him. However, in view of the nature of the interjection, I am afraid I cannot answer because I cannot tie up what I have said with his interjection. Liberal supporters in my district are afraid that it will take more than what I have just related to restore their Party to popular favour in country districts. Honourable members may be interested to learn what the local press had to say in my district after the last election. The *Kadina and Wallaroo Times* reported:

Kadina, always regarded as a staunch Liberal town, distinctly turned Labor and instead of a decisive majority for the Liberal candidate, followed the State trend and showed a turn to Labor by 100 votes in favour of the sitting member against the Liberal candidate. Over the long years of the Playford regime the district has pleaded and awaited some relief of industries to keep the young people in employment at home. Presuming that Labor Government would take office, this end of the State may now look forward to some assistance in regard to Government support. We have the raw material for a meat works and it is hoped that the Labor Government will give some relief to this part of the State. The figures below will show that the public are looking for some relief from the new Government. The electors in my district thought, in view of the figures released to the public prior to the newspaper going to press immediately after the election, that a Labor Government would control this State. I believe the press clearly showed by its statement that the Playford Government had not, in its opinion, given country districts a fair go and that the people were looking forward to some relief from a new Government.

Last Monday the manager of one of the largest establishments on Yorke Peninsula told me, over the telephone, that for 100 years the peninsula had contributed greatly to the finances of this State and yet the Government of the day and its advisers had not the

business acumen to attract a worthwhile industry to establish itself near one of the finest and most natural seaports in the Commonwealth. He was alluding to the natural deep-sea port at Wallaroo.

Mr. Nankivell: Wallaroo!

Mr. HUGHES: If the honourable member wishes to take a good holiday some time he should come to my district and I will show him something. I know from the pleasant expression on his face that the Minister of Marine agrees with me.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: I am wondering why it needs so much deepening done if it is the finest natural harbour in the world.

Mr. HUGHES: I did not say "in the world". I said "in the Commonwealth", and I am confident that if the Minister were to take up his interjection with some of the master mariners who go to Wallaroo, they would convince him that Wallaroo harbour is regarded as one of the finest natural harbours in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Millhouse: How does it compare with Sydney Harbour?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Jenkins): Order! The honourable member for Mitcham is not entitled to interject because he is not seated in his place.

Mr. HUGHES: If the honourable member were to visit Wallaroo instead of going there on a hurried business trip—I shall not mention the time he arrived or how he kept a number of important people waiting for him—I would convince him and the member for Albert that we have something there if the Government is prepared to spend money on it. It could equal Sydney Harbour. Reverting to the serious side of the question, my constituents are sick of the results of the Playford regime and that is why I unhesitatingly replied to a recent interjection from the member for Onkaparinga when he asked whether I believed in one vote one value. I said.

Of course I do. There is no doubt about it.

The honourable member further interjected and said:

Your country people would tell you differently.

I immediately replied:

What has the present system achieved in my district?

That is the question I was asking the honourable member. There was no reply to my question because the honourable member did

not have an answer. All that the present system has achieved in my district since August 31, 1957, is to give the Wallaroo electors good representation.

Mr. Nankivell: That is probably why nothing has been done.

Members interjecting:

Mr. HUGHES: When I finish there will not be such a smile on the face of the member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell) when he realizes that the people in my electorate believe the Government has let them down badly by not creating work in the district to prevent many young people from leaving to seek employment. That position reflects no credit on any Government and it is no credit to the member for Albert when he makes fun of it. It is not a funny matter; it is a very serious matter affecting not only the young people in my district but also those in other country districts. I know that the Minister of Marine would not make fun of this. I have more respect for the Minister because I have had many dealings with him and know that in his heart he is concerned. However, I am sorry to know that the member for Albert, sitting immediately behind the Minister, is trying to make fun out of one of the most serious things that this Government has to contend with—finding employment for young people. The member can rise to his feet on a point of order if he wants to, but it will not alter my opinion. I know that his interjection was meant to be funny, but it is not funny as far as I am concerned or as far as my constituents are concerned, particularly the young people who cannot find work in the area.

Mr. Nankivell: I want to reply to what you are saying.

Mr. HUGHES: Don't try to make fun out of what I am saying. That is what I am saying!

Mr. Nankivell: I didn't try to.

Mr. HUGHES: I am glad to hear the honourable member say that because I thought he was trying to make fun out of what I was saying, and so did other members because the Minister did not want to be associated with it.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: My interjection, which you and others apparently did not hear, was that the member for Albert was not making fun out of that position.

Mr. HUGHES: I will accept that, but when I am talking and there are interjections, I want them to be helpful. I rose to the Minister's defence because I did not think for one minute that he would associate himself with making fun out of the joblessness of young

people. This lack of employment for boys and girls who are leaving school is a major problem in this State. It is a situation that requires special investigation and special alleviation measures.

Mr. Coumbe: How many would be in that category at present?

Mr. HUGHES: I do not know the number, but as I proceed the member will appreciate from the cases I instance that the situation is extremely serious. About 150 young people leave the high schools in my area each year, but a small percentage only can be employed in the area. The Government, and those who have allied themselves with the Government in keeping it in power, are to blame. They have been found wanting in meeting this problem and in coping with the basic need of finding employment for youths in their own areas. In this, as in the general problem of unemployment brought about through centralization, they have amply demonstrated that they are unable to rectify the havoc that their mistaken policy has wrought with our present economy. Most of the plans that this Government has made, since the people dealt them such a shock in March, have shown little result. Scant ease has been brought to the unemployed in my district. The young people are in a hopeless position. I regret that the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) has temporarily retired from the Chamber because I hoped that he would be able to hear some of the cases I shall mention: it would have answered his interjection. In the *Kadina and Wallaroo Times*, in an article headed "Distressing", the following appears:

In reply to an advertisement in the *Times* last week—"Situation Vacant: Young Lad Required"—there were 31 applicants for the job. Mr. Paul Palmer who placed the advertisement stated that at one period while he was interviewing a youth in the office, two lads were waiting outside and another was making an application by phone. This unemployment position is a distressing affair to the youth of the towns and district, and a shame that there is not employment for them.

This is one of the many cases that have been brought to my notice in my electorate. Yesterday the member for Semaphore related a similar case in his own electorate. Apparently applications were called for a female assistant and 42 females applied for the job. That indicates that not only in country districts is the unemployment position severe, but also in the city and the metropolitan area.

Mr. Harding: In other States too.

Mr. HUGHES: I am not concerned about other States. I am surprised that the honourable member introduced this aspect, because how often are members told from the front bench opposite that this State sets the standard in everything. I am not concerned about other States, but I am vitally concerned with the unemployment position as it presents itself in this State, and particularly to our young people. Last Tuesday week when I was driving to Adelaide for the sittings of Parliament a young lad aged about 15 stopped me at Kulpara and asked me for a lift to Adelaide. I was surprised, because I recognized the lad who resides at Wallaroo. Before proceeding I questioned him as to why he was walking to Adelaide and I expressed surprise that he was not at school. He revealed that because of unemployment in the home it was necessary for him to leave school in an endeavour to supplement the family's income. He had tried to obtain employment near his home. He told me that that morning he had, between Wallaroo and Kulpara, called into several farmhouses seeking work so that he would not have to go too far from his home, but he was unable to get it. He was walking to Adelaide to reside with his sister so that he could seek employment in the city.

Our youth are too precious to be sacrificed on the altar of neglect. Many parents watch apprehensively the effects of continued unemployment on their sons and daughters as they finish their schooling and seek to make lives for themselves. Weeks pass and our youths, many of them with Intermediate and Leaving school passes, apply unsuccessfully for the few jobs that are offering in my electorate. The appalling hopelessness of their position is brought home to them as they are confronted with this great problem. Early this year a lad aged about 17 came to me and asked for my help because he was unable to find a job. I made inquiries from the boy and from his parents and discovered that he had passed his Intermediate examination in eight subjects. This lad in my area had been interviewed at banks, at various firms and at the Commonwealth Public Service office there, but he was not successful—again because of the number of applicants in that area.

I brought this lad to Adelaide and after several weeks I was successful in obtaining a position for him. However, the problem did not finish there because finding suitable board and lodging was, in my opinion, harder than finding him a job. That is the problem that the young people from country districts are facing.

The whole position is unsatisfactory for the parents who have to send their boy or girl to Adelaide to seek a position. We know that, if these boys and girls are good enough and want to take up a career, they must choose: either they stay at home or they come to Adelaide to continue their career, as many do. Otherwise, I do not know where the State would be. But, generally, employment should be available for those who do not desire to continue in an academic career. The parents of children who do not wish to pursue an academic career often have to come to Adelaide and find board and lodging for them, which is an unsatisfactory arrangement. Where a private home cannot be found, in many cases the parents themselves pack up and leave their district, often at considerable expense to themselves. Of course, some boys and girls are found employment in the areas in which they have been brought up and educated. Sometimes they find employment in various avenues to which they are totally unsuited, but they do this in preference to living in the city, where they are away from parental control.

In such cases, the jobs they are doing are often uninteresting and eventually the boy or girl loses interest; then the trouble starts. I know the Minister of Education will agree with me that they become a liability rather than an asset to the State. That the outlook should be such for young people on the threshold of life is something that this Government will have to face up to and answer for in the future. What this joblessness will do to the characters and attitudes towards life of these young people has yet to be evaluated. It is a dilemma not of their own making and, contrary to the claims of the Liberal and Country League in this State, it has not been able successfully to cajole or wean extra money, or even a just share, for this State. The member for Hindmarsh (Mr. Hutchens) yesterday drew the attention of this House to the fact that there must be more co-operation and assistance from both State and Commonwealth spheres. The ineptitude of this Government is evident in almost every decision it makes. Only this morning I heard a prominent man in Adelaide say that this Government changes its mind so often that we can be forgiven for not being abreast of current happenings. To this Government it is just one big merry-go-round, but for the young people in my district it is a nightmare. In spite of their diligence and application to their studies, jobs are just not available to them. That is something in

which I feel this Government should take more interest and something for which it will have to take the blame if nothing is done about it. On page 12 of the Loan Estimates, we read:

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

As most members know, I have stated in this House before that I have in my district a greater number of pensioners per capita than perhaps any other honourable member has. I have not heard that denied so far.

Mr. Coumbe: Say that again!

Mr. HUGHES: I said that I have more pensioners per capita in my district than perhaps any other honourable member. I have not heard any other member deny that, and I have made this statement before in Parliament. You cannot understand what I mean.

Mr. Nankivell: You have not given us the figures to support that.

Mr. HUGHES: You will hear them directly.

Mr. Nankivell: Tell me what they are. You are evading it.

Mr. HUGHES: I have never evaded an interjection of the honourable member yet.

Mr. Jennings: There is nothing to evade.

Mr. HUGHES: I know that, but he thought I was trying to evade the question. I am not doing that at all, because I have the figure here. It is not mine, but is one quoted by the local council.

Mr. Nankivell: No-one is denying the figure. We want to hear it.

Mr. HUGHES: I said just now that I would give it to him directly, and he doubted my reply.

Mr. Nankivell: No.

Mr. HUGHES: You did; otherwise, I would not have said, "I have never evaded an interjection of the honourable member yet."

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Jenkins): The honourable member must not refer to another honourable member as "you".

Mr. HUGHES: As regards the £100,000 to be spent on the Royal Adelaide Hospital for additions to the dental section, I do not in the least begrudge that money being spent there. All I want to convey to the Committee

is that in the latter part of last year I was approached by pensioners in my district—not the pensioners at Wallaroo, but those in my district—asking me if I would introduce them as a deputation to the Wallaroo District Council as they wanted to place before it a request that it approach the Government, as they were contributors to the Wallaroo Hospital, to see if some dental and eye clinic could not be established at that hospital. We waited upon the council and they proved to the council that the position warranted something being done in that area. The Town Clerk of Wallaroo wrote me a letter:

Dear Sir, I send herewith a copy of a letter sent to the Director-General of Medical Services, for your information. This is the letter:

The Director-General of Medical Services, Adelaide. Dear Sir, As directed by the Local Board of Health, Wallaroo, I wish to point out the unfortunate plight of the pensioners of this area in respect of optical and dental treatment. As things stand at present, pensioners and other elderly people who need attention to their eyes or teeth have to travel to Adelaide for the purpose. For those not fortunate enough to have friends or relatives living in Adelaide it means that they have to make the dual trip in one day, which means rising at 5 a.m. and not getting back to Wallaroo station until 9.30 p.m. This is far too long a day for such people. In practice it is found that many of these pensioners have to make three trips annually. Matters are complicated when drops have to be put into the eyes of the patients as it means about four hours before they can see sufficiently well to get to the train. The Wallaroo Local Board of Health strongly recommends that arrangements be made to have specialists visit Wallaroo Hospital once a month to treat pensioners as indicated above. Pensioners from the Kadina Corporation, Kadina District Council, Moonta, Bute, and Clinton areas would also attend a clinic established at the Wallaroo Hospital. From the economic angle, too, the cost of such visits by specialists, even allowing for their relief while they are away, could hardly outweigh the total of the railway fares which are being paid out to the pensioners at present, especially when it is considered that there are about 650 pensioners in the whole area concerned.

I do not know whether the member for Albert has 650 pensioners in his district, but I do not think he has. That is my reply to his interjection. The letter continues:

This proposal is the outcome of a deputation from the Wallaroo Pensioners' Association to this Local Board of Health recently, introduced by Mr. L. C. Hughes, member for Wallaroo. It is hoped, therefore, that due consideration will be given to the matter with a view to the alleviation of the lot of the old people concerned.

The letter was dated November 15, 1961. The Director-General lost no time in having the matter examined because he replied in a letter, dated November 23, to the Wallaroo Local Board of Health as follows:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated November 15, 1961, concerning visits to Wallaroo by specialists who could give pensioners optical and dental treatment. As this department has neither the authority nor the facilities to send specialists to any country areas to carry out optical, dental or other treatment it is regretted that your request cannot be acceded to.

That was a disappointing reply and it shattered the confidence of the 650 pensioners mentioned. Perhaps the Director-General did not give adequate thought to the number of pensioners in that area. If there were only 50 or 100 in an area it would not be economical to arrange for a clinic to be visited by specialists once a month, but when there are 650 pensioners I do not see that the scheme cannot be carried out. The Director-General said that the department did not have the authority or facilities to establish a clinic, but I think the facilities are already there. Wallaroo has a fine hospital. The rooms considered necessary when the hospital was built, but not now because of ways of handling certain diseases, and the fine infectious block could provide some of the facilities needed to set up a dental and optical clinic. If I spoke to members who are fortunate in having public hospitals in their districts they would tell me that in those buildings there are facilities that could be used for the purpose I have mentioned. I do not know that the department had much kick in referring to the facilities, but there may be something in support of the statement that specialists are not available to be sent as proposed. If the matter of specialists making visits had been pushed perhaps they would have welcomed the opportunity to go to country hospitals once a month to give treatment.

Mr. Nankivell: In providing facilities you must realize that it requires dental and optical equipment and not only rooms.

Mr. HUGHES: That is a sensible interjection. I am well aware of it, but at the same time when we consider the millions of pounds associated with the Loan Estimates—

Mr. Quirke: Not enough of them.

Mr. HUGHES: I agree with that interjection, too. The £100,000 proposed to be spent at the Royal Adelaide Hospital will provide a service for all pensioners in the city and metropolitan area.

Mr. Jenkins: Your proposition would entail specialists going to every town in South Australia.

Mr. HUGHES: Not necessarily. I said earlier that I did not feel it warranted the establishment of a clinic in a district where there were only 50 pensioners.

Mr. Jenkins: I think I have more than you have in your district.

Mr. HUGHES: If so, the honourable member should be the next one to support me in assisting these unfortunate people. They are unfortunate, not only because of their limited income but because of the inconvenience caused to these people between the ages of 65 and 90 through having to get out of bed at 5.30 a.m. to catch a train. These people have a just claim. Apparently I wined the member for Stirling by asking him to support me in this suggestion.

Mr. Jenkins: The suggestion has some good points, but what line is the honourable member going to take the money from to provide for this?

Mr. HUGHES: That is not my job: it is a job for the Hospitals Department, which has money allocated to it each year. I know that it endeavours to use that money in the way it thinks is in the best interests of the people, but that is also what honourable members come here for: they represent their constituents, and I am doing that this afternoon in the hope that the department will take note of my plea.

Mr. Quirke: How about a mobile clinic?

Mr. Nankivell: Yes, a mobile clinic.

Mr. HUGHES: That is a good idea, and one that I had not given any thought to. I think that with the aid of the members for Burra and Albert the department will be supplying something.

Mr. Jennings: It was half wisdom and half wit.

Mr. HUGHES: Perhaps I got into the member for Albert a bit this afternoon, because he did rouse my Welsh blood, but if he wishes to get back into my good graces he may support me on this question of a mobile clinic. I sincerely hope that with the co-operation of the members for Albert and Burra, who by their wise interjections have advocated a mobile clinic, some relief will be afforded these people, if not this year then perhaps next year.

Mr. Quirke: I will support that with pleasure so long as it operates throughout the State.

Mr. HUGHES: I am glad to hear that. I want it clearly understood that I was making the plea not only on behalf of my district,

although the people in my district are greatly concerned. However, the practice of visiting an established public hospital should be seriously examined. It gives me great pleasure to support the first line.

Mr. CASEY (Frome): I support the first line. In doing so, I compliment the previous speakers who have contributed much to this debate on the Loan programme. Some items need clarification. One matter that concerns me directly is the provision of £1,000 for land repurchase for closer settlement. Section 144 of the Crown Lands Act dealing with closer settlement states:

The Commissioner may, by repurchase, acquire land for the purposes of this Part at a cost not exceeding six hundred thousand pounds in any period of two financial years.

As the member for Wallaroo (Mr. Hughes) pointed out, people in the country areas are deeply concerned about the drift of young people to the cities. I said in the Address in Reply debate that I thought one of the best ways of overcoming that drift was to establish industries in country towns, and I suggested that the Commonwealth Government should grant tax-free periods for any industry that would establish in the country. This was done with some success under a scheme for the cattle industry in the Northern Territory, and there is no reason why a similar scheme could not be implemented to assist industries in this State. I know of two industries that have become established in the country during the last four years, and from my conversations with the people concerned I have no doubt that it will take them at least another three years to get their heads above water. It is fortunate for these people that they are associated with overseas interests, because the goods they produce are readily saleable overseas where there is a ready market.

We are the spokesmen for country people, and we must bring these things before the Government's notice. No doubt the Government is mindful of what is needed, but apparently it is too shy to do much about it. Figures I have here show that there was a decrease in the number of rural holdings between 1955-56 and 1959-60, despite an increase in soldier settlement during that period. Altogether, 2,833 soldier settlements have been approved; of the blocks allotted in that period, 609 were dry land and 340 were irrigated, and of the total area 570,220 acres was dry land and 11,436 acres irrigated.

Mr. Harding: Have you worked out how many are held in partnership?

Mr. CASEY: No, I am not so much concerned with that. However, I can give the number of people employed in rural holdings. In 1955-56, 37,335 males and 4,670 females were employed, whereas in 1959-60 there were 33,771 males and 2,584 females, representing a decrease of more than 3,500 males and more than 2,000 females.

Mr. Jenkins: Would the honourable member attribute some of that to tractors and machinery?

Mr. CASEY: Not necessarily. Mechanism on farms is perhaps slightly greater now than it was in 1955-56, but not much greater. I agree that it could have accounted for some of this, but not all. Under the closer settlement scheme the Government has power to purchase land and, as members opposite as well as members on this side realize, a happy community is a community on the land. I think country people are more happy in the country than are city people in the city; that is a debatable point, but it is my opinion. The Government has not used the closer settlement scheme on a big scale in the past. In the area represented by the member for Mitcham is the Urrbrae Agricultural High School. I have had some dealings with this school, which I think is making a fine contribution to the educational standard of this State. I am pleased that it is improving year by year, and that it is, I believe, to become a class 1 school. Many boys attending it are obsessed with the idea of going on to the land when they leave but, unfortunately, it is absolutely impossible for anyone to go from an agricultural school on to the land. I can remember reading that the Minister of Lands, when speaking at a function, said that anyone who wanted to go on the land would need to have at least £1,000 to back him. Anyone would need £10,000 backing, and even then would probably be floundering. If we are to help people to go on the land, we should make some provision for them; this should be by way of the closer settlement scheme and should appear on the Loan Estimates. All that appears in these Estimates is £1,000, which is probably just sufficient for book work.

Mr. Dunstan: They could not purchase a peck of land with that. That is not intended.

Mr. CASEY: That is right; no provision is made for the purchase of land. Last year I was concerned about getting better means of transport for police stationed in the outlying

parts of this State, and particularly in my area, which extends up to the Queensland border, across to the New South Wales border, and on the other side to the Northern Territory. In this area are police stations that control vast areas of land. I wrote to the Minister concerned asking that a Land Rover, equipped with radio, be made available for the Cockburn Police Station, but unfortunately the vehicle intended for use at this station had to be used at Woomera to replace a vehicle that had been burned out. No provision has been made this year for a Land Rover for Cockburn. It is most important in outback areas that radio contact be available to police officers so that they can contact the nearest base.

Mr. Quirke: This need not necessarily be on these Estimates.

Mr. CASEY: I know that this is not even being considered by the Police Department, which has been asked to reduce its expenditure, so the Land Rover will not even be considered this year. I think it is a most important item. Last year a man was lost in the North-East of this State, and I have been informed on good authority that, if a Land Rover equipped with radio had been available, he could have been found days before he was. I understand that the constable at Blinman has his own Land Rover, which he operates and for which he charges the Police Department so much a mile. This does not speak highly of our Police Department; it should supply its own vehicles instead of allowing an officer to purchase his own.

The big question regarding these Estimates is where this money will eventually come from. The Treasurer told us that there were three items not included, and these, I believe, will cost millions of pounds. The first item he mentioned was the Poldia scheme on Eyre Peninsula, which is undoubtedly essential; the second was in relation to mental hospitals, and involved tearing down a wall which was, in my opinion, unnecessary; and the third was railway standardization. This money has to come from somewhere, and apparently the Treasurer will introduce Supplementary Estimates to cover the three major items he mentioned. I was intrigued to read in today's *News* that, when interviewing Richie Benaud, the Australian cricket captain, the Prime Minister said that he was indebted to the team for giving him so much happiness. I suggest that we send the member for Unley to Canberra, because, as he has been responsible for giving the Prime Minister so much happiness in the past, he may be able to draw

more money from the Commonwealth coffers for railway standardization. The member for Onkaparinga said:

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.

He was no doubt referring to the Port Pirie to Broken Hill line, and, I presume, to the transportation of motor car bodies on the line. I cannot see the significance of his statement or how motor bodies will be carried on the line because, if they are going to Western Australia, they will go on the Port Pirie to Port Augusta route, and, if they are going to the Eastern States, they will go to Melbourne and then to Sydney. Of course, it is a shorter route from Adelaide to Sydney through Melbourne than through Broken Hill.

The member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) mentioned that there would be a drop this year in the allocation to Leigh Creek to £50,000, which shows the efficiency of the operations there. I have seen the new dragline in action with its capacity of 18 cubic yards and I leave it to the imagination of members to understand how much overburden and coal it could move in a day. Last week the Electricity Trust erected new classrooms at Leigh Creek and this will save the Education Department a considerable amount. I should think that the cost would run into £30,000 or £40,000. The trust established a school in order to maintain the stability of its work force. It will enable the children to gain higher education, avoiding the necessity of parents having to leave the area and come to Adelaide so that their children may further their education. Unfortunately in other parts of the State some children have to leave their families to get their education in Adelaide, and this is a very bad thing, as it must be admitted that family life is the basis of our society. When families are split up, then our society becomes unstable. I have in mind a family that was living in the Burra district and had to come to Adelaide so that the children could get a secondary education. The father had to sell his land and come to Adelaide for a job. Such things are bad for the State and also for the country areas.

Another important item relates to railway gauge standardization, and this is brought clearly to our minds when we realize that Indonesia is to take over Western New Guinea. Indonesia, with a population of about 70,000,000, is right on our doorstep and is now our neighbour more than ever before. We have

the railway stretching to Alice Springs in Central Australia, with a break of gauge at Marree. In view of the turn of events in the last 12 months particularly, the Australian people should become aware of the urgency, not only from a defence point of view, but also from a national point of view, to establish a standardized railway line to Darwin. We cannot accept the statement of Dr. Soekarno or any of his Ministers that Indonesia will stop at Western New Guinea. We must be prepared for any eventuality.

I do not agree with appeasement at any time unless we know with whom we are dealing. Apparently under our democracy we are inclined to favour appeasement rather than to stand on our feet and say to these people "No". We have some people in the State who say "No" too often! However, we should be in the position of saying "No" to some of these people instead of saying, "We might do that or we might do something else." Indonesia is to take over Western New Guinea because it has determined that nothing in its path will stop it, even though it had promised the Australian Government that it would not do this by force, but by negotiation. It did not keep its word. In the interests of Australia as a whole we should realize that we must accept the fact that the Indonesians are our neighbours and that we have to live with them peaceably. Therefore, in view of present circumstances, the extension of the railway line from Alice Springs to Darwin is an absolute defence necessity.

I was pleased to see that at long last the question of a water supply for Hawker is receiving consideration. An amount of £5,000 has been allocated for cleaning out the small dam which will be used in conjunction with the larger dam already existing there. I point out to the Minister of Works that the larger dam is in dire need of being cleaned out because it has more than 7ft. 6in. of mud in it. I am hoping that the early provision of a bore at Hawker will cater for the people's needs. I have much pleasure in supporting the first line.

Mr. LAUCKE (Barossa): I congratulate the Treasurer on the introduction of these Estimates, which provide for a large volume of work to be undertaken, particularly in view of existing adverse conditions. It is to be deplored that South Australia did not benefit to the same extent as some of the other States in the allocation by the Commonwealth Government of special grant money in February and at the recent Loan Council meeting. It

seems that the sound attention that has been given by our Government to State affairs was not recognized. We emerged from the so-called credit squeeze very meritoriously, despite the effect on our main secondary industry, namely, the motor car industry. We could have expected a far greater recession in South Australia because this industry was most directly affected by the credit policy at that time. South Australia has the lowest percentage of unemployment of any State. There are favourable prospects for increasing employment in many of our secondary industries and for enhanced production in our rural industries because of the provision of the utilities necessary to ensure expansion of production.

I commend the Treasurer on an outstandingly successful allocation of Loan and State funds generally over the years because, this has given us a background on which to work, and also our present buoyant economy. I do not believe in crying stinking fish. We have a fundamentally sound economy due in no small measure to a sound allocation of the State's finances. South Australia has not received its entitlement of allocations and special grants because the State has not suffered from the results of a certain policy as much as some other States. This was due to the State's sound background. When the allocation of money to the States is considered I believe no consideration should be given to a State's economic condition, thereby denying it its rightful proportion merely because it has managed its affairs exceedingly well compared with other States.

Mr. Riches: Have you any authority for that statement? Has anybody said that is the reason for the cut in our grant?

Mr. LAUCKE: I am expressing my personal opinion as I always do here. Of the £57,000,000 to be spent on public works this year only £34,529,000 will come from new borrowings. The balance of £22,471,000 will be derived from internal funds of statutory bodies, surpluses, recoveries, cash in hand and maintenance reserves. The fact that that volume of money comes from our State utilities is a firm pointer to good management. I was surprised yesterday to hear the member for Stuart suggest that the Electricity Trust should have its projects costing over £100,000 referred to the Public Works Committee for approval or rejection. I am completely opposed to the adoption of that course. When we consider an authority such as the trust, which has achieved such success over the

years, and when we find such excellent management and dedicated men on the board of the trust and in its employ, it is clear that interference with their direction of affairs would be retrogressive.

Mr. Riches: Don't you think they are in the same category as other departments?

Mr. Jennings: What about the Minister of Education?

Mr. LAUCKE: I believe that any department with a specific job to do—in this case the trust, which has to run the Leigh Creek coal-field and reticulate power throughout the State—is given an explicit function.

Mr. Riches: So are other departments.

Mr. LAUCKE: Not in this case! This has a major thread of integral interest running through it and when I see the degree of success achieved by any department such as that I say, "Hands off and don't intrude on a set-up which has been so successful and which will undoubtedly be successful in the future." We enjoy the lowest power rates in Australia with the exception of Tasmania, which derives its power from hydro-electric schemes and, naturally enough, has the edge on us.

Mr. Hall: We have the lowest rates for coal-generated power.

Mr. LAUCKE: Yes, our rates are the lowest for power from that source and that is due, in no smaller measure, to the wisdom of those who have directed the trust's affairs over the years.

Mr. Riches: Have you the same confidence in the Highways and Engineering and Water Supply Departments?

Mr. LAUCKE: I have the utmost confidence in Highways, Engineering and Water Supply and other departments, but the same background or character does not apply to those interests. One is a statutory body authorized to operate under powers conferred when the trust was established. A board was authorized to run this semi-government authority and that is quite different from the operations of the Engineering and Water Supply Department. They are constituted differently. I record my strong opposition to the proposal to intrude through outside bodies—good and effective as those bodies may be—into the affairs of a statutory authority such as the Electricity Trust of South Australia.

I now refer to the importance of our rural economy and its impacts on the welfare of the nation generally. This cannot be over-emphasized or raised too often. As a nation we are fundamentally dependent for our well-being on our rural economy which, in

turn, depends on an adequate water supply. For the year ended June 30, 1962, a new record amount of £1,071,000,000 was earned in total exports from Australia. Of those exports, 80 per cent came from rural production. This was £143,000,000 more than in the previous year. The significant point, however, is that of the increase of £143,000,000 in the total exports £91,000,000 came from products of rural origin. The improved results came from higher prices in the main for wool, beef, veal and dairy produce. Total exports exceeded imports by £187,000,000 only, and that surplus was attained by other invisibles. If it had not been for increased capital from overseas we would not have balanced our national budget last year.

I am pleased to note the large amount of money allocated in these Estimates for the Engineering and Water Supply Department because the services received from the department in country areas have greatly enhanced the volume of country production, and it is that preparedness on the part of the Government to allocate the largest amount of any of the allocations in the Estimates to this department that shows its interest and knowledge of the great importance of the rural sector of our economy. We can go from strength to strength if we direct our Loan money expenditure to productive purposes. The sure criteria of sound capital investment are whether it will enable the production of further wealth and whether it will provide essential services. Undoubtedly our capital outlay has been guided by those vital principles at all times during the regime of the present Treasurer. If the Government can provide the framework we, the individuals, can work within it and create the wealth that is necessary for the welfare of everybody.

The Tea Tree Gully and Modbury area is in dire need of a sewerage system. I am pleased that the Chairman of the Public Works Committee submitted a report to this Parliament on May 31 last regarding a scheme to service Para Hills and Modbury. This scheme will go from Para Hills to Modbury and will be extended. The report is pleasing in its reviewing of the requirements of the location referred to, but I am perturbed at the dates mentioned for the implementation of the scheme. I understand that three phases are incorporated in the proposal, and the third portion of the master scheme, which is to cost approximately £746,000, will be the continuation of the trunk sewer from Modbury—the

Reid Murray Development area—to Tea Tree Gully along the Dry Creek Valley.

Mr. Shannon: It will finally link with the new treatment works at Bolivar.

Mr. LAUCKE: I realize that, and I must say, in fairness to the Minister of Works, that when I sought keenly and eagerly a few years ago greater water reticulation systems in the Tea Tree Gully, Modbury and Highbury areas, I was told that until such time as a major source of supply was provided I could not expect a major reticulation system for that district. I was then informed that as soon as the Mannum-Adelaide main was completed to terminal, major mains would be taken across to the areas I have mentioned. That, to a degree, has been implemented with the main as far as Main North-East Road; and when it crosses Main North-East Road and enters Hancock Road it proceeds to Golden Grove. I record my appreciation of what has been done in that regard. At present the restrictions being placed on the effluent discharged into the Parafield treatment works are such as to result in our being told that we must have a major receiving point for a major sewerage system.

Mr. Shannon: Parafield, of course, is overloaded at present.

Mr. LAUCKE: Yes, but I wish to stress to the Government that it will be necessary, well before 1966, to have a trunk sewer taken along the Dry Creek Valley as far as Tea Tree Gully because the situation today is horrible, particularly in mid-winter when water is lying in certain subdivisions because of the soil types in the area. The water from septic tank systems overflows and collects and we have an intolerable situation, particularly as building is progressing in the area. The Tea Tree Gully District Council is at present installing a small system of its own and this will feed to a pond. This small system will serve a given number of houses in the Walsh Street, Vista area. Two weeks ago I observed the conditions that exist because of the inability of the soil to take the effluent satisfactorily. It was a quagmire.

Mr. Ryan: Will the local council charge high rates for that service?

Mr. LAUCKE: No. A charge has to be applied to the ratepayers involved in a given scheme, but the council is going into a scheme that will cost about £10,000 to service 750 houses in the heart of Tea Tree Gully.

Mr. Shannon: Has the council communicated with the Engineering and Water Supply Department regarding its planning?

Mr. LAUCKE: Yes, it is in continuous communication with the department and we hope that through the consultations the small systems being installed will later be coupled to the main system. The proposed £10,000 scheme will service 750 houses in the area between Hancock Road on the west, Main North-East Road on the south, Allchurch Road on the north and Elizabeth Street on the east.

Mr. Clark: That would represent only a small portion of the area ultimately developed?

Mr. LAUCKE: Yes, but it is being built upon constantly and will be a compact residential area. At present within those boundaries are about 800 houses and this expedient is necessary for the time being to accommodate the effluent. These small temporary measures are being taken, but long before the time mentioned in the report to this Parliament there will be the need for a trunk main to the area to take away the effluent from these various schemes. The council has endeavoured to do all it possibly can to ensure reasonable health standards in the area. It is regrettable that the distance is such from the present sewer mains to Tea Tree Gully—and there is a vacuum, as it were, in between—that it is costly to provide sewerage with branch mains and so forth.

Mr. Ryan: Is there any compulsion by the council?

Mr. LAUCKE: No. I understand from the clerk of the council that every ratepayer spoken to on this matter is happy with the ideas put forward by the council. A rate will be charged to each householder. A special rate is being worked out at present. The council will amortize the total cost over a long period so as to make the cost for the time being for each ratepayer as low as possible. No person has yet expressed to the council opposition to the scheme. The soil there is Bay of Biscay, bottlelike in its properties where water is concerned. It is very poor soil for the natural absorption of water, and therein lies the urgency of the needs of the area.

Mr. Clark: I think with big numbers they are all poor soils.

Mr. LAUCKE: Whereas for many years past septic tanks have operated satisfactorily in certain locations here and there, when large numbers of houses are concentrated in given areas the trouble starts. I admire the council for its activities in trying to meet a disturbing situation. Thought must be given, and quickly, to providing one trunk main to get

the effluent away from these schemes. They are in small groups providing deep drainage, but without a major receiving pond or point. They are using every creek or old waterway available which is not a recognized river but just a floodwater river or creek.

In this rapidly developing area of Tea Tree Gully and its environs sufficient recreation space must be provided. Again the council at Tea Tree Gully has been acting most laudably in obtaining certain lands beyond those that come to it from subdivision activities, beyond the five per cent that subdividers must provide.

Mr. Shannon: They are very small?

Mr. LAUCKE: Yes, but in certain conditions they can be aggregated into worthwhile public gardens, and so on. In this area, when it is fully developed, the population will be approximately 65,000; it would require 162 acres of land, at the rate of two and a half acres for each thousand of population, to provide adequately for recreation purposes. At Elizabeth—and I pay tribute to the Government for this—approximately 25 per cent of its 8,268 acres has been earmarked for public gardens and recreation reserves. That is town planning in a magnificent way, and the Housing Trust and the Government are to be commended.

Mr. Clark: And the council.

Mr. LAUCKE: And the council. They are to be commended for what they have done in preserving and developing these areas. At Tea Tree Gully recently 30 acres of land adjoining the Tea Tree Gully golf links was purchased. The golf links, which is owned by members of the golf club, embraces about 97 acres. At the present time 79 acres is the golf links. Another 18 acres is to be purchased to extend that course, which was opened in 1959 and is being paid for by a long-term loan. The moneys were advanced under long-term repayment conditions. It is a first-class course at present but the membership—

Mr. Shannon: What do you call "first-class"?

Mr. LAUCKE: It has all the potential for a first-class course. It will develop into one. It is very good in soil texture, location, elevation and natural properties. The club has a full membership and there is a waiting list. The council proposes to go into the matter of providing a municipal golf links in the district, in addition, to cater for those who were lucky enough to be on the membership list before it was closed. The demand for

links has been so great that the council is pursuing the possibility of providing links for the public, apart from the private course to which I have just referred. Thirty acres of land adjoining these links has been purchased by the council, and it is now being developed with a first-class oval. I saw it last week. It will be grassed and has every attribute to make it really good. Other portions of this 30 acres will be taken for basketball courts and tennis courts, with possibly a swimming pool later on. So an excellent approach is being made to provide amenities of that nature for the populace of the area.

Mr. Shannon: Done by the local council?

Mr. LAUCKE: Yes, with a long-term loan.

Mr. Bockelberg: With no Government assistance?

Mr. LAUCKE: Government assistance, yes, under the conditions laid down by the Government for assisting councils to buy land for the purpose of providing recreation areas. This council had Government assistance of half the cost of the land, as it was valued to qualify for that assistance. The land is inspected by a Land Board officer and, if he agrees that the price asked is reasonable, he recommends that the Government subsidize half of the cost of that land. So the Government is providing half the finance immediately for the purchase of these approved areas sought by the council.

Mr. Ryan: They are not doing that in other areas. How about Kidman Park?

Mr. LAUCKE: In this case, payment for half the cost of the land by the Government and the other half by the council has enabled this council to purchase this 30 acres, which will be an asset to the community, particularly for posterity; at present it is a real asset, too. It will grow into something really worthwhile. The council is at present looking for further open spaces. It has a special committee whose duty is to work out the desirable locations for recreation areas. When those lands are to be subdivided or offered for sale, the council is then in a position to say, "We should like to buy so many acres of this piece of land", and it will, through its foresight, have well placed recreation areas throughout its district.

Mr. Shannon: That council is giving an excellent lead.

Mr. LAUCKE: That council is showing an inspiring foresight. It is a pleasure to work with it because it is so far-seeing in what it is doing. I was pleased to read the following remarks by the Treasurer about the Public Parks Act:

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

In those words I can see the wonderful approach by the Government to preparedness to assist beyond what it has already done to ensure that a given local government authority will not miss getting a desirable piece of land. It is good to see that such farsightedness is being shown by the Government in ensuring to posterity the open spaces to which it is entitled, and indeed must have. It is a pity that a newly developing area has so much to do so quickly. Because there originally was no provision in legislation requiring subdividers of land to put down roads, footpaths and kerbing there is a legacy of liability in these requirements, and it is a bad one. More expenditure is necessary in newly developing areas than in old ones. It shows the need for consideration to be given to such areas in connection with sewerage schemes rather than have the local government authorities provide small schemes to dovetail later into major schemes. In the meantime, this means the expenditure of much money. The utmost consideration should be given to these new areas. I appreciate what has been done for them in the past and I hope Government policy will continue to be sympathetic to areas which through peculiar circumstances, require special consideration.

Mr. Frank Walsh: What areas have you in mind for further development?

Mr. LAUCKE: We expect further major development in the Tea Tree Gully and Modbury area soon. For instance, Reid Murray Development Company has a scheme for erecting 2,100 houses at Modbury. The provision of sewerage in the area is to some extent covered because the company has agreed to pay a certain amount for each house, with the money being refunded to a degree later. This will be the largest area subdivided for housing in the next year or two. I have pleasure in supporting the first line.

Mr. TAPPING (Semaphore): I support the first line, but am disappointed that the member for Barossa did not tell us more about the Tea Tree Gully golf club. I will bring two matters before members. I thought I

would deal with them when the individual lines were discussed, but if I refer to them today the Minister will be able to reply to my comments and criticism when the lines are considered individually. The standard of this debate has been high. I commend the members for Murray and Wallaroo for their fine contributions. One can always see how a member is going with his speech by the number of interjections that come from the other side. This afternoon both the members mentioned brought forth interjections, which showed that Liberal and Country League members were interested in what the honourable members were saying. On numerous occasions I have mentioned the need for control of land prices. During and after the last war for several years we had control of land sales in this State and I thought it worked satisfactorily. The prices were satisfactory to both buyer and seller. One of the items in the Loan Estimates refers to the acquisition of land by various authorities. About £1,350,000 is to be spent in this way. The Woods and Forests Department will use £50,000, Harbors Board £60,000, Public Buildings Department £215,000, Housing Trust £725,000, and £300,000 will be used for land for schools. Over the years I have doubted not the integrity of the Land Board but whether it has fixed satisfactory prices for land acquired by the Government.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Has it been too high or too low?

Mr. TAPPING: I think it has paid too much for land for the building of houses, hospitals, schools and so on, and this has made our building programme so much more expensive. It would be wise for us to return to the system of controlling land sales in respect of departmental acquisitions. I think there should be a committee of three experts to determine the matter. Two of the members could be men who know the land position very well, and the chairman could be someone with a knowledge of land matters.

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

Mr. TAPPING: The Education Department year after year buys a considerable area on which to build schools. While I was a member of the Public Works Committee I was often disturbed and disgusted at the price the Government was asked to pay for land. As we depend on the Commonwealth Government for most of our Loan money and revenue generally, it is difficult for the State to pay out so much more than it ought to be paying,

and in addition it means that there is less money for schools and hospitals and other things. An expert committee should be set up to go into this matter thoroughly and to assess the true value of land.

While I was a member of the Public Works Committee I interrogated some of the witnesses and some admitted that the prices being asked by vendors were atrocious, to say the least. I am unaware of the formula used by the Land Board, but I consider we should know more about it. Seldom do we hear of a case going to arbitration for a determination of the fair value of the land. I believe that we must face up to this. During the Second World War, and for some years afterwards, control of land sales in South Australia worked most satisfactorily: both the vendor and the purchaser received a fair price.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: But you will agree that there were some unsatisfactory features about that control.

Mr. TAPPING: I concede that no system works perfectly, but in the main that system was fair to both the buyer and the seller, and I consider that the same can be said of price control generally. I suggest that in assessing the true value of land regard must be had to its initial cost and the overheads such as taxation. A percentage allowance should be added for the years the land has been held. However, from figures I have seen and from sales that have been made I can say that in some instances land was sold at 300 per cent over its original value. No-one can justify such an extortionate charge, when the land was purchased so cheaply originally. As a matter of loyalty to the State and because of the need to help provide schooling, it is wrong for people to ask such shocking prices for land. The State is endeavouring to build schools, and the cost involved is of such major importance that vendors should be more reasonable.

One exception that I can think of concerns the Harbors Board, which has acquired land over the years. An Act of, I think, 1948, brought down by the former Minister of Marine (Sir Malcolm McIntosh), gave the Crown power to acquire property compulsorily. I am pleased to say that only rarely was arbitration necessary in those instances, because the amount was discussed by Mr. Sutton (the agent for the board) and the people who owned the land and, generally speaking, those transactions were carried out satisfactorily. In those days the Harbors Board was able to buy the land on behalf of the State at a satisfactory figure and, as I mentioned earlier, both

the buyer and seller were satisfied. I appeal to the Government, because of the economic position of this State, to consider appointing three experts to consider the advisability of buying land and to assess the figure that should be paid for such land in the interests of the State.

I am disappointed that the Minister of Works is not here at the moment, because I wish to refer to his department and I should have liked him to hear what I am about to say. I refer to the need to sewer Emu Street and Freer Street in the Semaphore area. Only 26 people are involved, so it could perhaps be considered an insignificant matter, but my plea is based on principle. The Port Adelaide Local Board of Health has expressed its dissatisfaction at the unhygienic situation in those streets caused by the lack of sewerage. I was approached by this authority and by the people in those streets and asked to impress on the Minister the need to sewer this area because of the unsatisfactory health aspect. I wrote to the Minister on behalf of the board and the people concerned, and eventually I received the following letter, dated July 19, 1962, in reply:

Investigations have been completed regarding the extension of sewers to serve dwellings in Freer and Emu Street, Semaphore, as referred to in your letter of the 7th ultimo. The following facts have emerged from reports which I have received from the Engineer-in-Chief and his officers: This area was subdivided some years ago before the department had the power under the Town Planning Act to refuse subdivisions which could not be economically sewered. I feel it necessary to say that if it were submitted now for consideration it would be rejected on these grounds. A building firm which has recently built a number of houses in both streets assumed that sewerage facilities would be provided in the near future and rtilied the soakage pit system for disposal. Water from these pits has seeped through to the top soil and is aggravating the already wet conditions. At a new house ready for occupation on June 19 when a departmental inspection was made the ground waters were already above the invert of the inlet pipe of the soakage pit. In the older houses where septic tanks are operating the effluent is flowing into the streets. It was evident that the disposal of stormwaters was being aggravated by the entrance of effluent from septic tanks and soakage pits in the properties. It is understood that certain work involving cost to the Port Adelaide Corporation is required to effect some relief to the drainage problem in the two streets, and this will be more serious as further houses are occupied. The department has received a letter from the Port Adelaide Local Board of Health asking that the extension of sewerage facilities in these streets should be urgently considered.

The letter continues:

The economics of the proposal are not favourable. The estimated cost of the work is £5,400. The revenue to accrue from ordinary rates would be £113 7s. 6d., whereas a return of approximately £378 would be needed for the scheme to be favourably considered on the usual standards. However, in view of the health aspects—

which are very important—

and although an extension to these streets would never be fully productive, I would be prepared to approve of the work being carried out, provided the 14 owners of improved properties enter into agreements to each make an annual sewer payment of £25 17s. from the time the sewer becomes available until June 30, 1967.

About five years ago the Government, through this department, introduced a new scheme by striking what it termed a minimum rate. One of the early schemes under this idea was the Osborne-Taperoo scheme. The department, before the work on that scheme started, specified that the people living in the area concerned would have to pay a minimum of £8 a year. For the facilities provided, £8 a year could not be regarded as excessive. However, when these systems are adopted they grow. The Minister has sent me the letters. I have in turn sent on the requests of the various owners, and now the reaction is coming in. These people think it most unfair to sign up to pay £25 17s.; some have agreed, but the majority have refused on principle. Because of this, the scheme may be delayed for many years, so I appeal to the Minister to confer with his officers to see if some concession cannot be given. The department and the Minister desire to provide a service if it is economical. I agree with that in general principle, but in this case the health of the people is involved. One of my constituents wrote to me and said it was evident that the attitude of the Government meant that there would be an outbreak of disease in the area.

Mr. Ryan: If they got away with this, there would be a precedent for it to be a general practice.

Mr. TAPPING: Yes, it would be unfair, and greater demands might be made in the future. I think it is the duty of the State to carry out sewerage work and that economics must be submerged. The minimum of £8 a year in the Taperoo area was satisfactory; in the West Torrens district people have paid £8 a year indefinitely. What concerns me is the possibility of an outbreak of disease in the area. I inspected the streets when the water tables were high and found the stench alarming. It suggested to me and to the Port Adelaide Local Board of Health that if nothing were

done in the immediate future an outbreak of disease would occur.

Mr. Ryan: How far is it to the sewer connection?

Mr. TAPPING: To Hart Street, about 200 yards.

Mr. Ryan: So they have to pay for it?

Mr. TAPPING: Yes. I do not object to the £8 minimum, but I object to the £25 17s. because a precedent may be created and we do not know what future costs may be. Many new houses have been built in the area, some of which are being bought under mortgage and, after people have to pay high council rates, this burden will be difficult to meet. If heavy rating is demanded, people will not be induced to buy houses but will rent them because they will know their total cost under rental. I ask the Minister to reconsider this matter to see if this charge cannot be broken down to some extent. I support the first line.

The CHAIRMAN: I shall put the lines seriatim.

State Bank, £790,000.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): Regarding the provision for advances for construction of and additions to cool stores, fishing boats, fruit packing sheds, milk product factories, wineries, distilleries, etc., will the Minister say in relation to what fishing boats advances will be made and where these boats are likely to be used? Is this a continuation of the policy adopted in relation to the Port Lincoln fisheries?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Minister of Marine): Advances have been made to assist in the purchase of fishing vessels, and I believe this policy will be continued.

Mr. Frank Walsh: Is any particular type of fishing boat under consideration?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Although I have not got the details, I understand that advances have been made to prospective buyers of boats to extend the tuna and shark fishing industry in Port Lincoln waters.

Mr. BYWATERS: I know the original intention of helping to provide student hostels was to aid country students living in Adelaide, but often students come from outlying areas to provincial towns and find it difficult to obtain accommodation. At times houses are available for sale and, if an organization such as a school council is prepared to take over premises suitable for accommodating teachers from Adelaide and students from outlying areas, will the Government consider extending this provision to cover this?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): This legislation was

passed only recently. Applications have started to come in and £150,000 is sufficient to cover them. The provisions are wide and cover students, but not teachers. On a number of occasions the Government has taken special action to accommodate teachers, quite apart from the assistance from the local authority. I believe that three or four hostels for teachers have been established at various places. The answer to the question is "Yes". Country students undoubtedly would come under the scope of the Act. The provisions were specially designed to meet the circumstances the honourable member has mentioned. Although teachers do not come within the ambit of the Act, the Education Department has sometimes given assistance without a subsidy scheme or an advance scheme out of money provided by the department.

Mr. BYWATERS: I appreciate the Treasurer's answer. I am concerned about the possibility of such a hostel being established for teachers at Murray Bridge, and I am pleased that there is an opportunity for an approach to the department in this matter. I take it that it will be necessary to apply to the Minister of Education?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government does not provide hostels in towns where it considers that other accommodation may be available. We have not money to throw away on this proposition, but an application may be made to the Minister and if there is any difficulty in housing teachers in the area, undoubtedly he will examine the position.

Mr. HEASLIP: There is provision for advances for the construction of and additions to cool stores, for fishing boats, fruit packing sheds, milk product factories, wineries, etc. In South Australia one can get refrigeration for milk stored in cans. In the Eastern States and New Zealand milk is mostly handled in bulk, with bulk refrigeration, but in South Australia some producers are going in for milk can refrigeration. I should like to know whether this money is available to producers who desire to purchase these refrigeration units.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The State Bank deals with applications under the Loans to Producers Act in the normal way. The class of person the honourable member has mentioned would be eligible to come within the ambit of the Act. When the Loan Estimates are prepared account is taken of the applications that have been forwarded. It is not possible to provide in the Loan Estimates for all kinds of contingencies that

have not arisen. In this instance, the bank would put positive requirements before possible requirements. This line or any other line on the Estimates cannot be extended at the time the Estimates are prepared unless some other line is cut out. The Government has had applications for the purpose mentioned by the honourable member and I presume that we shall have more in future. If everyone who wanted refrigeration sent in an application, the line would not be sufficient.

Mr. RICHES: Is there any provision in the lines "Loans to Producers" and "Advances to Settlers" that would enable the bank to finance a dairy near Port Pirie where the producer wants to extend his operations in order to make them economic? He has had great difficulty in arranging satisfactory finance through private banks. Would he be eligible for assistance from the bank under either of those two lines? I have been asked to inquire whether the Government would consider granting a subsidy towards the supply of student hostels in the country on a pound-for-pound basis. Do any of the applications received for student hostels come from any country centre, or are they all from the metropolitan area? Representations made to me suggest that something additional is needed for hostels that are to be established in the country. Could assistance be given to organizations interested in building student hostels on a subsidy basis if it is found that assistance by means of loans is beyond their resources?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Anyone applying for a loan under "Loans to Producers" obviously has to satisfy the bank that the proposition has a chance of economic success. Normally, Port Augusta would not be regarded as an ideal dairy district.

Mr. RICHES: I am not speaking about Port Augusta.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Assistance is being given in many dairying districts. The proposition must be regarded as having a possibility of success.

Mr. RICHES: Under which heading—"Loans to Producers" or "Advances to Settlers"?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The line "Advances to Settlers" would be the appropriate one in this instance. Since this legislation came into operation many years ago a totally new element has entered into this matter. Today I should think that in three-quarters of the applications of the type the honourable member has mentioned we arrange for applicants to get an advance through the Commonwealth Development Bank. The Government does not deal with them at all. The

money is provided through the Commonwealth banking organization. I pay a tribute to the Development Bank on the magnificent work it is doing in this matter. It has advanced funds most generously so long as the elements of development and possibility of success are associated with it.

Advances to settlers have been taken over by the Development Bank, and a close liaison exists between the State Government and the bank. I have nothing but praise for the way the bank has dealt with applications we have sponsored and submitted to it. Dealing with the second part of the question, the member overlooked the fact that we are paying a heavy subsidy in connection with this matter. We do not subsidize hostels, but we subsidize every student obliged to live away from home to obtain a secondary education. I do not think this applies to primary education. The amount provided for this purpose has been increased and is now equal to £2 10s. for each week that a student is away, or £100 a year. We do not tie the subsidy to hostels because many of the students do not go to hostels.

Mr. Casey: It is £25 a term.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: It is £100 a year for Leaving students and £75 for others. That is the only way in which we can subsidize the students. If the hostels were subsidized many students would not receive anything.

Mrs. STEELE: I place on record my appreciation of the line dealing with student hostels. I was absent during the debate on this line last year, but in the Budget debate I said a need existed for some assistance in this direction. It is a matter of gratification that this item appears, because it will be much availed of by students and parents of students who reside in such hostels.

Mr. RICHES: Has any country centre been able to avail itself of any loan under this scheme?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: As far as I know, a question was answered recently in Parliament on this matter. Two loans have been granted and I believe five more have been applied for and, if they are in accordance with the Act, they will be approved as soon as the Estimates are prepared. I do not think any country hostel has applied for a grant, but if these hostels apply and comply with the Act their applications will be granted.

Line passed.

Highways and Local Government, £550,000.

Mr. COUMBE: I refer to the proposed eight-storey building to be built at Walkerville for the Highways Department. This was

reported on favourably by the Public Works Committee and expected to cost about £750,000. An announcement was made that tenders were to be called immediately and that some expenditure would be incurred this year. The only provision in the Loan Estimates is for roads and bridges, and I can only presume that the expenditure for the building will come from the Highways Fund. Is that so? Why is it that under capital works we find that the Police Department building is provided for in these Estimates, as is the contribution towards the Electricity Trust building at Eastwood? If the building is to be paid for completely by the Highways Fund, that raises the question whether some road building work will have to be sacrificed. This Committee is the only authority that can question the debiting of this expenditure because when the Highways Department expenditure comes before Parliament long after these Estimates are passed it is then too late. Is the Treasurer satisfied that this is a satisfactory method of advising the Committee of the expenditure of £750,000 on such a project? After all, it is only by means of a report from the Highways Department and not by any other financial document.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The member has raised the whole question of Loan finance. The Highways Department receives its money from several sources. More than half comes from Commonwealth reimbursements as this State's share of the petrol tax. The department also receives from the State Treasury all the moneys paid for motor vehicle registrations, drivers' licences and that type of charge. This year it will also receive some reimbursement from other Government departments where roads are constructed on behalf of those departments. For example, the Highways Department has to completely rebuild the Gorge Road and that will be an expensive job costing about £1,000,000, but the Engineering and Water Supply Department will ultimately pay for that work. That is reservoir work and the costs are incurred only because a reservoir is to be built where the road now runs. The Highways Department will be reimbursed for that expenditure.

Coming back to the general question, it makes no difference to the Highways Department in the long run how the finance for the building is provided. It makes a difference to the State, because we have to make certain matching grants to the Commonwealth Government. We are operating in the most advantageous manner by taking into account Commonwealth legislation and the available finance.

The amounts set out are for roads and bridges and that is in accordance with fairly long-established policy. The Highways Department has always paid for its capital improvements out of its revenues and has always made contributions and advances available to local government out of its revenues, and conversely, by making its own revenue out of capital works, it fixes what it will have in future. A close study has been made of the best means of providing this money. Although it was not necessary to refer the proposal to the Public Works Committee the Government did that so that the committee could report on it to Parliament.

Mr. BYWATERS: I understand that tenders are to be called for the erection of a bridge at an extremely bad railway crossing four miles from Murray Bridge. Can the Treasurer say whether that work is provided for in this line and when the tender will be called and the work likely to commence?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I believe that the proposal is for an overway bridge to carry the traffic over the railway line. To the best of my knowledge this work is included in this year's programme. Finance will be provided out of the normal Highways Fund. As a matter of fact that fund this year provides for 53 bridges of different types in various areas. The line under discussion is primarily related to the Blanchetown bridge, which is a major capital work.

Mrs. STEELE: Can the Treasurer say whether the £350,000 provided for other road and bridge works would include finance for a new bridge across the Torrens River from an extension of Portrush and Wellington Roads?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No. The normal procedure is to confine a line in these Estimates to one work. The vote would not be divided between 200 jobs worth a few pounds each, because that would involve unnecessary bookkeeping. I should think that this line would be devoted almost exclusively to the Blanchetown bridge.

Mr. Frank Walsh: An amount of £200,000 is provided for that project.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: That bridge will account for more than £200,000 this year.

Mr. RYAN: I have frequently referred to the Public Works Committee's recommendation for a new causeway as an alternative route to the Jervois bridge and the Treasurer has often informed me that it is not necessary to appropriate money under the Loan Estimates for this work because finance can be provided out of the Highways Fund. However,

recently, in reply to questions as to why this work that was authorized by Cabinet about 15 months ago had not commenced, the Treasurer informed me that provision would be made in the Loan Estimates for this project. Now, according to his statement regarding the Blanchetown bridge, apparently nothing will be left for this project that was recommended in January, 1961, and estimated to cost £447,000. As £40,000 would be required for land acquisition purposes the total cost of the project was estimated 18 months ago at almost £500,000. In view of the conflicting statements can the Treasurer say whether provision has been made for this particular project?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I thought I had made it clear that the small amount provided in the Loan Estimates is purely a supplementary amount to meet the requirements of the department other than from the revenue available to it from other sources. I think that the total amount that will be available to the department this year, including a refund from the Engineering and Water Supply Department in respect of the Gorge Road work, will be about £12,500,000. Members can see that the item we are now debating is actually only bringing the level up to the contemplated works proposed. From its own resources the department will have, I think, £11,500,000. With the amount to be provided from the Engineering and Water Supply Department the total expenditure will probably be about £12,500,000. The amount provided in these Estimates is appropriated for a special purpose rather than being spread all over the place. I discussed the honourable member's question with the Minister of Roads about three weeks ago and asked whether steps could be taken to expedite the causeway. However, a delay has been caused through the final determination of what size pipe should be provided through the causeway to cater for tidal flows. I believe discussions have taken place between the Highways Department and the Harbors Board on that question. The matter is being resolved and I know of nothing to delay the work.

Mr. Ryan: In other words, it will proceed?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: That is what the Minister's information was. I asked the Minister what was delaying the project, because there is an urgency about the work. The Jervois bridge, which has been carrying the traffic, is in a bad state of repair and we are unable to proceed with work relating to that bridge at present because we are waiting for reports on it. I know of no reason, apart from some technical details,

why the work on the embankment should not proceed.

Mr. RICHES: I believe that the greatest contribution to the development of South Australia and Australia as a whole would be the construction of roads traversing the continent from north to south and from east to west. This topic has been discussed at conferences of Ministers of Roads, but from what the Treasurer has said, it seems unlikely that money can be provided from ordinary sources in South Australia to undertake such work this financial year. Can the Treasurer say whether the sum that we are discussing could be supplemented in any way as a result of submissions to the Commonwealth Government with a view to expediting such work? South Australia is missing out because it lacks a decent road linking it with the Northern Territory. If that North-South road went through Woomera and followed the route generally followed now by motorists from Alice Springs into South Australia, none of us could estimate the development that would ultimately take place. But, unless some special effort is made to finance that over and above the ordinary works financed by the two Parliaments, another decade will pass before anything concrete is done in that direction.

The same can be said of the construction rate of the road linking Western Australia with South Australia. The Western Australian Government has provided a bitumen road to the border, but many years will pass, if only the present progress is maintained, before South Australia is linked with Western Australia. The Government is doing a good job compared with its efforts in previous years, but something better than what was done on the Lincoln Highway is needed to give South Australia a link with the west. I do not suggest that that can be done with present resources, but a case could be made out for additional Commonwealth help in this matter. Has South Australia any plans in connection with those two roads and, if it has, what are they?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The road programme is financed by the motorists, and obviously the Government cannot spend money on roads that have a traffic count of only one or two vehicles a day and will cost £10,000,000 while roads with a high density of traffic are in a bad state and inadequate.

Mr. Riches: I suggest they be used as development works.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government makes, and all Governments have made, conservative requests to the Commonwealth Government for a bigger percentage of

the Commonwealth tax, but the Commonwealth Government controls the money and so far has not been prepared to hand any over. From a national point of view it would be a good thing to have highways linking the various States, and on that point I have nothing to say against the honourable member's observations; but the whole of our Highways Fund could be mopped up in these projects for some years to come, which would leave us with little or no money for other roads, without getting any appreciable solution to that problem. We are at the moment taking active steps to do work upon the Eyre Highway. This year's programme involves an expenditure of about £500,000. It cannot be justified on any traffic count. It is being done purely on the grounds mentioned by the honourable member. We have also taken on the job of starting to bituminize the connections with Broken Hill. Bridges have been widened over a large stretch of that line; I think £500,000 is being spent on that. Again, it cannot be justified on any traffic count. The answer is that I would not favour subtracting from the funds available any larger amount for outside roads than we are already providing. Every effort is being made to get money from the Commonwealth Government (all States are striving for that), but so far without success. The present agreement has two years to run. Whether the new agreement will be less or more advantageous has yet to be determined.

Mr. CASEY: The road linking South Australia with New South Wales via Cockburn is in the course of being sealed. The bridges between Mingary and Cockburn have been widened. I think only one more needs widening, and that should be completed by the time the sealing programme commences. Can the Treasurer say whether further works, when the sealing of the Mingary-Cockburn road is completed, are contemplated, coming further south between Mingary and Olary?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Dealing further with the road mentioned by the member for Stuart (Mr. Riches), the Premier of Western Australia (Mr. Brand) agrees that this is a generous gesture on South Australia's part. We have arranged to seal the road as far as Ceduna. He agrees that from Ceduna westwards the road should obviously be a national obligation and not an obligation on South Australia. The road mentioned by the member for Frome (Mr. Casey) we intend to bituminize progressively to Broken Hill.

Line passed.

Lands, £40,000.

Mr. HUTCHENS: The Loan Estimates contain the following item:

£1,000. Purchase of land to create living areas pursuant to the provisions of Part X, sections 170A and 170B of Crown Lands Act. This is only a small sum but the Auditor-General's report states that no acquisition, pursuant to these provisions, has been made since 1947. What, if any, money has been spent in respect of the provisions of this line, and is it necessary to continue this line to meet emergencies should they arise?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Our only purpose in continuing that line is to make a nominal amount of £1,000 available. The honourable member should know that one would be lucky to buy a building block in some areas for £1,000 at present. The only purpose of the line is to make it clear that it is for a purpose approved by Parliament, that Parliament will provide an opportunity of buying a larger estate and cutting it up, and that under the Public Purposes Loan Act it is for an approved purpose. If an item were required to be purchased under these provisions, it would be more likely to cost £200,000 than £1,000 but, unless we had clearly set out that it was an approved purpose, we could not provide the moneys required under the Act for the job.

Mr. CORCORAN: Under "Crown Lands Development Act" there appears the following:

£14,000. Purchase and development of land for settlement pursuant to the provisions of sections 3 and 5 of the Crown Lands Development Act.

In his explanation the Treasurer said:

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

Can the Treasurer say where the purchases will take place and what improvements are likely under this expenditure?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This is only a small item and I do not want to be definite in my reply, but I believe that the £19,000 was spent last year on assisting settlement on some properties in the Coonalpyn Downs area. The money is used to purchase additional adjacent land to provide a settler with a living area. The Commonwealth Development Bank does not make money available for the purchase of such land, only its development. The item in these Loan Estimates is only a token amount, and is there

so that appropriate action can be taken at any time during the year.

Mr. BYWATERS: I have often stressed the need for vegetable growing in areas along the Murray River. This could be done by people who have had to leave the metropolitan area because of land being subdivided. It has been suggested that there are opportunities, particularly in the lower reaches of the Murray River, for vegetable growing. Has the Government considered a closer settlement scheme to enable young people to engage in vegetable growing?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: There has been considerable development along the lines mentioned by the honourable member, but not so much in the lower reaches of the Murray River. Not only has there been fruit-growing, but vegetable growing, particularly tomatoes. Under the Advances for Settlers Act the State Bank approves the provision of money for pumping stations and main reticulation pipes for irrigation settlement. The Commonwealth Development Bank advances money to enable individual settlers to develop their land. Already a number of projects have been approved. Two have been on land near Waikerie, and recently there was one close to Swan Reach.

Line passed.

Irrigation and Drainage, £673,000.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Yesterday I spoke about the South-Eastern drainage scheme, on which it is proposed to spend £468,000, and reference was made to the drains in the Western Division. In his report for 1960-61 the Auditor-General 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.

We are concerned about the lack of action in assessing the value of land improved by drains. The assessments were commenced in 1949 but have not yet been completed. Undoubtedly members agree that the drainage work is necessary, but we should know what the State will get as a return from the betterment of the land, because additional settlement will take place. The Land Settlement Committee has been appointed to investigate land settlement matters, but I do not know when it met last or when it will meet again. If there are 350 miles of drains in the division a large acreage of land must be drained. I do not object to further land development, but I want the State to get a return from the land improved by the drains. When we discussed this matter some years ago

I believed that this land would be developed and that the men settled on it would have a reasonable chance of making a living and further improving the land. I also believed that if the time came when these men wished to retire and leave the land they would be entitled to sell their assets but not the land itself, and I agreed that that was desirable.

I know that some of the settlers on Kangaroo Island have problems. Some of them were granted a section of land for dairying, but because others were raising fat lambs these people wished to quit dairying in order to go in for fat lamb raising themselves. When I was in the South-East some time ago I noticed that some of the settlers had gone in for meadow hay, but it was still left on the ground, for what purpose I would not know.

Mr. Hall: It could be a technique.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: These people went to the expense of cultivating land, getting fodder and even cutting and baling it, and I would have expected them to store the fodder. I think we are entitled to further information about this line.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The principal legislation under which this work is done provides for the work to be done by the Government, and when the work is completed the rating is to be in accordance with the betterment that has taken place. The rates have not yet been declared because the work is not sufficiently advanced for the betterment to be determined. Until the work is completed and we can demonstrate what betterment has taken place, obviously we cannot fix a rate. The Auditor-General is quite correct in this matter, and it is his duty to draw the attention of Parliament to the fact that the rate has not yet been declared. The South-Eastern Drainage Board has reported to the Government that it is quite impossible to establish a rate of betterment on a drainage work that has not been completed.

Mr. Jenkins: And probably it would want a period of two or three years on which to base its assessment.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The direct return to the Government and to the taxpayer will never cover the charges, and I do not think any honourable member would expect that. However, hundreds of thousands of acres which otherwise could not be properly developed will be occupied and used under this system; although the work is expensive, we will obtain a considerable return in direct charges upon the land, and in addition we

will get the tremendous advantage of having developed communities in the area. The answer to the Leader's question is that it is hoped to be able to announce the rating for a considerable area some time next year.

Mr. BYWATERS: I am interested in the line, "Irrigation and Reclamation of Swamp Lands". I am sorry that the Minister of Irrigation (Hon. Sir Cecil Hincks) is absent through illness. The Treasurer will recall that on several occasions I have raised the question of a stock and domestic water supply for the Mypolonga area. I mentioned this matter when speaking on the Loan Estimates last year, because in the previous year £20,000 had been placed on the Estimates for a commencement of this scheme. The Treasurer claimed on that occasion that the cost was too high for the return that would be available. Following that, a deputation met the Minister and asked whether it would be possible for him to state a rate which would make it economical for this work to be carried out. Just prior to his illness, the Minister agreed to do this, but no doubt his illness has upset things somewhat. I hope the Minister will soon be well again, because we do appreciate his friendly manner and I think we are all concerned about his health. Can the Treasurer give me any information on this matter? The scheme is not mentioned on the Estimates this year. I strongly urge the Government to consider the people in this area, which I think is the only irrigated area without a stock and domestic water supply. The dairymen in particular are hard pressed to find sufficient water to cope with their requirements as city milk suppliers, and they urgently need a reticulated water supply. Also, there have been fires in houses in the area that possibly could have been avoided if there had been a reticulated water scheme. As it is a Government area, the people cannot put in a scheme of their own because they would have to cross reclaimed swamp land belonging to the Government.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This matter has been before Cabinet on several occasions and the Minister has tried to get a proposal to meet the requirements of the settlement while avoiding the heavy losses inherent in the original proposal. There were some aspects that precluded it from a financial point of view and, as I have not got the details, I will get a report for the honourable member as soon as possible.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: For the construction of drainage works and acquisition of land in the Western Division, £150,000 is provided.

Can the Treasurer say whether there will be any further acquisition of land in that area and whether this sum will be sufficient to meet the cost of drains if acquisition is necessary?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The acquisition the Leader mentions is inherently of land for the construction of the drain, not of broad acres. It is not an acquisition in the sense of taking over a 1,000-acre block, but is merely to provide a right of way. I believe the work in the Western Division is now almost completed and, as I said earlier, the betterment rate will be considered next year. Although work in the Western Division is substantially complete, there is much work to be done in the Eastern Division.

Mr. HARDING: I support the Treasurer's remarks about the Western Division. As I said in the Address in Reply debate, £52,000 was spent there last year. I understand that the next stage is a continuation to Baker Range, which is in the Eastern and Western Divisions. A marvellous job has been done in the Western Division but it will not be finished until after the £468,000 mentioned in the Estimates has been spent. As the position has changed considerably in the last few years and there is a marked division of opinion among people in the South-East, will the Treasurer have the Land Settlement Committee or a special committee make a complete investigation of the position after the present phase is completed?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Before this work was approved, it was the subject of an intensive inquiry by the Land Settlement Committee, the report of which is available to members if they desire to see it. Estimates could not have been presented unless the matter had been reported on by that committee. I know there is a division of opinion in the South-East about the necessity of drainage, but from experience over many years we have found that when there has been a dry year we have been told that no further drainage is required but as soon as there has been a wet year and the country has been inundated with 1ft. or 2ft. of water everyone has asked why the work has not been undertaken. As the matter has been investigated and reported on by the Land Settlement Committee, having another committee inquire into what has already been reported on would appear to be holding up progress of the work rather than facilitating it. We are tapering off the expenditure on this project and we may do so even more in the future; in other words, we will go forward not as quickly as at present.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I am pleased to be able to agree with the Treasurer for once in my life. Although a committee has investigated and reported on this matter, the member for Victoria is not satisfied. Although there has been some alteration in the personnel of the committee, that does not necessarily mean that the new committee should inquire into the previous recommendation. I should be pleased to know when the Land Settlement Committee is to be given a job to do and whether there is any more land in the State that could be used for closer settlement. I am still of the opinion that we must make better use of the land than we are doing at the moment. For our economic stability it is not a question of depending entirely on the operations of Chrysler (Aust.) Limited at Tonsley Park, which is in my electorate. That will not solve our problems. We also need to have more land developed. As to the financial position of the soldier settlement scheme in the South-East, is there any likelihood of compensation difficulties arising between the State and the Commonwealth Governments when the proposed betterment rate is arrived at?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The position between the State and the Commonwealth Governments in regard to soldier settlement is that any losses that accrue will be met by the South Australian Government paying two-fifths and the Commonwealth Government three-fifths. Up to the present the State Government has paid its share as we have gone along, and as far as I know there are no problems to be met. As to the first part of the honourable member's question, it is expected that the betterment rate will be determined next year, but I cannot give a precise date, because this work has to be done by the South-Eastern Drainage Board in relation to every individual property. It will be a fairly big job to determine what advantage the land has gained from the drainage. That is why this has not been attempted until the work has been finished and an opportunity has been gained to study what the increased carrying capacity of the land will be compared with the position existing before the drains were put in. The inquiry in the Western Division will be undertaken next year.

Mr. HUTCHENS: I was a member of the Land Settlement Committee with the present Chairman, Mr. Heaslip, and also Mr. Jenkins. I support the Treasurer's contention in reply to Mr. Harding's question. The committee went to no end of trouble to call witnesses. Some people were against the drainage scheme, but when questioned they could not substantiate

their contention that drainage had done damage. It was rather to the contrary, because the carrying capacity where drainage had been operating in the Western Division had been substantially increased. Despite the fact that a few people said they did not want the drain, we were inundated by others who wanted drainage work done and who indicated that they would be prepared to pay a fee greater than the anticipated betterment rate. For that reason there would be no good purpose in spending any further money to investigate the position, because it was proved to us conclusively that drainage had increased the carrying capacity and had done no harm.

Mr. Pearson, of the Agriculture Department, tendered enlightening evidence and showed that the productivity of the area in the Eastern Division would be increased by no less than £1,000,000 yearly. Anything that would delay putting this work into operation would be detrimental not only to the people living in the area, but would seriously affect the agricultural development that is so necessary. Can the Treasurer say whether we have reason to be concerned because of the tapering off of expenditure, as he mentioned? I take it that the tapering off is due to the progress being made in the Eastern Division.

Mr. JENKINS: I endorse what Mr. Hutchens has just stated. I had the privilege and honour to serve on that committee during the chairmanship of the late Hon. Mr. Edmonds and with Mr. Hutchens and others. As he said, we took evidence from a good cross-section of the people and only rarely did anyone contend that he did not want drainage in his area. Several complaints have been made that drainage has lowered the water table, but evidence has refuted that contention. Although drainage may have lowered the table it has been found that the next season the table might rise. Sometimes, after a dry season people have become alarmed and attribute the dryness to the drains. In many cases the drains had causeways in them and that maintained the water level. The provision of £3,250,000 for the Eastern Division is a good measure because, on the land to Bakers Range, 4ft. to 5ft. of water lies in the winter and that area is not suitable for production. If this scheme should bring 750,000 acres into production it will be a worthy scheme. No doubt the betterment will be arrived at after a reasonable lapse of time when the Drainage Board can make an assessment. It would be foolish for the betterment to be proclaimed before a proper assessment could be made on average production. I hope this scheme is not tapered off too quickly.

Mr. RICHES: I do not profess to have any knowledge of drainage and its effects, but on two occasions when I visited the South-East the opinion was freely expressed that it would be advantageous if the position were re-examined. People who have lived and worked in the area were asking whether increased pasture and the growth of trees had caused a change since the original inquiry. They also questioned whether it might have affected the flow of the water. I should feel much easier if the Treasurer asked the Land Settlement Committee to re-examine this matter. I do not cast aspersions on previous decisions, but conditions could have changed since the reports were made.

Mr. Jenkins: I think the seasonal conditions have changed over the years.

Mr. RICHES: People who spoke to me were not of that opinion. If the committee re-examined the position and found that the conditions had resulted from seasonal conditions that would do no harm. No-one is more interested in South-East drainage than the people living there and they have expressed that opinion to me. That is in line with what the member for Victoria has told the Committee. Parliament would be assisted if the Land Settlement Committee made further inquiries to see whether drainage had not been overdone in some areas.

Mr. CORCORAN: I spoke on this subject during the Address in Reply debate and I agree with the member for Victoria that a review should be made by the Land Settlement Committee, or that the committee should at least make a further inspection of the South-East to consider the growing conviction amongst farmers and pastoralists that the area may have been over-drained. Many people blame this condition on continuing dry seasons. Some say they have had six dry seasons and others maintain that they have had three or four dry seasons. Who is to say that there will ever be another wet season? Originally, drainage was essential because huge volumes of water covered the area during and after the winter months and the water could not get away. Owing to the present system of drainage this land is clear of water and this has resulted in increased productivity.

Mr. Jenkins: The Eastern Division will still have water coming from Mosquito Creek and Bool Lagoon.

Mr. CORCORAN: Yes. My constituents believe that instead of having the drains widened and deepened an investigation should be made to ascertain how the water may be controlled. The water now runs away to the

sea. No doubt they were once happy to see the water go but the conviction now is that the water should be held and controlled in certain instances. During the Address in Reply debate I suggested that this should be the subject of investigation and discussion between agricultural and drainage authorities to see whether some form of control could be implemented to hold the water at certain times of the year. People in the district maintain that the water level drops considerably due to the drainage and I think that district residents of 30 to 40 years' standing, who have seen the area develop, understand the problem, and their opinions are worthy of consideration.

Certain landholders recently suggested that I approach the Minister to see whether I could convince him or whether he would make himself available for them to convince him of the necessity to construct a weir in a drain to hold the water at fixed levels during various times of the year in order to maintain water levels in the area. They maintain that land in the drainage area goes off at least two months earlier than is normal due to the unchecked escape of the water to the sea. One drain in the South-East has an experimental weir in it and land in that vicinity has benefited as a result. The case for the people I represent has not yet been completed, but I believe the member for Victoria had a point when he maintained that a further investigation should be made by the Land Settlement Committee, possibly before other widening and deepening work on the drains is undertaken.

Mr. HARDING: The Bakers Range drains must be cut and the drains through Bool Lagoon and Mosquito Creek proceeded with, but after that work is completed we should be cautious before commencing further drainage work.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Drainage in the Eastern Division will materially affect the Albert electorate. The Western Division drainage must be completed. I believe that the drainage that has been completed has affected the whole outlook of the South-East. The water table that normally was high has been lowered and pastures have been established: productivity has increased. That water table may never rise again and we may never again see the wet winters about which we have heard so much in the past. The drainage project was examined seven years ago and the position is now totally different. Mosquito Creek overflows through Bool Lagoon and joins with Bakers Range water and flows up as far as

Alf's Flat. The overflow from Bool Lagoon causes much concern to people in the Lucindale area. When that water flows northwards it is responsible for ground waters as far north as Meningie. There is less water on Alf's Flat now than there has ever been.

Mr. Hutchens: Does not most of the water come from Victoria?

Mr. NANKIVELL: The water comes from Mosquito Creek, Naracoorte Creek and Morambro Creek. The fall of the land is from east to west and also from south to north. The natural drainage of the country is from Mount Burr up to Salt Creek.

Mr. Jenkins: It is four inches to the mile.

Mr. NANKIVELL: According to the Mines Department it is a foot to the mile. The water does materially affect ground waters. I am concerned lest the Tailum Bend water scheme will not be completed in time to provide alternative stock water because we have interfered with natural ground water. We should be cautious in considering future drainage of the Eastern Division.

Mr. BYWATERS: Some members may have the impression that a previous Land Settlement Committee is being criticized. That is not so. Changes have taken place and the subject should be reviewed by the present committee.

Mr. Jenkins: Do you suggest that all of the people who gave evidence favouring the provision of drains would now reverse their opinions?

Mr. BYWATERS: No, but circumstances change and the situation should be re-examined. I can see no reference in the Loan Estimates to the proposed Chowilla dam. Can the Treasurer explain why no provision is made for it?

The CHAIRMAN: I think that the honourable member would be out of order. Dams are referred to under the Engineering and Water Supply Department line.

Mr. BYWATERS: If that is your opinion, Mr. Chairman, I shall ask the question later.

Mr. HEASLIP: I was a member of the Land Settlement Committee that investigated the drainage of the South-East. Almost all of the evidence tendered to us favoured drainage. I believe that the overall carrying capacity of the South-East has been increased by drainage, but our investigations took place about seven years ago and, as Chairman of the present Land Settlement Committee, I would favour the committee visiting the South-East to examine the effects of drainage, particularly in view of the fears expressed by members representing the area.

Line passed.

Woods and Forests, £1,150,000.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I have no complaint about the work carried out by the Woods and Forests Department, but I am concerned with the use of South-East timber for constructional purposes in timber frame and brick veneer houses erected by the Housing Trust. Someone should be able to say when we can reasonably expect the timber scantlings from our forests to be used in such houses. I am not at this stage advocating a preference for South-East timbers over oregon for roofing purposes. *Pinus radiata* needs to be larger in size than oregon to carry a given weight. I am not disputing Housing Trust contracts. The contractor has a freedom of choice to use for a particular purpose whatever timber may be available. The Housing Trust is prepared to use, and indeed advocates the use of, this timber more extensively if it can carry a guarantee.

I have discussed this question with people in the timber industry at Mount Gambier, and with people in the building industry. Apparently, their views coincide with mine, that there must be guarantees in using this timber. If and when the new pulp mill comes into operation at Mount Gambier, there may be a greater demand for South-East timber. Pulping may give a greater return than scantling or case-making. In view of the investment involved, will the Treasurer make some statement on this?

I see on page 5 under "Forest Establishment" an estimated amount of £50,000 for land purchases. Is any particular acreage being considered on which to spend that £50,000, or is it only a token amount put there because the Government intends, through the Woods and Forests Department, to proceed with further purchases of land for afforestation? There is an item of £54,000 for the erection of a power station at Nangwarry. Is this for land in addition to that bought for the new power station? Amounts of £118,000 and £21,000 are estimated for sewerage schemes at Mount Burr and Nangwarry, respectively. I have already referred to this matter earlier this week, when I said that people settled in those areas were entitled to all amenities that could be provided because they were a more or less isolated community engaged in the various facets of afforestation—planting, timber-felling or working in the mills; they needed sewerage facilities. In view of the revenue the Government receives from the work force in these settlements, I said that some of it should be utilized as capital to provide the necessary

amenities without any extra charge in the form of rent to the tenants of the houses there. I was said to be on the wrong track but I should like further information on that from the Treasurer.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: In the first place, the £50,000 is provided on the assumption that during the year some land will be found available for purchase. In some years we get some and in some years we do not. At present I believe we have land available to us ahead of our planting of approximately 40,000 acres, which is about six years' land for planting ahead. The sum of £50,000 is put on the Loan Estimates to provide an authority for the Government to purchase the land for this purpose if and when it becomes available at an economic price.

Regarding the £54,000 for the Nangwarry power station, when a power station is contracted for the contract provides that the station must be brought into operation and maintained satisfactorily in operation for a period. The full payment for the station is not made until the testing period has been completed. The testing period has now been completed satisfactorily, and the money held against the satisfactory performance of the plant must now be paid.

All sorts of anomalies are created if workers in one industry have different conditions from those in another industry. The Government has spent much money in providing model settlements for forestry workers. Authorities from all parts of the world have visited our forests and have said they know of no other places where settlements of this type have been established. Most forestry settlements are haphazard affairs and more or less temporary arrangements. We have provided modern townships with full amenities. When I first went to Mount Burr as Commissioner of Crown Lands I was astounded at the lack of facilities provided for the forestry workers. Even a domestic water supply was not available. The Government has provided better housing and social amenities. I think the Nangwarry sewerage scheme has been completed, but that some work still has to be done at Mount Burr.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

CIVIL AVIATION (CARRIERS' LIABILITY) BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 9.44 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, August 23, at 2 p.m.