

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, September 25, 1962.

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

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2).

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of the general revenue of the State as were required for all the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

QUESTIONS.

PIECEWORK.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I am greatly concerned about trainees for the building industry and have referred to certain matters associated with the industry generally, especially regarding Government contracts. Has the Premier discussed with the Chairman or the General Manager of the Housing Trust contract work being let today and future maintenance work? I point out there has been a great increase in the amount of piecework in the industry, particularly regarding contracts that have been sub-let for work on trust projects.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Leader has raised this question on two or three occasions and the Government has examined it. Of course, the Government has no control over the Housing Trust's contracts and is loath to interfere with the general management of the trust. Cabinet has instructed the Director of the Public Buildings Department that it is Government policy to employ the greatest possible number of apprentices and improvers. I have not had an opportunity of discussing this question with the Chairman of the Housing Trust, but I believe a discussion would be more useful than correspondence.

LOW DEPOSIT HOUSING.

Mr. COUMBE: Some time ago it was announced that the Housing Trust would proceed with a plan to provide houses under a £50 minimum deposit scheme. Can the Premier say what plans the trust has for implementing this scheme and can he report on its activities so far?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: In fact the Chairman of the trust has sent me a report on this matter, but unfortunately I omitted to bring it with me. I will make it available to the honourable member and other members later. Summarizing the position, the Housing Trust has let contracts to several

contractors under the new £50 deposit scheme. I think it is the biggest number of contracts ever let in the State's history—1,350 from memory. By the time the work is completed and streets and other services provided, it will be worth well over £5,000,000. The first houses are due for occupancy in about March or April next. The rate of availability will initially be about 65 a week, increasing rapidly as the contractors get into full operation.

SOLICITOR'S SUBPOENA.

Mr. DUNSTAN: On August 22, 1960, a man named Wilfred James Hodgson was disqualified from holding or obtaining a driver's licence for three years by Mr. Justice Brazel in the Supreme Court. On December 13, 1961, justices sitting in a court of summary jurisdiction at Strathalbyn fined Hodgson £35 for driving under disqualification on September 28, 1961. On May 17, 1962, Hodgson was charged with driving under disqualification and the case was to be heard yesterday. On Friday, September 21, Mr. Peter Waye, a solicitor of the Supreme Court, who had acted for Mr. Hodgson in every one of those cases—and was currently acting for him and had appeared for him on the remand in this particular case—was served with a subpoena to attend court to prove certain matters. He was informed by a member of the Crown Law Department staff, of whom he inquired after he had inquired of the police, that the purpose of his being subpoenaed was to prove the disqualification before Mr. Justice Brazel. If the Government intends to follow this sort of procedure in relation to practitioners of the Supreme Court, calling them into court to prove convictions of their clients for whom they have been acting—

The SPEAKER: Is the honourable member expressing an opinion or asking a question?

Mr. DUNSTAN: Mr. Speaker, I am asking whether it is to be Government policy to call solicitors in these circumstances into court to prove a fact against their clients. If that is the policy of the Government, will the Minister have the matter reconsidered, as it will have very considerable effects upon the relationship between solicitor and client which has been so carefully guarded by the Law Society and, previously, by the Government in this State?

The SPEAKER: Does the Minister of Education desire to reply? The matter may be before the courts and *sub judice*.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: As the honourable member has raised a question of Government policy, I ask him to put it on notice.

GUMMOSIS.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Is the Minister of Agriculture aware that for half a century horticulturists in the Barossa Valley have been fighting a losing battle against the ravages of the disease of gummosis in apricot orchards; that the Angaston branch of the Australian Dried Fruits Association considers that the apricot industry may be doomed to extinction because of this disease; and that some gardeners have ceased to work their apricot orchards because of the marked fall in productivity owing to the disease? Will the Minister take the initiative in sponsoring an intensification of research work on combating gummosis, in terms of the resolution passed yesterday by the State conference of the Australian Dried Fruits Association?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The complexity of the question is such that I am not able to follow it completely. However, it will appear in *Hansard*. I did see in the newspaper the report of the resolution dealing with gummosis, and my reaction to it is that this is a subject that requires urgent investigation. Although this matter is being investigated at present, it is a question on which a proper answer has not yet been found. However, much work has already been done on the problem; the Agriculture Department and other organizations have spent much time on it, and I believe the progress made in South Australia has been a guiding light to other places in many respects. The work done by the Agriculture Department itself in the Barossa Valley has been of considerable value. The introduction of a modified pruning technique is one thing which comes to mind. That is not the complete answer, but it has been a great contribution towards the eradication of the disease. If the honourable member will let me have the details of the question I will obtain a considered report as soon as possible.

COUNTRY LEAVING HONOURS CLASSES.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Can the Minister of Education inform the House further regarding the question of Leaving Honours classes in the country, particularly at the Whyalla Technical High School, about which I have asked previous questions?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: No. The whole matter is still before Cabinet. Indirectly, it is associated with the very protracted inquiry by the committee appointed by the University of Adelaide dealing with fifth year classes. Only this morning I received a

lengthy report on that matter from the Director of Education. That report concerns the Director's conference (with the Deputy Director and the Superintendent of Recruiting and Training), with three professors from the university. Those professors are a subcommittee of the university committee. I will refer that report to Cabinet, probably tomorrow. I share the anxiety of the honourable member, other country members, and the parents of prospective students about arriving at some finality on this matter, and I should very much like to be able to announce a decision one way or the other soon.

UNDALYA BRIDGES.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I believe the Minister of Works has a reply to the question I asked recently concerning the time of completion of the Undalya bridges.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, states that the bridges will be completed by approximately October 10. The road approaches are partially completed and it is expected that the bridges will be opened to traffic on October 20. The approaches will not be sealed at this stage, but sealing will be completed before Christmas.

POULTRY CONFERENCE.

Mr. BYWATERS: Has the Minister of Agriculture a report from the delegates from his department who attended the recent world poultry conference in Sydney, and can he give any information on the present or future position of the poultry industry in South Australia, in view of the glut season that is expected soon?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Regarding the future of the poultry industry, I should prefer to obtain a considered reply for the honourable member. I now have a report on the world poultry conference recently held in Sydney. This report is too long to read or to warrant its being placed in *Hansard*, but I shall be happy to provide it for the honourable member to study if he wishes it.

PORT RIVER CAUSEWAY.

Mr. RYAN: During the debate on the Loan Estimates I asked the Premier when the building of a causeway connecting Port Adelaide with LeFevre Peninsula would be commenced. The Premier then said that he was amazed that that important project had not been started and that some weeks previously, he had discussed the matter with the Minister of Roads, who had stated that only small technical details were holding up the work. Can

the Premier now say when this work, which he said some weeks ago was extremely urgent, will commence?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No. The position is the same as it was when the Loan Estimates were being considered, and I have not had a report yet. As far as the Government is concerned, there is nothing to hold up the work after the outstanding technical problem is resolved. I will try to get a report for the honourable member tomorrow.

ABATTOIRS OVERTIME BAN.

Mr. SHANNON: In view of the serious loss being sustained not only by producers but by the State as a result of the ban on overtime at the abattoirs, and in view of the publication of certain letters in the press regarding the awful risks to the health of certain people engaged at the Gepps Cross abattoirs, can the Minister of Agriculture say whether or not certain provisions of the awards under which these men work take full account of any risks they may run as a result of their avocation and, if they do, whether there is any justification for the present hold-up in slaughtering stock? This hold-up is occasioning a great loss not only to producers but to the State, and in my opinion—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member cannot express opinions.

Mr. SHANNON: —it is also a grave matter for the animals.

Mr. Lawn: Question!

The SPEAKER: Objection having been taken, the honourable member must ask his question.

Mr. SHANNON: Has the Minister any statement to make that will clarify the position regarding the ban on overtime, which is an attempt to force the Government's hand at a time that is most appropriate for the employees and most inappropriate for the producers?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Beyond saying (as I have said before) that it is a most inopportune time for the interests of primary producers and the people of the State, whether consumers or not, and that sick leave provisions have already been commented upon in earlier reports, I do not want to discuss the merits of the matter. Considerable benefit regarding sick leave is already written into the award. Sick leave is cumulative and, upon retirement or resignation, the employee can take out his leave in a cash sum. Regarding health, no doubt the honourable member was referring to a circular that mentioned the danger from

both Q fever and staphylococcal infection. I have a report from the Director-General of Public Health that I obtained in anticipation of a question, and I intend to read it. This matter has been given considerable publicity. This circular, which came into my possession last week, has been distributed widely. It seemed natural for me, unless I was completely asleep to the situation, to call for an inquiry by the proper authorities. The Director-General of Public Health states:

Diseases transmissible to man in the slaughtering of animals include Q fever, leptospirosis and brucellosis. Q fever is usually a mild disease, but may last several weeks. It rarely spreads from man to man. Diagnosis depends on laboratory examination of blood. Many conditions not related to work may give similar symptoms. Laboratory examination is therefore necessary to safeguard the patient by ensuring proper treatment and compensation when it is due.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Mr. Speaker—

The SPEAKER: Order! Does the honourable the Leader wish to raise a point of order?

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I respect the information being given to Parliament—

The SPEAKER: Does the Leader wish to raise a point of order?

Mr. FRANK WALSH: As important negotiations are proceeding as a result of disease suffered by employees, is this matter not *sub judice*?

Mr. Shannon: Certainly not.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. FRANK WALSH: It would be in the best interests of all concerned if the question were adjourned until both sides had the opportunity to discuss it.

The SPEAKER: I do not think the Leader's point of order is a point of order within the scope of the Standing Orders. The Minister, in replying to a question, can use his discretion. Whether in his opinion this matter is subject to adjudication by or argument before a tribunal is a matter for the responsible Minister to determine. This matter is not for me but for the Minister of Agriculture to determine.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I do not know in respect of what it is *sub judice*. The union approached the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board and sought its concurrence in the granting of an extra week's sick leave.

Mr. Shannon: And wrote letters to the press about it, too.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable the Minister is replying to the question.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Abattoirs Board said it was a matter for the wages board, and at this point the men decided to

ban overtime. I do not know whether they have approached the wages board or not. I have not heard that they have, and I do not know what this will affect, but the circular to which I referred has been widely distributed and was probably posted to all members of Parliament—I certainly have received one. It has been distributed by hand, and it puts a certain point of view about a medical matter. This report by the Director-General is not an argument: it is a report on the comments made. If the House wants to hear it, I shall be happy to give it.

The SPEAKER: Is the honourable the Minister seeking leave to have it incorporated in *Hansard* or to read it?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I ask leave to read it, Mr. Speaker.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will not read the circular on which the statements were made; we all have a copy of it. The Director-General is no doubt referring to a circular that I do not intend to read simply because of its length, but I will read a report about the claim regarding an outbreak of Q fever.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister has received leave of the House to read a statement. He is out of order in entering into any argument on it now. He must read the statement.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The statement is as follows:

Diseases transmissible to man in the slaughtering of animals include Q fever, leptospirosis and brucellosis. Q fever is usually a mild disease but may last several weeks. It rarely spreads from man to man. Diagnosis depends on laboratory examination of blood. Many conditions not related to work may give similar symptoms. Laboratory examination is therefore necessary to safeguard the patient by ensuring proper treatment and compensation when it is due. Because of similar symptoms, workers suffering from influenza sometimes believe they have Q fever and believe they should receive compensation. They are sometimes inclined to disbelieve blood test results, but these are in fact very reliable.

Serological evidence of leptospiral infection was present in 44 of 395 abattoirs workers examined recently (11 per cent). It means that the persons concerned had at some time been in contact with this germ. It does not mean they were suffering from or even that they had at some time suffered actual sickness from the disease, leptospirosis. Its significance is not unlike that of the positive tuberculin test which is very much commoner than the disease tuberculosis. A carrier rate of 28 per cent for pathogenic staphylococci is not high. In a recent Australian survey 34 per

cent of doctors examined were carriers, and Topley and Wilson (the standard British textbook) quotes 30-60 per cent of the population as being carriers of these organisms.

I agree that men with skin infections, especially those due to staphylococci, should not be working in a food industry. In fact, section 30a of the Food and Drugs Act and regulation 12-3 under the same Act prohibit them from so doing. Four abattoirs workers have been off duty for skin infections in the past four months. All were workmen's compensation cases. Only three have been stood down for skin infections not due to work in the past three years. Q fever is listed as an industrial disease in the Second Schedule under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and leptospirosis and brucellosis have also been so regarded when contracted by abattoirs workers.

In effect, the diseases to which abattoirs workers are specially liable are dealt with under the Workmen's Compensation Act and are not related to sick leave. There remains the problem of staphylococcal or other infections not necessarily contracted at work or entitling the worker to compensation. These may by their nature render him unfit to return to his usual work, even though it might be safe for him to do so if he were in some other occupation. But this applies to workers in all food industries, and is therefore a very wide question. It is usually possible to place such men in suitable alternative work (e.g., yarding) until fit again.

Conditions at the abattoirs have been examined by officers of this department for many years. The members of the Central Board of Health made a personal inspection in 1959 and inspectors have visited many times since. There has at times been evidence of rat infestation and fly breeding but conditions generally have been satisfactory. Deficiencies to which we have drawn attention have been quickly remedied.

In 1960 Dr. J. M. Dwyer was appointed Medical Officer to the Metropolitan Abattoirs. Since then the direct supervision of hygiene has been in his hands. He has advised me that continual attention has been given to hygiene in the past two years but that in view of the present complaints he and the abattoirs board would like us to make a check inspection now. This is being arranged.

I have discussed this subject with the General Manager of the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board and Dr. Dwyer, and we are in agreement on the various aspects covered in this report.

Mr. HEASLIP: I address my question to the Leader of the Opposition and ask leave to explain it. Today in South Australia there is a record number of 16,500,000 sheep, many of them waiting to be slaughtered. There is a ban on overtime at the Gepps Cross abattoirs and, because of that, thousands of sheep are reaching starvation point in the country.

Mr. Lawn: We have had people starving here, too.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is asking a question.

Mr. Lawn: He is making a statement.

Mr. HEASLIP: I asked leave to make a statement, didn't I?

The SPEAKER: The honourable member is in order.

Mr. HEASLIP: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Thursday last I asked a question of the Leader of the Opposition arising from a question asked by him of the Minister of Agriculture, because one chain at the abattoirs was not working. I asked the Leader whether he would take up with the State Secretary of the Meat Industry Employees' Union (Mr. Pirie) the matter of supplying competent labour to kill some of the starving sheep accumulating in South Australia because of the ban on overtime at the abattoirs. Has the Leader been successful in getting competent employees to man that chain at the abattoirs to get rid of the surplus stock?

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the member for Rocky River asked me last week a question regarding the manning of chain No. 4. I took up the matter with Mr. Pirie. I think that, instead of making a second reading speech, the member for Rocky River could have extended to me this afternoon the courtesy of asking whether I had a reply to that question, which I would readily have agreed to give.

Mr. Quirke: Rubbish!

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Who said "Rubbish"?

Mr. Quirke: I did.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I take exception to that, Mr. Speaker, and demand a withdrawal.

Mr. Quirke: Let's get on with it! I withdraw, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: My reply is that I have discussed the question of labour as requested by the honourable member. When the Abattoirs Board makes representations to the union for labour, the secretary of the union makes the necessary labour available. Since the introduction of the chain system the Abattoirs Board itself has been responsible for training suitable labour. This season the board wanted 150 men and the union more than met this demand by supplying 156. The secretary of the union also informs me that there is no shortage of labour whatever at the abattoirs to supply all the meat that is required for human consumption in the metropolitan area. At no time is overtime worked by the slaughtermen at the abattoirs on Mondays to Fridays,

both days inclusive. The Metropolitan Abattoirs is fully equipped and can be manned, and is manned, to cope with the whole of the requirements of the meat supply for the Metropolitan Abattoirs area.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Will the Minister of Agriculture take up with the Transport Control Board the possibility of relaxing controls on certain markets for certain butchers? I refer specifically to Roberts Bros., Strathalbyn, who, if they could gain release from this control, would purchase stock at Tailem Bend and convey it to Strathalbyn for slaughter for the metropolitan area. Will the Minister refer this and other cases to the Transport Control Board to see whether some relief cannot be afforded?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will refer the matter to the Minister of Roads for a report.

TRAFFIC SIGNS.

Mr. LAWN: Has the Minister of Works a reply from his colleague, the Minister of Roads, to my question of August 30 last about traffic signs on Park Terrace?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have had a report in my bag for a day or two but a conference with the honourable member revealed some point not satisfied by the report, so I delayed answering the question to get the matter cleared up. The point in doubt was just who was the authority responsible for the lighting of these intersections. My colleague, the Minister of Roads, has informed me that an inspection has been made of the intersections of Park Terrace between Anzac Highway and Eastwood Terrace. It is agreed that the lighting facilities are inadequate and should be increased. However, the lighting of intersections is the responsibility of the local government authority concerned. Therefore, any representations which may be made to improve the illumination of the signs at the intersections referred to should be referred to the Corporation of Unley, which is the local government authority controlling this portion of Park Terrace.

BLINMAN MAIN STREET.

Mr. CASEY: Recently on a visit to Blinman I noticed that the main street of Blinman, which has recently been sealed, was rapidly deteriorating. Will the Minister of Works take up with his department the advisability of having that street sealed with $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch gravel in order to maintain its lasting qualities, because I fear that under present conditions it is likely to deteriorate sooner than it should?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will ask the Engineer-in-Chief to ask the District Engineer (Northern) to report on the matter when he is next able to visit that town.

WONGA SHOAL LIGHTHOUSE.

Mr. TAPPING: As the Minister of Marine is aware, in the last fortnight the Wonga Shoal lighthouse off Semaphore has ceased functioning and, in its stead, another light transmitter has been installed further south, at Marino Rocks. I read in the press that the Defence Department contemplates blowing up the Wonga Shoal lighthouse. I concede that this is probably a Commonwealth matter, but I fear that some danger may arise if gunpowder or dynamite is used. Will the Minister of Marine confer with the Commonwealth authorities to ensure that every safeguard is taken to protect property and people at and near Semaphore?

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

CLAPHAM RAIL SERVICE.

Mr. LANGLEY: Until recently the 7.21 a.m. train from Clapham comprised three carriages, but now it has only one carriage. This causes overcrowding to passengers travelling to Adelaide. Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Railways to see whether action can be taken to overcome this inconvenience to the travelling public?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I shall be pleased to do so. I have a faint recollection that a similar question was asked recently by the member for Mitcham (Mr. Millhouse) and that I answered it. However, I do not know whether this question is precisely the same, so I will refer it to my colleague to see whether he has any further comment.

CHARITABLE FUNDS.

Mr. HUTCHENS: I understand that under the Public Charities Funds Act the Chief Secretary can permit collections to be made for charitable purposes, but I notice in the Auditor-General's report that receipts exceeded payments last financial year by £43,822. Will the Premier bring this to the notice of the responsible Minister with a view to ensuring that permits are not granted to enable the extraction of money from kind-hearted people if that money cannot be disbursed for charitable purposes?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I shall be pleased to do that.

CADELL DRAINAGE.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: My question relates to a serious drainage problem in the Cadell irrigation area. The Lands Department has received correspondence from settlers in the area about the accumulation of surface water on low-lying land immediately west of the No. 2 seepage pumping station, and the rising water table on the irrigation land. Together with the Hon. Ross Story, and at the request of the settlers, I inspected the area yesterday to determine the extent of the complaint that the water table in the general area was rising to alarming proportions. The lake of surface water that is located on the Cadell Training Centre's land must have an adverse effect on the general water table. Will the Acting Minister of Irrigation have the general question of seepage in the Cadell irrigation area investigated with the object of providing a modern and comprehensive drainage system throughout the area, and will he expedite the control of the surface water problem adjacent to No. 2 seepage disposal pump?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will examine the matter and give the honourable member a considered reply as soon as possible.

COUNTRY ABATTOIRS.

Mr. HEASLIP: Following on the Minister of Agriculture's second reading explanation on the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Act Amendment Bill, has the Minister received any inquiries regarding the licences that would become available under the amending legislation, and can he say what action is being taken in anticipation of that amending legislation being passed?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have been contacted by a number of private organizations seeking licences under the proposed amendment. Regarding action to be taken, I cannot do anything until the legislation is passed. However, if the amendment became law, as Minister with the authority to issue licences I would require expert advice, and I would appoint a committee consisting of the Director of Agriculture (who would be chairman of the committee), a Treasury officer, and probably the Auditor-General, and I think the Government Produce Department would also be represented. Those officers could examine and collate all the applications that have been received and may be received in the future, and would be able to advise me regarding action to be taken on the issue of licences.

KIDMAN PARK TRANSPORT.

Mr. FRED WALSH: During the Loan Estimates debate I asked a question regarding transport for children from the Kidman Park area who have to travel to and from the Seaton Park infant and primary schools. The Premier promised to take the matter up with the Tramways Trust in order to see whether appropriate transport could be provided. Has the Premier any information on this matter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The General Manager of the Municipal Tramways Trust reports:

The deviation of buses cutting into and out of the trust's Port Adelaide depot to cater for schoolchildren attending the Seaton Park schools *ex* the Kidman Park area as suggested by Mr. Fred Walsh, M.P., has been carefully re-examined. The "cut-in" buses *ex* Port depot run along Tapley Hill Road, Grange Road to Kirkcaldy between 5.26 a.m. and 8.06 a.m. on weekdays. The "cut-out" buses proceed *ex* Kirkcaldy, via Grange Road and Tapley Hill road to Port Adelaide depot between 5.22 p.m. and 6.22 p.m. It will be seen, therefore, that these buses are too early in the morning and too late in the afternoon to cater for the school traffic. In any case the buses are running in the opposite direction to the traffic sought to be provided, and if otherwise practicable a complete loop would be involved. To divert the regular service from the Kirkcaldy route via Kingbourne Avenue to the school and return for, say, two trips morning and night in peak periods would be an inconvenience to through passengers and would cost us an extra bus and crew, which would be very costly and absorb resources reserved for extensions with a higher priority. We are unable to interest private operators in this proposition.

WEEDICIDE REGULATIONS.

Mr. CURREN: At the Upper Murray Local Government Association meeting in August, correspondence from the Chief Secretary was read regarding a request for regulations to control aerial spraying of weedicides on land adjacent to horticultural plantings. It appears that no such regulations are at present in force. As damage to horticultural plantings can arise from the drift of sprayed weedicide, will the Minister of Agriculture consider the introduction of regulations to control this aerial spraying?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: This matter has received the attention of the Agricultural Council, but so far as I know no regulations have been drafted in any State. However, I have been told of one instance in which damage has been caused. The matter is receiving attention and regulations may be brought in at some time in the future, but we are some distance

away from doing that because we do not know what to bring in or what regulations would be really justified. I assure the honourable member that the matter is being carefully considered.

ELECTRICITY TRUST DEPOT.

Mr. JENNINGS: An area in my district which, I am told, was formerly owned by the Housing Trust has now been purchased by the Electricity Trust for use as a maintenance depot. This land is in a residential area, and the people around it naturally are rather upset by the fact that it will be used by trucks rushing in and out at all hours of the day and night. Although I realize that the trust must have a maintenance depot, I ask the Premier to ascertain whether the trust can obtain a different kind of site somewhere else.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes, I shall be pleased to do that for the honourable member. If the honourable member will let me have the address of the project and locality in which he is interested, I will discuss the matter with Sir Fred Drew, the Chairman of the trust.

PALMER-SEDAN WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. BYWATERS: The Minister of Works is aware of the proposed Palmer to Sedan water scheme, in which both the member for Angas (Hon. B. H. Teusner) and I are interested. The last knowledge I had of this matter was that the councils concerned were putting a suggestion to the Minister regarding a different routing of the scheme. Has the Minister any further information on this matter?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have not seen the docket about this scheme for some time. The honourable member is correct in his comments that the district councils concerned were given plans and information about the proposed scheme to enable them to apply local knowledge to the proposals to see whether something could be suggested to improve the scheme generally from the point of view of its return and its service to the people requiring it. I have not heard from the Engineer-in-Chief whether the councils have yet come to any conclusions or made any suggestions, but I shall inquire and let the honourable member know.

ELECTRICITY EXTENSIONS.

Mr. BYWATERS: I have been told that, because of a shortage of men, delays are occurring in the Electricity Trust's services at

Mannum. This is brought about because the seven men in the gang are employed most of the time on extensions between Mannum and Swan Reach and, as a result, the township of Mannum is suffering. In view of this, will the Premier take up with the trust the possibility of having additional men at Mannum to assist in the work there?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes, I shall be pleased to do that. I know that the trust has been most concerned about the matter. The great amount of country work being done at present uses up the trained men completely and, for that reason and for reasons of other economies, the trust has been giving contracts for line work in the country. I shall have the matter investigated by the trust and inform the honourable member as soon as possible.

TEA TREE GULLY SEWERAGE.

Mr. LAUCKE: The Tea Tree Gully council is experiencing problems peculiar to a local government authority endeavouring to provide local sewerage and effluent disposal schemes, which involve considerable expenditure as temporary measures. These schemes are made urgent and imperative because of the lack of a trunk sewer main in the Tea Tree Gully area, and it is most necessary that the schemes be so designed and laid as to enable them to be readily linked with sewerage mains when they are provided. The situation calls for ready and constant liaison between the council and officers of the sewerage division of the Engineering and Water Supply Department. Will the Minister of Works ensure that this council receives the greatest possible assistance his officers can provide in implementing its schemes for the time being?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am aware in a general way of the efforts the council is making in trying to overcome the problem, which is, as the honourable member says, being

tackled on a temporary basis. I assure the honourable member that any approach by the council to the Engineer-in-Chief for assistance will receive the utmost co-operation. I suggest in the first instance that, if the council writes to me, I will see that the Engineer-in-Chief is made aware of its needs and that his officers give every possible assistance to the council.

ALLPEST (S.A.)

Mr. JENNINGS: My question relates to questions asked in this House by the member for Whyalla regarding a firm that calls itself "Allpest", which I think is a most appropriate name. Will the Minister of Education ask the Attorney-General to investigate the actions of this firm? This may be a rather forthright statement, but I am fairly convinced that they carry the white ants around with them. I cannot go farther than that, and I do not want to—

The SPEAKER: The honourable member cannot within the Standing Orders.

Mr. JENNINGS: Thank you for your protection, Mr. Speaker! Will the Minister of Education have the matter investigated by the Attorney-General because, as far as I can see, this firm has been kicked out of several States and has finally foisted itself on us here?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I shall be pleased to refer the honourable member's question and statement to my colleague.

CEMENT PRICES.

Mr. HUTCHENS (on notice): What is the present price a ton in each Australian State capital city of cement, *ex* factory, to Government departments and to private contractors in both bulk and bags?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The South Australian Prices Commissioner reports that the comparable capital city prices a ton for cement in each State are:

(a) To Government departments:

	Adelaide		Brisbane		Hobart		Melbourne		Perth		Sydney	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Bulk	8	8 0	8	15 1	11	15 7	9	10 6	11	17 6	11	12 6
Bagged	9	5 6	9	7 6	12	17 0	10	5 6	12	15 0	12	18 9

(b) To private contractors:

Bulk	9	6 0	9	3 3	No price given	10	7 0	11	17 6	11	12 6		
Bagged	10	6 0	10	10 0	13	19 7	less 2½%	11	2 0	12	15 0	12	18 9
							less 2½%						

All less 2½%

ILLEGAL USE OF CARS.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice): Is it the intention of the Government to consider amending the present law relating to illegal use of motor cars in this State?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: There are no submissions from the Police Department at this stage for any amendments to the law relating to illegal use of motor cars. The Road Traffic Act, 1961, amended the time in which a complaint may be laid under section 44 increasing it from six months to two years, thus ensuring that offenders who are caught from six to 24 months after committing an offence do not escape prosecution.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: MAIN FATALITIES.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Minister of Works): I ask leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I very much regret to have to inform the House that an accident involving three deaths has occurred in the construction work on the duplication of the Morgan-Whyalla main. Late this morning the Deputy Engineer-in-Chief telephoned me to say that he had been told by his district officers that three men had been electrocuted. I understand that the arm of a crane that was being used to manoeuvre pipes came into contact with live overhead wires, and that the three men who were in contact were subject to the voltage. I have no other details of the matter. I have instructed the Deputy Engineer-in-Chief to institute a departmental inquiry, which will be in addition to any inquiries the police authorities or the coroner may make on their own initiative. I thought that in courtesy to the House I should inform members of this triple tragedy. I should also like to express my own personal sympathy and the sympathy of the Government and of all members of the House to the relatives of the people concerned. As soon as I have further information I will convey it to the House if members so desire it. In the meantime, I have instructed the Deputy Engineer-in-Chief to inquire into the whole matter.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the final report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence, on Trunk Water Main from

Mannum-Adelaide Pipeline (near Highbury) to Wattle Park Service Reservoir.

Ordered that report be printed.

PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: HON. SIR CECIL HINCKS.

Mr. LAUCKE moved:

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

Motion carried.

THE ESTIMATES.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from September 19. Page 1023.)

THE LEGISLATURE.

House of Assembly, £18,815.

Mr. TAPPING: Some years ago the telephones in this building were cleaned three or four times weekly under the Hygeno system. However, that system was discontinued and this was resented by members. Is the Treasurer able to say whether provision is made under the item "Office expenses, insurance, minor equipment and sundries" for the cleaning of telephones and, if not, will he consider this question?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): I will inquire into this matter.

Line passed.

Parliamentary Library, £8,247; Joint House Committee, £12,584; Electoral Department, £31,114; Government Reporting Department, £46,315; Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, £3,874; Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement, £2,095; Miscellaneous, £51,604—passed.

CHIEF SECRETARY AND MINISTER OF HEALTH.

State Governor's Establishment, £10,584; Chief Secretary's Department, £20,373; Statistical Department, £32,600; Audit Department, £80,206; Printing and Stationery Department, £323,947—passed.

Police Department, £3,052,000.

Mr. DUNSTAN: I raise the question of a number of complaints on this line relating to the general administration of the Police Department. Most police officers in this State are good, reliable officers, but it is not surprising

that within the Police Association of South Australia considerable discontent has been voiced at the administration of the department and that many police officers are seething about what is going on. The position appears to be that the officer in charge of the Research and Planning Branch has an extraordinary influence within the Police Department and a number of things, it appears to me, have arisen out of that fact. The first matter I wish to complain about is that I am informed—and this has come out in evidence on oath in two cases before courts of summary jurisdiction—that police officers at the City Watchhouse were recently instructed by Inspector L. Lenton—not Inspector Lenton in charge of the Research and Planning Division, but his brother—that they were each required to keep up an average of 20 prosecutions a month and that they were, therefore, required to make a certain number of reports of offences each month. This was recently referred to in the *South Australian Police Journal* and it appears in evidence on oath in two cases before courts of summary jurisdiction.

Recently the member for West Torrens (Mr. Fred Walsh) in the Assembly raised the matter of trivial prosecutions and their effect upon the general citizenry. The Treasurer told the House he had a report stating that there was absolutely no justification for suggesting that there had been trivial prosecutions. In the Adelaide Police Court recently there have been several obviously trivial prosecutions and this seems to bear some relationship to the order that was issued, I am informed, by Inspector L. Lenton. One counsel reported to me that in a recent case before Mr. Hermes, S.M., several people were charged in relation to some minor episode that occurred outside a city milk-bary and at the end of the prosecution case the case was dismissed without even calling upon the defence to answer it. There was not even any necessity for submission about one defendant from counsel—it was dismissed outright.

Another recent case that was prosecuted in the courts, in which a constituent of the honourable member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) was concerned, was withdrawn, the Crown refusing to call further witnesses in evidence against the defendant. I am informed by other counsel that there have been a number of such cases recently in the Adelaide Police Court, and I invite the Treasurer to give members a list of the cases that have been either withdrawn or dismissed without the defendant's being called upon in the last month in the Adelaide Police Court. If that

list is given, I do not believe from what counsel have told me that the report that the Treasurer gave members about trivial prosecutions will be in any way substantiated.

Some police officers have objected to this attitude but, unfortunately, it appears that the officer in charge of the Research and Planning Branch has almost *carte blanche* as to what happens in relation to officers in the force. I understand from members of the Police Association that one member of that association who protested within that association about the activities of the Research and Planning Branch was promptly sent off into the back blocks. It does not just end there. This is the sort of thing that considerably upsets the morale of the police officers.

Inspector Noel Lenton's own son is in the force. I understand he is an estimable officer personally and I have nothing to criticize him for personally; but these facts are the sorts of things that considerably upset other officers in the force. Prior to the episode in relation to him and his promotion, entry into a plain clothes position was that four years' plain clothes at 2s. a day allowance had to be done before a man was designated as a detective in the Criminal Investigation Branch. But Lenton junior (and this decision came under the Research and Planning Branch) was put into the Larrikin Squad within months of entering uniform. Normally there was a two and a half years' minimum in uniform before entry into that position. Then a change was made and applications are now called for anyone with two years' service as a uniformed constable. Shortly after Lenton junior was placed in the Larrikin Squad, an alteration was made in relation to the remuneration of that squad, providing that it attracted a 5s. a day allowance by being placed under the Vice Squad instead of under another part of the service where it did not attract such an allowance. When that was done, it counted as service towards becoming a detective, which was not so previously.

Inspector Lenton is in charge of all these planning measures and all promotions within the department. The further unfortunate thing is that during this period of Lenton junior's plain clothes work 10 uniformed men were called for for service at the centenary celebrations in New South Wales. Lenton junior was allowed to go back into uniform, make the trip and then return to plain clothes duty in the Larrikin Squad. That sort of thing, which on the face of it appears to be undesirable nepotism, is the sort of thing that is

upsetting the police officers, and it appears that almost any officer in this force, including a senior officer, can be matted at any stage of the proceedings before Inspector Lenton.

Mr. Jennings: Are you implying that he runs the force?

Mr. DUNSTAN: I am implying that that is largely the position, that the reports that come down here relating to the force, and the relations between the force and the court and the magistrate, are written by Inspector Lenton and that when, in fact, any trouble arises in relation to the police officers and any investigation has to be made, that investigation is made by Inspector Lenton. It appears that the Commissioner acts almost entirely upon Inspector Lenton's advice.

I understand it was he who made recommendations in relation to another case, the details of which I do not wish to give members at the moment because the Treasurer will well know what the position is. But there is a case, as the Treasurer will well know, where a constituent of mine had cause to bring action against certain members of the Police Force. The Treasurer knows how very well founded that action was. I have not raised and publicized that matter in Parliament because I felt it was of benefit to my constituent that the matter be settled in the ordinary way. I understand, however, that the police officers concerned have not been before a police tribunal although it was something in relation to their duty, and they have upon Inspector Lenton's recommendation received some promotion or preferment within the department. I think that all those things are cause for grave concern and that most officers of the Police Force are not in any way happy about this sort of thing. It is not in accordance with their aim of courtesy and proper attitude to the general public. The great discontent that has been expressed privately to me by officers of the Police Force and by counsel who have extensive practices in the Adelaide Police Court makes me feel that some investigation should be made of the position in relation to the activities of the Research and Planning Branch. I hope that this sort of thing will not continue but that action will rapidly be taken to see that the Police Force returns to its general code of behaviour and attitude to the public that has in the past made most of our police officers regarded as friends of the general public.

Mr. FRED WALSH: To some extent, the remarks of the member for Norwood (Mr. Dunstan) have borne out what I said last

week. Certainly it was not intended that the matter should develop in the way it has. The whole thing was torn out of its true perspective, to some extent, by the press, which did not use the words I used but used words of its own. May I be allowed to quote the words the press used in reporting my speech last week? The report, which was headed "Police Chief denies charges by M.P.", concludes with these words:

Mr. Walsh said that if the Commissioner attempted to find out the name of the officer who had first given him the information, he (the Commissioner) "will have me and the whole of this Party on his back."

Those are words that I never used. I will now quote from *Hansard*, which I did not correct although perhaps I could have corrected one word in it but I refused to correct it because I knew that the Commissioner of Police and every other head of a department received a copy of the uncorrected "pull" of *Hansard* every morning. These were my words:

I suggest that the Commissioner should not attempt to find out who the officer is because, if he does, he will find that every member of my Party will do everything possible to prevent him from doing this and discriminating against the officer.

They are entirely different words; nothing will be found in my remarks in reference to "being on his back". Yet, the *News* apparently rang the Commissioner up in the afternoon and without his checking *Hansard* he came out, under headlines, with reference to the words "I am not afraid of threats made under Parliamentary privilege." The *News* referred to me and my Party "being on his back". When I said "my Party" I did not mean the Parliamentary Labor Party, but the Labor Party, which is traditionally opposed to anyone being victimized for any action he may take for his protection or protection of his conditions, and I think I would have the support of every member of my Party.

Mr. Dunstan: Inspector Lenton investigated to find out who the officer was.

Mr. FRED WALSH: Is that so? I was subpoenaed to attend the Police Court on the morning of the day when I spoke on the matter in Parliament. It related to a collision of which I was a witness, and when I arrived at the court at 10 a.m. I inquired at the office in which court the case was to be heard and was told that it was No. 4 court. I was then told, "I do not think you need to appear" and I said, "Why?" and was told that the person involved had sent in a letter in which he pleaded

guilty. Therefore, I was informed that I would not be needed. I then asked why I had not been informed and the officer said, "I will find out. You stay in the courtroom."

In No. 4 court there were about 12 uniformed constables, two of whom I knew, and another civilian. I spoke to the two policemen. One casually mentioned things in general about the Police Force. I had no intention of making any reference in Parliament to our discussion. However, I became a little incensed because I was kept waiting at the court when I had no need to be there and was put to considerable inconvenience. Subsequently, I was told to report to another person upstairs, and the stairs were very steep. The other witness concerned was also told he was not required and we were both told to report back to collect our witness fee. I said that I didn't want any witness fee. We had been kept waiting because someone had failed to tell us we were not required. I was confronted by a gentleman I knew very well, and my feelings therefore melted very quickly, and I intended to forget all about the incident. The other gentleman went away to make arrangements to collect his witness fee.

When I returned to Parliament House I received a letter from the Minister of Education (Hon. Sir Baden Pattinson) that had been sent to him by a Mr. Smeaton, from North Glenelg. He had sent the letter to Sir Baden, who represents the Glenelg District, because the case had been set down for trial in the Brighton Police Court. This person happened to be a constituent of mine. I therefore asked a question of the Treasurer, and this controversy has been the result. I consider that the offence in question was trivial. It related to a person having a puppy on the beach without a leash. I introduced other matters incidentally that came to my mind, without referring to my not having been advised through, in my opinion, an inadvertence on the part of the department. This is how such matters arise and develop.

What I am concerned about is that a person holding such a high position as the Commissioner of Police should reply in the manner he did to a question I presumed was asked of him over the telephone, and without his consulting the *Hansard* proof. To some extent he reflected on a member of Parliament. Anyone who has known me in the many years I have been a member cannot, I claim, accuse me of ever taking advantage of a Parliamentary privilege. I have never attempted to do it; it would be the last thing I would do. If I wanted to say anything about a man I would say it outside Parliament just as readily as I would

here. That is all I have to say concerning that matter. I regret what has developed, but I still claim that there has been proof of what Mr. Dunstan said and what has been said by myself, namely, that there are a considerable number of trivial cases. Only last night a constituent in the Hindmarsh District rang me and wanted to give me information concerning a case in which he was involved, and I suggested that he contact the member for Hindmarsh. The case against him has been withdrawn. I should like information from the Treasurer why the Commissioner of Police is allowed a reimbursement for uniform of only £30 a year, whereas the reimbursement for the Deputy Commissioner of Police is £45.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I cannot explain it, but I should expect that each of those officers should receive an equal allowance, or that the Commissioner should receive a greater allowance. I will get the information for the honourable member and also an explanation for the member for Norwood.

Line passed.

Sheriff and Gaols and Prisons Department, £558,850—passed.

Hospitals Department, £6,845,219.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: During the Budget debate I referred to Dr. Crompton, and the press published a report of what I said, although that report did not express my comments as well as it could have done. I was not present at the meeting when Dr. Crompton made his criticism about case history records being misplaced or lost. Apparently honorary surgeons at the Royal Adelaide Hospital are seriously inconvenienced if case records are not available. I do not know whether Dr. Crompton's criticisms are well founded, but I believe that the Minister of Health should have obtained a report from the responsible officers. It may be that the appointment of additional staff at the hospital will overcome the difficulties. Will the Treasurer call for a report on this matter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I shall be pleased to comply with the request.

Mr. BYWATERS: I understand that the Royal Adelaide Hospital provides free dental treatment for age pensioners and others of limited income. It has been suggested by some country dentists that this service could be extended to country areas where qualified dental surgeons are practising. I know it can be said that country residents can obtain free treatment at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, but

this can lead to heavy travelling expenses, particularly when dentures have to be made and fitted. Country dentists could perform this work. Has the Government considered permitting country dentists to provide free services to age pensioners and others of limited income?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government has considered this question and has provided a dental caravan to operate in districts where dentists are not available. However, I realize that the question does not relate to this service. The dental services at the Royal Adelaide Hospital are performed as part of the teaching of dentists—the hospital being a teaching hospital. The Government does not maintain dental services away from the hospital. I remind the honourable member that dental services at the Royal Adelaide Hospital are not free. A small charge is made. I will have the honourable member's suggestion examined. At present we have no scheme involving private dentists.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Many questions have been asked this session about mental institutions, particularly the Parkside Mental Hospital, where it is proposed to spend £554,909 on staff. How much of this money will be used in the employment of extra staff? The hospital must have adequate staff, but its staff has not been up to the standard required. Earlier this session I gave some information regarding a receiving house where there is a need for more staff. No doubt this staffing problem applies at other institutions. Can the Public Service Commissioner make it known that this extra staff is required? Has the Treasurer any information on the matter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have discussed with the Public Service Commissioner this matter of adequate staff, and in connection with the medical staff it is hoped soon to have some success, for the new Director has been in touch with medical men overseas. If the Leader asks whether the department can spend all the money provided this year for staffing, my reply is that I doubt whether it will be possible to spend all of it. Parliament, the Public Service Commissioner and the Director desire that the staff vacancies be filled. Not only is it necessary to have adequate numbers, but the staff must have had proper training. The problem is a difficult one to solve, but we shall do our utmost.

Mr. HUTCHENS: I agree with the Treasurer's remark that besides adequate numbers it is essential to have a properly trained

staff. The *News* of September 5, in a leading article, said:

It is disturbing to learn that thousands of people, including children, are on the waiting list for treatment at the Adelaide Dental Hospital. The fact that 2,250 people are awaiting dentures and 3,844 patients, including children, are on treatment waiting lists, highlights South Australia's desperate need for dentists and dental mechanics.

Other press reports have shown that parts of South Australia, including the far West Coast and Kangaroo Island, have no dental services. The *Advertiser* also referred to the long waiting list at the dental hospital. It is necessary for dental mechanics to work under the supervision of qualified dentists. Can they be employed at the dental hospital rather than by private dentists? Has there been a campaign to secure the services of qualified dentists for the hospital?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Two problems have arisen in connection with the dental services. Some years ago the Government referred to the Public Works Committee the matter of a new dental hospital, which was to be a training centre. The committee recommended the project, a contract was let and the work was commenced, but at that stage a new superintendent from overseas was appointed. He was a man of great ability and capacity, and immediately he arrived said that the recommended hospital was outdated and that many alterations to the design were needed. In some respects the alterations meant the replanning of the whole structure. The Government investigated his requests and, although we are not experts in the matter, so far as we could determine his ideas were good. We decided that there were many long-term advantages to the State in meeting his requests as far as possible. That meant that alterations had to be made to the plans, and as a consequence there has been an inevitable delay in the building of the hospital.

What has been very much more important is the fact that for some years the number of students who enrolled for the dentistry course was very small and the number that passed the course was even smaller. Speaking from memory, I believe that in one year the number of new dentists passing through the dental school in this State was as low as five, and that was at a time when I think there were 12 vacancies in the Education Department alone. I believe that since that time the dental authorities in this State have been very active in attempting to secure new students for the course, and that the course is now building up

much more satisfactorily. I think that in one year only three or five students sat for the final examinations. I believe that generally speaking a grave shortage of dentists exists throughout the State. I have had complaints from people that for ordinary dental care they have had to make appointments as far as six weeks ahead. Of course, where pain is involved every dentist tries to give immediate attention. At the time that the dentistry course was slack I think one or two other professional courses were also slack, and perhaps the member for Norwood can confirm that the law course fell away badly at that time. In other words, not enough students were coming on to fill the vacancies that were arising. We have been up against the difficulty of getting trained people. Some delay in building the new dental accommodation was due to the fact that after we had actually let the contract we had a well-documented and well-supported case for holding the contract over while a considerable amount of modification was being made to the hospital itself.

Mr. McKEE: Pensioners in my district are under the impression (and so am I) that the cost of hospitalization is completely covered by the payment of 9d. a week under the medical benefits scheme. Can the Treasurer say whether that payment completely covers the hospital fees of every pensioner?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I cannot answer the honourable member's question, because the term "pensioner" is a very wide one.

Mr. McKee: I was referring to invalid and age pensioners.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I fancy that the Commonwealth Government stipulates the type of person who has a medical entitlement pension.

Mr. Frank Walsh: They have an entitlement card if they are on the base rate.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I understand that is so. If the honourable member is referring to those people, I understand that the 9d. a week covers them. However, there are many categories of pensioner, and I am not sure whether they all would be covered by the payment of 9d. a week. I will check on the matter.

Mr. DUNSTAN: As I understand the matter raised by the member for Port Pirie, the only pensioners who are given full coverage upon the payment of 9d. a week are those who have no substantial assets of any kind other than the pension.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: They would be the ones with the medical entitlement cards.

Mr. DUNSTAN: Yes, but some pensioners have a medical entitlement card even though they had assets in addition to the base rate pension prior to a certain date. However, after that date (which from memory I think is some time in 1961) there is no medical entitlement card for a person who has any substantial assets above the base rate of the pension, and in my experience this has meant that assets such as motor cars have been taken into account in the assessment of pensioners' hospital accounts, and that can mean considerable hardship to numbers of pensioners.

The matter to which I particularly wanted to refer was the Treasurer's answer to the member for Hindmarsh (Mr. Hutchens) a short time ago. It is true that for a period very few people were going through the dental school. That applied to the law faculty as well, although the law faculty is rapidly reaching the stage where it will be very difficult for students getting through to find practitioners willing to article them, for such practitioners are becoming scarcer and scarcer. I have been informed of a projected move for a restricted entry to the dental school owing to a lack of clinical facilities for teaching purposes. This refers specifically to the dental hospital. With the very grave shortage of dentists that we have had, if we start cutting down on the number who can go through the course we shall have trouble for many years to come. Of course, the teaching facilities have to be there. It appears that those facilities are not there at present, and it will be a long time before the dental faculty has sufficient clinical and teaching space to train students. It will also be a long time before some provision is made at Bedford Park, because although the Bedford Park plans are well in hand there is at present no project that I am aware of for a teaching hospital or a dental hospital in that area. Both of these will be necessary for the training of additional doctors and dentists. I hope the Government will realize that additional teaching hospital facilities are an urgent necessity and that, in connection with the Bedford Park establishment entirely apart from rebuilding the Royal Adelaide Hospital dental section, plans should be made now (even at this late stage) for a teaching hospital and a dental hospital there so that a dental and medical faculty can proceed there at the earliest possible date.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I do not want to engage in a debate with the honourable member on this topic, but there has been no restriction because of the lack of clinical arrangements; the restriction has been the drastic restriction on the numbers available. Incidentally, I hope the university will not begin putting on restrictions lightheartedly; it is sometimes so easy to put on restrictions instead of getting to work and doing something. The last time I saw the figures they were improving, although they were still not nearly adequate to meet what is undoubtedly a major health service. In any community, to maintain health services adequately it is necessary to have reasonable dental services. I assure the honourable member that every step is being taken to get the building constructed as quickly as possible. There was some delay because the new Director asked—we think wisely—for alterations. I believe the hospital, when completed, will be a magnificent hospital. I assure the honourable member that his proposal will be closely watched.

Mr. HUTCHENS: When speaking on the first line, I said that many pensioners did not know that free hospital treatment was no longer provided. Many people apart from pensioners believe that free hospital treatment can be obtained if they pay 9d. a week to a hospital association. A few moments ago I was told by a pensioner aged 81 that he had been told by a chemist, acting as an agent for a hospital association, that it was unnecessary for him to pay because he could get hospital treatment if he paid 9d. a week. This man has now received an account that it will be almost impossible for him to meet. Has the Government ever considered requesting the Department of Social Services to issue, when it sends out its periodical re-assessment notices, a notice advising people to contribute to a hospital fund? Although I am not criticising anyone, I am disturbed about the number of poor people who are perhaps not well educated but who would join a hospital association if they knew the position.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Much publicity has been given to this matter, and there has been a remarkably big increase in the numbers of pensioners who have taken out the necessary insurance. However, I will examine the honourable member's proposal of enlisting the co-operation of the Commonwealth Government to see if it can be usefully applied.

Line passed.

Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department, £933,000.

Mr. HUTCHENS: I suggest that steps be taken to provide security for unfortunate women who have been deserted and left with children. Although orders are made against their husbands, there is no provision under which the unfortunate women can be assisted to provide sustenance for their families if the husbands do not pay on the due date. Will the Government consider assisting them until the offenders are apprehended?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON (Minister of Education): I shall be pleased to refer the matter to the Chief Secretary.

Mr. HARDING: At Struan Farm School, which is a beautiful and valuable property, conditions have improved greatly. The average number of boys in the home has increased, and a further increase from year to year can be expected. The home now has a herd of fine Hereford cattle, and a valuable bull has been purchased. Money has also been spent on breeding stock and sheep, which have increased considerably in numbers, and the plant, such as hay balers and other machinery, is in excellent condition. It is a wonderful place, and it gives boys an opportunity to make their way in life. Many things, including afforestation and irrigation, can be taught at the farm, and I commend the department for making good use of it for the benefit of the unfortunate boys who go there.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I do not dispute what the member for Victoria said about the farm and its equipment. However, will the Minister say what personnel is being recruited and trained? The inmates transfer from Magill to Struan.

Mr. Harding: They are selected.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Those boys are known as "trusties"; they are reasonably well-behaved and have served a reasonable period of apprenticeship at Magill. I have visited Struan Farm School and it is a fine property, but I was disappointed to observe the few boys sent there. The number would not be more than 15 and the place is crowded when 15 boys are accommodated there.

Mr. Shannon: Accommodation is provided for 20 boys.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I speak of the position as I know it. Is it Government policy to restrict the number of inmates to this small quota, or is that the result of the actions of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board? Is Struan Farm School sufficiently staffed

for it to be retained in an attempt to rehabilitate these boys as useful citizens and to keep them occupied in training necessary for rehabilitation? Is it the Government's policy to try to obtain more staff for this work, which has this most important function? Much exercise at the double is undertaken at Magill, but that is not good training and something more should be provided. If I had to speak on the Magill reformatory I should repeat what I said during the recent election campaign, that the present Magill buildings should be demolished, the land subdivided for building blocks, and the home established elsewhere than in the metropolitan area to provide proper training where the bright lights of Adelaide will not be so attractive. I am satisfied that we are not providing sufficient training for the rehabilitation of these boys. Struan Farm School has great potential, but it is not properly used. The training that could be provided there is good training if sufficient staff were provided for the purpose.

I have had the opportunity to visit Bedford Park and the young people accommodated there are far better off than they were at Magill, because they are able to do something useful. They can perform gardening work or work in the workshops, and if they are under the supervision of the farm foreman that is a useful experience for them. The officer in charge of Bedford Park is performing a good job, but how much longer is that home to be retained by the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board and not allotted to the University of Adelaide?

Mr. SHANNON: Obviously, the Leader has not read certain Parliamentary papers that could provide him with information on this subject. The Public Works Committee conducted a long and thorough investigation into the problem of Magill and associated works. In the course of its inquiries the committee travelled interstate and discovered that the latest trend was to divide institutions designed to rehabilitate young offenders. The committee made certain recommendations to Parliament—apparently the Leader has not yet had time to read them—and I believe the Government has adopted the proposal that Magill should be converted into a senior boys' reform school and that at Lochiel Park, where the Government has certain land and is acquiring more land, a junior boys' reform school should be established for offenders who are of school age or younger for their rehabilitation, and to segregate them from the older offenders. The committee has seen what has been done in

other States in this field, particularly in New South Wales. I do not say this derogatorily of our own department, because New South Wales has had the privilege of having one of the leaders in this field, Mr. R. H. Hicks. He is an outstanding man in the field of delinquent children. His services have been availed of by various States and he is recognized overseas as an expert in this field. We were glad to accept his advice. In New South Wales we saw things being done in the way of rehabilitation of suitable types of young people who could be encouraged to follow a rural occupation, who could by training be made competent and of some use to people pursuing some rural occupation, no matter what it was. There had been established in various parts of New South Wales farms where young people were specially trained upon their release from detention, ordered by the court, to take their place in the community. Many recoveries were being made.

The Public Works Committee felt that Struan Farm School was an ideal site for just such an endeavour and we recommended that it be expanded to cope with more young people being sent there. The Leader of the Opposition referred to 15 inmates, but he understated the figures. There is accommodation there at the moment for about 30 to 35. After all, Struan Farm School is a old home converted for departmental work, but we felt we should go into the matter of building small unit homes where these young people who had fallen by the wayside, largely as a result of being led astray by certain types of people of an older generation with whom they had mixed, could go and live in a home atmosphere, where a man and his wife could guide them and show them how to conduct themselves. One of the greatest problems in trying to get young people back to a feeling that they do belong, that they have something to which they are really tied, that they have someone from whom they can take advice and guidance—and it is a difficult and world-wide problem—is to find suitable types of people to conduct these smallish homes, catering for about 10 or 12 young offenders at the most, and preferably fewer. If suitable people can be found to run these homes, the results are eminently successful.

We are doing something like this in South Australia. I pay a tribute to our Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department for its work in the metropolitan area, where there are family units that select not always delinquent but rather deserted and neglected children. It is an excellent move. They put them in steps and stairs running from junior to senior in the

family form, and that type of atmosphere is a good influence on the building of character for these unfortunate young people who have been left as waifs and strays. However, in the field of delinquency and child welfare work, we still have a little way to go. My committee has not reached the goal it has envisaged; we still have some way to go. I stress particularly the possibilities of Struan Farm School. It is a lovely piece of country of ample area. I suggest that we do not worry too much about taking prizes at the local show for the best class of cattle or anything like that; in other words, that we do not try to make a name as one might expect from an agricultural college, but rather that we make a name for training young people to be fit and proper to go out and accept employment among the surrounding farmers in the area. Much has been done at Struan. The evidence that we have taken from those running it discloses that they have had considerable success, amounting to about 80 per cent of the boys, who previously had fallen by the wayside, being taken as labourers and employees by the surrounding farm people.

It is difficult to send a city boy to the country and build him into a person really suitable to work in the country atmosphere and environment. That was one of the reasons for some of the failures. After a while the boy decided he did not like the loneliness of country life and wanted to get back to the city, so he walked away from his employer. That was the major cause of failure in placing these young people. It was not that they inherently wanted to follow the illegal paths that got them into trouble originally (they were weaned away from that) but it was difficult to find employment where they could be happy and would want to pursue a normal type of life. This necessitates a careful selection on the part of those administering the junior and senior reforms schools, to see that the boys they send out to be trained in the various types of agriculture have an inclination to follow that type of life, if success is to be achieved.

It is no good just saying that he is a good boy and a trusty boy. The word "trusty" has been over-used a little. It has a rusty ring about it these days because some people trade upon it. The old lag trades upon it to get more amenities and an easier time during his term in confinement. However, there are other methods of selection, which should be practised by well-qualified people. I suggest that we could use the Agriculture Department's expert knowledge (there are some very good men in

the department) in advising the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department in the selection of the type of boy who could be taken to a place like Struan Farm School for training for a rural future. I am not suggesting that the department is not imbued with the right ideas. Sometimes it is not easy to make a choice if the department is not skilled in the trades it wants the boys to follow. All departments should co-operate in these fields, especially from the point of view of the economy of the State. These boys should be encouraged to be useful members of society by being trained in various types of employment in ordinary business and in the skilled trades. Let us give them every chance. It is not beyond the realm of possibility to do this. It could easily be arranged for officers from the various departments to give advice from time to time to the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department in respect of suitable avocations.

I suggest that at Struan Farm School three or four times the number at present being handled could be catered for. They could become largely self-supporting and be more than useful in supplying some of the neighbouring people with various commodities. I do not think there is any sense in their competing with private citizens, but there are many side-lines in which they could be usefully employed. This would be a good training for the boys. We are not doing enough in the field of selecting the right type of boy to enable him to be brought back to society. Not sufficient use has been made of the aptitude of these boys in a selection being made to enable them to recover in the interests of society.

Mr. BYWATERS: I shall be rather critical concerning the costs of these institutions. According to the Auditor-General's latest report the cost involved at the Struan Farm School last year for each of the 21 residents amounted to £18 4s. a week for maintenance. This year with the same number the cost is £29 15s. The Auditor-General has been critical in the last two years about the high cost of keeping children in these institutions. I realize that it is necessary to have these institutions, but consider that the costs are excessive. When speaking on the first line, I referred to the good work being done by various youth organizations in keeping young people out of these institutions. It would be a cheap and good investment for more money to be spent to keep youths out of trouble, rather than to spend so much on their retention in these institutions. It seems to be that a terrific amount is involved

for each inmate. For instance, the annual cost for each child at Struan Farm School is £1,551, for the Boys' Training Centre at Lochiel Park, £1,067, for Bedford Park, £2,085, for the Children's Cottage Homes at St. Peters, £1,393, and for the North Adelaide Boys' Hostel, £1,324. I should think that some of this money is weighted against the institutions because of the overhead costs of administration in Adelaide, but it seems to me to be far in excess of what is practicable. The Labor Party has more than once suggested that there should be a public accounts committee. The information I have given is evidence that the appointment of such a body is long overdue.

Mr. HARDING: The figures quoted by the member for Murray for the maintenance of each child give a false impression. No mention is made of the equipment that has been purchased for the Struan Farm School, such as new machinery. For Struan, payments included £3,303 for the purchase of livestock and £3,504 for farm plant and equipment.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Mr. Harding, Mr. Frank Walsh, Mr. Shannon and Mr. Bywaters have made valuable contributions to the discussions on this important subject, concerning mainly the Struan Farm School. The emphasis in the school is on training and rehabilitation. That is the modern concept regarding the aim of any of these reform institutions. They are necessarily expensive because of the limited numbers that can be dealt with. Mr. Shannon said that the school had accommodation for 30 to 35 boys. Sometimes it drops below that figure. It is a very valuable property. We have to take into account general operational costs and the maintenance and training of the children. Efforts are being made to increase productivity and to replace livestock and equipment in order to achieve greater efficiency. Much more will be done at Struan in future. Struan is serving a useful purpose and will serve a greater purpose in time to come.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I hope the Minister's forecasts about Struan as a training centre are realized. I am concerned with what the member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Shannon) said. I have read the recommendations of the Public Works Committee regarding the Magill reformatory, but despite its investigations I do not think Magill is the right location. I have also read the committee's recommendations about the Glandore home. I agree that juniors should be segregated, and I am pleased that juniors will in future be accommodated at Lochiel Park. However, I believe that the introduction

of cottage homes is desirable. Children can be accommodated in cottage homes in a family atmosphere under the supervision of a mother or father. I believe that with all institutions it is necessary to awaken an interest in the boys committed to them. I know of one boy who was committed to the Magill reformatory until he was 18 years of age. He absconded and went to Queensland where he was detained in an institution.

At that institution the inmates were not permitted to converse during meals and they were strictly supervised. They had to perform certain duties, but in their spare time they were allowed to cultivate a specified area of land and grow vegetables which were sold at the gates of the institution or to visitors. The profits were credited to the inmates and paid to them on their release. If a lad is committed to the Struan Farm School and he has spare time, he could be usefully engaged in growing vegetables for sale, particularly if there is a ready local market for them. This would create an additional interest for the inmates. I hope that the situation at Struan will be reviewed because a fuller use should be made of that institution. If it becomes necessary, the staff should be increased. If, as a result, the produce from the institution increases, the actual costs of the institution can be reduced.

Mr. SHANNON: It is not as easy as some people imagine to evaluate how much it is worth to rehabilitate a young person. There cannot be a proper evaluation in monetary terms of what it is worth to the community to rehabilitate a person who has gone astray and who has been committed to an institution. If he is cured and returned to society his value to society cannot be determined. It depends upon his skill and his abilities when diverted to proper channels. I am not concerned with the Auditor-General's report on the per capita costs of these institutions. I am more concerned with the selection of the type of person to be sent to the Struan Farm School for rehabilitation. If we can be sure of a reasonable percentage of success with the youths who are taught rural pursuits at Struan, the returns will be much greater than the expenditure devoted to the effort of curing them. The member for Murray (Mr. Bywaters) compared the costs of various institutions, but it is impossible to compare metropolitan institutions, which have more inmates, with Struan Farm School which has much higher overheads. Information about the evaluation, the work done and the results achieved is impossible to get. I do not think that that is the proper

approach to the matter. The only way is to ascertain how many of these people we get back into society as useful citizens. Mr. G. J. Cook, who is now the chief executive officer of the department, realizes that he has a job to do in a difficult field, and probably it is more difficult than many people realize. He has the chance to show how many he can bring back into society as useful citizens. The Public Works Committee recommended that the departmental officers see what was being done in the other States. They went and came back with a totally different view of the matter. Such visits by well-informed departmental officials are of great benefit. The Public Works Committee has had first-hand experience of it. Having a look ourselves is better than having someone tell us about it. More use should be made of Struan Farm. I believe we have the type of boy, although city bred, who could be encouraged to follow a life on the land. No field is more suitable for our young people than the field of rural industry. I favour expanding operations at Struan Farm School rather than reducing them. The cost is a mere bagatelle when compared with the good that comes from it.

Line passed.

Department of Public Health, £332,320.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Last year we voted £38,224 for the Public Health Branch, spent £39,170, and this year we are providing £49,942. Can the Treasurer give the reason for this increase in expenditure of £10,772?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Provision has been made for the appointment of one additional scientific officer, three inspectors, one clerk, and the creation of two vacant positions for medical officers. The increased expenditure is due to the engagement of additional staff.

Line passed.

Public Service Commissioner's Department, £77,954—passed.

Miscellaneous, £3,193,158.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: In this long list of miscellaneous payments there are many increases, and no doubt benefit will be obtained from the payments. I desire some information about Government policy on many of the items. There is an increase of £54,000 on last year's payments to the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, and an increase of £71,775 towards additions, alterations, equipment, etc., at the Lyell McEwin Hospital. The sum of £17,971 is made available for

additions, alterations and equipment, etc., by the South Australia Tuberculosis Association, account Bedford Industries. Only £253 was spent last year, but this year an additional £17,718 is voted. Although £15,000 was voted last year for the South Australian Spastic Paralysis Welfare Association, nothing was spent. This year it is proposed to spend £15,000. It is strange that the money voted was not spent. Can the Treasurer give the reason? Last year £10,022 was voted for the Jamestown Hospital for alterations, additions and equipment, etc., but only £189 was spent. This year it is proposed to spend £24,300. For the Thyne Memorial Hospital at Millicent an amount of £50,000 is provided, an increase of £49,481 over payments for last year, yet last year £30,124 was proposed and only £519 was spent. Can the Treasurer explain this?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Several types of grant come under this line, the first of which is for working expenses. A special committee examines the financial position of a hospital and what it is doing, and recommends to the Government what grant should be given. That committee, upon which is a representative of the Hospitals Association, is doing its job conscientiously. That type of grant, Mr. Chairman, is an annual grant for the working expenses of hospitals. Secondly, numerous organizations are not covered by hospital grants, and these are usually reported upon by the Auditor-General, who investigates the nature of the work being done and recommends to the Government what grants should be made.

The third type of assistance that is given is a Government subsidy for capital expenditure on hospitals. When a project is approved the Government puts the item on the Estimates. However, if the hospital is not built the line is not drawn upon. The answer in I think every instance the Leader has cited is that there was an approved line which either was not operated upon or was operated upon only to the extent of plans being drawn or some such minor expenditure. The reason why an amount was voted but not taken up by the authority concerned was that it was voted to build a hospital or to make some alterations or additions and unless the work had commenced no progress payments were involved. It could also mean that the authorities concerned had not gone ahead with projects as quickly as we had hoped, but as they intended to go ahead with the proposals the amounts were re-voted this year. In some

instances small expenditure has been made and the authorities have received their *pro rata* recoupment from the Government.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Last year the Flying Doctor Service at Ceduna was voted £1,000, and the same sum is proposed for this year. That Flying Doctor Service makes periodical visits to the Coober Pedy opal field. Before the Aborigines Department appointed a welfare officer at Coober Pedy it paid a small sum to the wife of one of the opal miners for medical services rendered to the Aborigines on the field. Since the welfare officer has been there, his wife (Mrs. Busbridge) has been giving medical service to all other persons on the field as well as Aborigines, but she has found that too big a burden and I understand that now she tends only to the Aborigines. I suggest that in view of the greatly increased population at Coober Pedy—I think at present it ranges between 500 and 700 people, of whom about 400 to 500 would be other than Aborigines—something will have to be done soon to improve the medical service, because at present only the Aborigines are catered for.

I have heard suggestions that an arrangement might be entered into between the Bush Church Aid Society, the Cooper Pedy Progress Association, and the South Australian Government with a view to the three parties each making a contribution to provide a satisfactory medical service on the field. This might necessitate two sisters living on the field for a reasonable period, and I believe that the Bush Church Aid Society might be able to do something in that direction if a satisfactory arrangement could be arrived at. Has the Treasurer been approached on this question?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I think the approach would normally be made to the Minister of Health. I cannot bring to mind any correspondence on the matter, but I will inquire and advise the honourable member.

Mr. DUNSTAN: At present, social assistance is given by the Government to a number of institutions and a number of old people's homes. There is one class of home that is badly needed in the community at present for which no social assistance is provided. I refer to homes for people who are in need of what is basically infirmary accommodation. The old people's homes for which assistance is now given are homes which qualify for Commonwealth assistance, and many of those homes have infirmaries attached to them but, as soon as an inmate of the home becomes a chronic

patient, the home cannot keep that person in the infirmary because under the Commonwealth assistance provisions that cannot be done.

Even then the infirmaries that are provided in old folk's homes are not coping with the need of a great many people who need some form of nursing assistance: they are in need not of hospital treatment but of infirmary treatment. At present there is a great gap in South Australia in relation to people who have a need of this kind. Unfortunately, what is happening to many of those people is that they are going into privately-run homes of a most unsatisfactory kind, because there is simply nowhere else for them to go. I have at least one unsatisfactory home in my district and, on information given to me by a former staff member who left the home because he could not stomach the conditions under which inmates were required to live, I think the home probably came within the terms of an Act passed last year. Unfortunately, many people need minor nursing assistance, but there is nowhere for them to go, and they do not have families to cope with their needs. Many churches will undertake work of this kind if they can get financial assistance, but without that assistance it is beyond their capacity to do this. I was formerly an executive of the Church of England Social Welfare Bureau in this State, and hundreds of social workers have approached me about this matter. Over a long period we have discussed plans to cope with this need but, without some form of Government assistance for infirmary care apart from the normal run of old folk's homes, it is impossible for churches to undertake the work.

Great as is the work of Meals on Wheels to help people face difficulties, it is not the whole answer. I have the greatest sympathy with and support for the work of Miss Doris Taylor. I was the first president of this organization, which has done an enormous amount to assist people otherwise unable to live in their homes. These people can now get assistance in the way of meals, library services and nursing, but others unable to keep going in their homes or to get homes of their own need constant nursing assistance. Apart from the Magill Old Folk's Home, infirmary assistance is not adequately provided for in this State, and many people are in grave hardship as a result. I hope that the Government will undertake to extend infirmary services at Magill or to assist to extend the work of these homes.

On two occasions I have raised a matter concerning the Collections for Charitable Purposes Act, and on the last occasion the Treasurer

read a report, apparently from the committee and from the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board. I shall give the history because it appears that the report does not take into account that some of the objections of the board were coped with before the Treasurer gave his reply. It appears that the licence is still in the melting pot. The property was purchased under contract to purchase dated February 20, 1960; it was bought for the purposes of Bethlehem Homes Incorporated. In January, 1961, the firm of Stevens, Boucaut, Jacobs and Bollen was instructed by the committee of Bethlehem Homes Incorporated to take all necessary steps to incorporate the association. Mr. Halleday interviewed Mr. Langcake in February, 1961, concerning a licence under the Collections for Charitable Purposes Act and was informed that, on certain amendments being made to the constitution to make it conform to the requirements of the committee, there would be no difficulty. The constitution was amended and submitted to the Registrar of Companies, and the incorporation was undertaken. The incorporation was on May 11, 1961, and on August 23 a certificate of registration of an alteration to the objects of the association was issued by the Registrar of Companies.

The advisory committee did not meet on the application until September 20, 1961, and subsequently it refused a licence. That was confirmed in a letter from the Chief Secretary's Department in November, 1961. Further attempts were made to obtain a licence, and then there was a meeting of the advisory committee at which Mr. Halleday was present. On May 3, 1962, a letter was received stating:

The advisory committee has given further consideration to the application for a licence and it is prepared to recommend the issue of a licence provided that the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board approves the proposal to establish a home at Victor Harbour.

On May 9 a letter was received from the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board which referred to the letter of the Chief Secretary and asked for information to be set out on an attached *pro forma*. That was supplied to the department. On June 7, 1962, the required information relating to the plans, the architects' reports on the plans and an aerial photograph was submitted to the department, and these were returned on July 6.

On July 27 a letter was received from the Chief Secretary's office stating that the board was not satisfied with the plans in the proposal for three reasons—they were the reasons given

by the Treasurer in his reply to my question. On August 9, 1962, a letter written by Bethlehem Homes Incorporated on August 1 was acknowledged by the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board, and a request was made for further information. That is the information that was referred to by the Treasurer in his reply to me. On August 14, Bethlehem Homes Inc. replied and re-submitted plans and information as requested, together with revised plans of proposed alterations.

It appears to me that all the information asked for by the department had been supplied, and supplied satisfactorily, before September 4, when the Treasurer replied to my questions, but as yet no licence has been issued. Money was to be borrowed against a contract to purchase to keep it available for the proposed home. It is plainly impossible to set out at this stage all the proceedings of the home in accordance with the ultimate proposal, as the ultimate proposal will depend on response to a public appeal that cannot be undertaken unless the licence is given. That, of course, has been the case with almost anybody that has applied for a licence under this Act.

Meals on Wheels obtained a licence under the Act when in fact its only proposals concerned one Quonsett hut alongside railway property at Port Adelaide. It would have been impossible at that stage for that organization to give some indication about what would be done in every kitchen in the future; that depended on the amount of public support that would be gained from a public appeal after the licence was applied for. It seems to me that this matter has been held up for a long time and that undue difficulties have been placed in the way of starting this home. I cannot see that there can be any real objection to starting a home for young people or to Mr. Halleday, who has had considerable and good experience in this regard. I hope the Government will take action now, that the information has been fully supplied to the board and that another meeting of the advisory committee will be convened to see whether a licence cannot now be granted to this long-delayed project.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I will see that the honourable member's remarks are brought to the notice of the Chief Secretary.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Last year I drew the Treasurer's attention to grants made for two-band competitions, one in Adelaide and one in Tanunda, and I asked whether consideration

could be given to the Northern Areas Band Competitions. I received a letter from the Treasurer asking me to supply further details. I left the matter for a while, because the bands concerned were drawing up a new constitution. The secretary of the Northern Bands Association has now informed me that the constitution of the Northern Bands' Carnival Committee has been approved by the South Australian Band Association. The object of this committee is to promote an annual Northern Bands Carnival and to assist in the furtherance of all aspects of the brass band movement in the northern areas of South Australia. The carnival committee is composed of registered bands all of which are registered members of the South Australian Band Association. Their members are members of the Broken Hill Associated Smelters Excelsior Band Incorporated, the Port Augusta Municipal Band and Whyalla Citizens' Band. The secretary informs me that for the successful continuance of these carnivals assistance must be offered to bands desirous of competing. The letter I received from the Treasurer asked me to supply details of the bands that normally take part in that competition and information regarding the financial position of the organization conducting the competition. Many of the bands that have competed use these carnivals as a medium for rectifying their mistakes preparatory to competing at the Tanunda competitions and elsewhere. This, naturally, improves the status of band music generally and also affords competition to some bands which, because of location, are not able to participate annually at bigger carnivals or competitions.

Five northern band carnivals have been completed, Port Augusta being the venue in 1958 and 1961, Port Pirie in 1959 and 1962, and Whyalla in 1960. The next carnival will be staged at Whyalla in 1963, possibly in March or early April of that year. Bands that have participated in carnivals already held include Kadina and Wallaroo, Maitland, Campbelltown, Woomera, Flinders (Wirrabara), Flinders Junior, Port Augusta, B.H.A.S. Excelsior (Port Pirie) and Whyalla. No financial gain is offered and all prizes for competition are in the form of cups, which are donated by business houses of the town or city in which the carnival is staged. Admission is charged to these carnivals and the net profits from such admission charges are retained by the host town or city, that is Port Augusta, Port Pirie or Whyalla. Net profits have ranged from about £50 to nearly £200, the 1960 carnival at Whyalla returning about £90.

It is pointed out, however, that without assistance in the way of loans of materials by civic bodies and local industries net profits would be substantially less. Competing bands have met all transport and accommodation costs from their own funds, and in the case of the Woomera band competing at Whyalla the approximate outlay to that band would not be less than £100. Will the Treasurer consider this question to see whether a similar grant could be made available for this competition in the same way that assistance is made available to the two bodies I mentioned earlier?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: If the honourable member will let me have an application in writing I will see whether I can include this in supplementary grants for this year.

Mr. RYAN: Provision is made for £4,500 for Archway Port, Port Adelaide. A similar sum was provided last year and all of the money was spent. This organization was commenced by a handful of citizens and it has developed until it now affords a remedial course for Alcoholics Anonymous. The Government realizes that this problem must be tackled at Government level and that the Government will be involved in much expenditure. This is obvious because a proposal has been submitted to the Public Works Committee in connection with the establishment of a hospital or similar institution to help these people who cannot help themselves on the way to recovery. Government expenditure on that project in the initial stages will be about £1,000,000, and the annual contribution thereafter for the clinic will involve much money. That proves that the Government is aware of the problem and is taking the initiative to attempt cures where people suffer from this illness. If the Public Works Committee report had been received in sufficient time it is possible that this work may have been commenced in the current financial year, but that is not now possible. The Gaols and Prisons Department (and the Sheriff in particular) has taken an active part in this matter but it may be two or three years before anyone will be admitted to the Government institution. Many may be admitted to gaol and we are all agreed that that does not provide the correct treatment for these unfortunate people. As Archway Port is established and the clinic is performing extremely good work that will ultimately be taken over by the Government, will the Government consider increasing the allowance to Archway Port so that these people may be treated until the

Government is able to take over their treatment? Archway Port commenced in Port Adelaide and people in the district recognize the tremendous amount of good it has done. However, the people who are seeking admission are not always from the precincts of the establishment; they come from other districts. I believe that if medical and other experts were to report on the activities of those engaged at Archway Port they would offer the highest praise for the work, treatment and ultimate cure. I believe the Government could increase the grant to this worthy body until the Government takes over these activities.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The amount set down is the same as for last year, the reason being that when the Estimates were prepared I did not have before me the report of the Auditor-General on this institution. Whether the papers were not forwarded to the Auditor-General or whether the Auditor-General had not dealt with them I do not know, but I put down this amount to ensure that at least something was provided. Since then, however, the Auditor-General's report has been prepared. Speaking from memory, I think a somewhat larger amount (perhaps £6,250) was recommended, but I do not want the honourable member to take that as definite. I can get the actual recommendation for the honourable member tomorrow. Although the larger amount is not provided for in the Estimates, I propose to make available by excess warrant the amount required to meet the Auditor-General's recommendation, which may be as much as £8,500.

Mrs. STEELE: Dealing with the problem of aged people, I mention the work of the Old People's Welfare Council on behalf of aged people and its need for financial help. Recently, a delegation waited on the Treasurer with a plan for this organization. It is revealing to realize the number of representative organizations within the community associated with this council—for instance, the Australian Medical Association, the Underwriters' Association, the Red Cross, the Returned Servicemen's League, and the various Rotary clubs of South Australia. Statistics show that since 1900 the number of old people over 65 has increased five-fold and now represents 8.9 per cent of our population. But it is not much use medical science providing opportunities for people to live longer unless the declining years of aged people can be lived in some sort of comfort and dignity, which is their due because so many of them were pioneers of this country, of which we are so proud.

But today throughout the metropolitan area we find a number of what are known as senior or elderly citizens' clubs set up often in premises made available to them, in the first instance, by municipal councils, which back them to an amazing extent. To visit some of these clubs is to be most impressed with the impact that social contact between members has on their wellbeing. I was interested the other day to read the comments of Dr. Marjorie Warren who, until her death, was regarded as one of the greatest authorities in the world on geriatric care. She mentioned how important it was that old people be kept well, and kept well within their own homes; and that all kinds of domiciliary care be provided so that they should not become a burden on our public institutions. The work of Meals on Wheels is providing a branch of work of this type. I do not think people generally recognize the extent to which public moneys are saved through the efforts of such organizations. It is impossible to estimate or imagine the amounts that could be saved by people not being put into public hospitals. When we realize the present daily cost of a bed for a patient in our public hospitals, we appreciate that any help that can be given to organizations trying to keep these people well and out of hospital represents money well spent in the interests of the taxpayer, because we are preventing ill-health by keeping them occupied and healthy.

The Old People's Welfare Council of South Australia is doing a magnificent job in keeping old people happy, and is playing a large part in their rehabilitation within the community. I commend any future approaches that may be made to the Government for help in this regard. We appreciate, of course, the tremendous number of requests made for this type of assistance, but in the public interest people kept out of hospitals are far less a drain on the taxpayer than having them over the age of 65 as inmates of our public institutions.

Mr. CASEY: I draw the Treasurer's attention to the position that has arisen recently at the Peterborough Hospital. At present these Estimates do not provide for fire protection. It is proposed later in the year to ask the Government for a special grant to cover the fire protection necessary for the hospital. I have taken up this matter previously and mentioned it to the Minister of Works and the Minister of Health. The hospital body is now negotiating with the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigades Board in Adelaide

to examine this matter to ascertain exactly what is entailed. I understand that the most economic proposition being looked into as far as I can ascertain at this stage is a 10,000-gallon or 20,000-gallon concrete tank. The hospital is so situated that the pressure from the existing mains is insufficient for its fire protection needs. The hospital consists of two units, one for general cases and the other for maternity cases. It is in the interests of the whole community, which extends as far as Cockburn, that adequate fire protection be provided. Will the Treasurer sympathetically consider this proposal when it comes forward?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I shall have the matter examined.

Line passed.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

Attorney-General's Department, £51,378; Crown Solicitor's Department, £57,505—passed.

Parliamentary Draftsman's Department, £8,807.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Last Tuesday I suggested that an assistant to the Parliamentary Draftsman and the Assistant Parliamentary Draftsman be appointed. Only one member of the Government side has had experience of being in Opposition. The Minister of Education, who was a member of the Opposition in the 1930-33 Parliament, will appreciate the difficulties under which an Opposition works, particularly in drafting legislation. An additional assistant in the Parliamentary Draftsman's Department could greatly assist the Opposition in this regard. During a recent debate the member for Mitcham (Mr. Millhouse) commended the person who drafted various Bills that I introduced, but I do not think he was genuine.

The Leader of the Opposition should not be embarrassed in having measures drafted. I am grateful that about two years ago the Government agreed to my request and made Miss Nalty available to assist my secretary, Mr. Lloyd Hourigan. She has helped considerably in typing the Opposition's proposed legislation, but such legislation has to be approved by the Parliamentary Draftsman and frequently it is returned for redrafting and retyping. If an assistant is appointed to the Parliamentary Draftsman's Department the Leader of the Opposition should have first call on his services. I do not complain of the assistance I have received from the department, but during a session the Government has first

call on its services and the officers are overworked. The Leader of the Opposition is frequently criticized on the drafting of Opposition proposals.

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

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Would it be practicable for the Government to appoint an assistant to the Parliamentary Draftsman and the Assistant Parliamentary Draftsman with a view to the Leader of the Opposition having first call on his services?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: This is a matter for the Attorney-General, who works in the closest co-operation with the Parliamentary Draftsman and his assistant. He has had some discussions with them about their respective duties, and also has had some talks with the Public Service Commissioner on the matter. As the Leader said, I am the only member on this side who has had experience on the Opposition side, and I remember the strenuous times we had in a busy session of Parliament. In those days we had Mr. E. L. (now Sir Edgar) Bean as Parliamentary Draftsman and Mr. Cartledge as his assistant. The present Assistant Parliamentary Draftsman, Mr. Ludoviei, has performed a monumental task in drafting the Companies Bill. No doubt much of his time during this last year has been taken up on that task alone. It may be that these two officers are somewhat in arrears with their work because of the great pressure that is suddenly foisted upon them when Parliament is in session, not only in the drafting of Bills but in drafting amendments for Opposition members. I shall refer this matter to the Attorney-General.

Line passed.

Public Trustee's Department, £107,942—passed.

Supreme Court Department, £92,583.

Mr. DUNSTAN: I bring before the Government the fact that with the present number of judges in the Supreme Court it is difficult to keep up with the list of cases in that court, particularly if a judge should be away on commission, ill or on leave. The only way whereby the list can be coped with is to have each judge on duty all the time. There is now a heavy list in the Supreme Court and that has been the position for some time. With the appointment of several younger judges it has been possible in the last two years in some periods to catch up with the list. Most members in this place have had fairly frequent complaints about the length of time taken to get cases on for hearing in the Supreme Court.

I believe it is necessary to appoint a seventh judge, and few members of the profession would disagree with that view. If we had a seventh judge all contingencies could be coped with and the list would be kept up to date. There would be none of the delays that occur from time to time through judges being on leave, ill or on other duties.

I have had complaints from members on this side about the delays with which their constituents are faced because of having to wait for civil cases to be heard in the Supreme Court. On occasions it has been two years before a case in the civil or matrimonial list has been heard. Sometimes the delays are occasioned by difficulties of counsel, but frequently it is because of the difficulties with which the court is faced. I applaud the appointment of younger judges recently, and one can expect that these recent additions will mean that the lag that occurred because of some judges approaching retirement or in ill health will be caught up with to some extent. Nevertheless, there is no provision with the present number of judges to meet an emergency. If one occurs the list will fall farther behind. I hope the Government will take further action in the appointment of a seventh judge.

Line passed.

Adelaide Local Court Department, £60,326—passed.

Adelaide Police Court Department, £49,177.

Mr. DUNSTAN: Recently in this place the member for Mitcham mentioned the complaints made in the Adelaide Police Court by Mr. Wilson, S.M., about the understaffing of that court. The Treasurer said that there was, in fact, no great difficulty in the court and that when an emergency occurred it was possible to call on the reporting staff of the Industrial Court, whereas in my experience of the Adelaide Police Court, and the experience of many counsel, the position is not so simple as the Treasurer would have us believe. I have, in conjunction with other practitioners, several of whom have approached me following on the Treasurer's remarks, obtained some information.

I wanted to ascertain the actual staff of the Adelaide Police Court and the possibilities of assisting the magistrates. The Police Magistrate has one reporter. Mr. Wilson, S.M., the next senior magistrate, has a reporter. Mr. Smith, S.M., has an acting reporter and Mr. Hermes, S.M., has a reporter. There is an acting depositions clerk. He is not fully trained as a reporter and he works in the court for justices of the peace. Mr. Scales, S.M., has

one reporter. It must be obvious that if any reporter should be out of court for a period there is no way of adequately reporting the cases before the court. Apart from calling on the staff mentioned, and we must remember that the acting depositions clerk is not fully trained as a reporter and cannot take down a matter before the court adequately, the only way of dealing with the position is to call on a junior court office clerk, though he cannot type or write shorthand. Mr. Chairman, it is not the case that reporters from the Industrial Court are readily available to the Adelaide Police Court. There have been numbers of occasions when the Adelaide Police Court simply could not get the staff necessary for the reporting of cases.

I have had a bitter complaint from a member of the Bar with an extensive practice in the Adelaide Police Court about a case in which he was recently engaged. In that instance a clerk was called in; he was not one of the regular reporters, but he was the only person upon whom they could call. That person attempted to take the evidence down in that case, which was before Mr. Hermes, S.M. The transcript was made, but that night counsel concerned had to spend about two hours in an attempt to correct it, and next day in the court it took up an hour of the court's time dealing with the objections of the prosecution and of the defence to the transcript of the evidence as it had been taken the previous day. Arguments occurred because there were differences of recollection about what had taken place, and there was no doubt whatever that the evidence had been taken down inaccurately.

In a subsequent case evidence was attempted to be taken down in shorthand, and the transcript was not ready until the next day of remand, which meant, of course, that it could not be checked in the interim. In fact, I understand that in one of these cases there will be further proceedings in the Supreme Court, and it is very difficult for the courts to deal with the matter because of arguments as to the accuracy of the transcript. The fact is that if any one of this reporting staff is away ill or is required to be out of court typing up a judgment or typing back an urgently needed transcript, there is no way of coping with the difficulty. There cannot be any doubt at all that the Adelaide Police Court is grossly understaffed. Counsel have spoken to me about this, and some difficulties occur most days of the week. When a solicitor goes to see the magistrates' clerks he has to go into their room. True

enough, the Public Works Committee has recommended a new building, but at present those officers have to work under very bad conditions. There is one very small room for the reporting staff at the Adelaide Police Court, and there are five officers in there regularly. I have seen as many as six working in this extremely small area, which also has to contain all the confidential files of cases currently before the court. If all the officers are out in the various courts or with their magistrates, there is nobody there in attendance while these files are in the cupboards, and anybody could walk into the place. It is not at all surprising that section 4 (a) returns of people who are pleading guilty get mislaid sometimes, for there seem to be no additional staff to do the necessary filing work. I have nosed around to have a look at who is there—and inevitably, of course, other practitioners have done the same thing—and to try to find out how the work of the courts can be coped with.

Counsel have complained to me that they have been faced with the position that cases cannot go on simply because there is not sufficient staff in the court to assist the magistrates. We cannot, in circumstances like these, at the drop of a hat on any occasion—and the occasions when they have not sufficient staff to go around are very numerous indeed—expect that Mr. President Pellew will release one or more of his reporting staff to go over to the Adelaide Police Court. If the understaffing were to be coped with, Mr. President Pellew and the Deputy President of the Industrial Court would not be seeing their reporting staff very often. The fact is that this State has been spending on law, order and public safety less per capita than any other State in the Commonwealth consistently since the Second World War. We need additional reporting staff but, most unfortunately, it is a little difficult to attract it. The fact is that when the recent case was before the Public Service Arbitrator evidence was given on behalf of the Public Service Commissioner that it would be embarrassing to have an increase in the remuneration of the Adelaide Police Court staff. Those officers did not get an increase in remuneration like most of the other people covered by that application.

Again the fact is, as is obvious in the recruits that we are getting to reporting staffs anywhere in the Public Service, that people simply are not coming forward for these jobs: there is not sufficient attraction to them in it. I believe that the Government has to spend some

additional moneys to provide additional staff, and clearly one place where additional staff has most urgently to be provided is in the Adelaide Police Court, because if things go on as they are, Mr. Chairman, I should imagine from what I have seen that these reporters have to do—and this has been suggested to me by other members of the profession—that some of the present reporting staff are going to be retired soon with ulcers and then we will not have anybody there. The burden on them at present of completing the work for magistrates and completing the work that is before the courts is an enormous one, and it cannot be adequately discharged with the present staff. If anybody is away sick or on leave there are just not sufficient people to go around, and if there is a long or difficult case that urgently has to be dealt with, there is not the staff necessary to cope with the cases coming forward from day to day. Anybody who goes down to the court and observes the cases that are coming on and the arrangements that the magistrates are having to make will be seized with the urgency of this position. I do not think the reply that the Treasurer gave to the member for Miteham (Mr. Millhouse) adequately sets forth the situation at all. I believe that the situation remains an urgent one of lack of staff, and I hope that the Government will take immediate action to remedy it.

Line passed.

Country and Suburban Courts Department, £110,989; Coroner's Department, £7,807—passed.

Registrar-General of Deeds Department, £199,430.

Mr. HUTCHENS: A constituent of mine from Drayton Street, Bowden, has told me that for a copy of deeds of premises he was informed that he would have to pay £2. However, he was told later that he would have to obtain the services of a land agent and that he would be required to pay £7 or £8. Can the Minister of Education say whether it is the general practice to issue deeds direct to a person on application, or whether that person must seek the services of a land agent to obtain this document?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: It is some time since I have carried out that class of work. A deed or certificate of title is a valuable document, for it is a document of title to perhaps a very valuable property and if it is lost a duplicate just cannot be handed over the counter. Statutory declarations must be made and advertisements lodged stating that it has been lost and that every effort has been

made to find the original and, when the Registrar-General is satisfied that all those requirements have been complied with, he will issue a new certificate of title. I do not think it is absolutely necessary for a licensed landbroker or a solicitor to prepare the documents, but I think any person losing a valuable certificate of title would be well advised to consult a solicitor or landbroker. I do not know the fees, but I will obtain this information for the honourable member.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £32,410—passed.

TREASURER AND MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION.

Treasury Department, £45,643; Superannuation Department, £57,038; Motor Vehicles Department, £242,343; Agent-General in England Department, £46,466; Land Tax Department, £119,225; Stamp and Succession Duties Department, £43,183—passed.

Publicity and Tourist Bureau and Immigration Department, £255,014.

Mr. CUMBE: An allowance of £25 per annum is made to the Director for travelling with and entertaining distinguished visitors. Is this all that is allowed for this rather important duty, or is he on producing a voucher entitled to be recouped for his expenditure? This is a meagre sum compared with what is allowed in industry and considering the importance of the work.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: It was impossible for me to cover trivial cases that might arise from time to time, so this line has been inserted for the first time to enable the Director to spend this sum without referring to the Minister. This is not the total sum that can be spent: it is merely to cover trivial expenses.

Line passed.

Prices Control Department, £66,000—passed.

Miscellaneous, £6,113,956.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: This year £58,444 is provided for interest pursuant to the Railways Standardization Agreement Act. Is this to cover any particular debts, or is it to be used in the way the Treasurer has already indicated after an investigation is made by the Public Works Committee?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Since the Second World War the Commonwealth Government has made certain moneys available for standardization work in the South-East. Under the agreement, the State Government is responsible for payment of interest on a certain percentage of the money and repayment of a

percentage of the principal. The sums shown in the line mentioned and in the preceding line are for payments of principal and interest to the Commonwealth Government under the agreement.

Mr. CUMBE: The sum of £10,000 is provided for a contribution to the Municipal Tramways Trust towards working expenses, which is a decrease of £20,000, and £20,000 is provided for reimbursement for destination signs on buses. I can appreciate that, because of economies in the trust, working expenses have decreased, but would not destination signs be an expense of a capital nature, or have they not been provided for in the trust's expenses? Is it necessary to have a special line for such a small item?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: As the honourable member knows, the trust considered it was under an obligation to operate as economically as possible because it was getting public grants, and it did not feel inclined to authorize expenditure on destination signs. The Government informed it that, if it installed destination signs (for which the public had expressed a desire), it would be recouped.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: The sum of £54,780 is provided for cost of administration of Homes Advances recouped to the State Bank, which is an increase of £19,546 over last year's expenditure. Will the State Bank have extra work to do because, as announced by the Treasurer this afternoon, certain contracts have already been arranged by the Housing Trust for building purchase houses on small deposits? That causes me some concern. The building industry seems to be reasonably occupied in building houses, but the public is regarding house-building with a certain amount of apprehension. Previously, considerable amounts were made available to the Housing Trust for the building of rental units. I assume that under the low deposit scheme the tendency will be to build the same number of units, but the cost question must be involved. If that is so will there be a further drain on the amounts that may be made available by the Government from time to time?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This line has nothing whatever to do with the Housing Trust. It deals with State Bank administration. The State Bank administers the Advances for Homes Act as an agent for the Government. Money was made available through the Loan Council and has already been approved by Parliament. The State Bank, as the agent of the Government, makes this money available

and the item referred to by the Leader is for the cost of administering the Act. The amount provided is for the cost of administration on behalf of the Government. The Government recoups the State Bank, and the cost of administration is determined by the Auditor-General. The reason for the increase is that the State Bank has been financing more houses and the Auditor-General investigated the sums this year and altered the accounting methods. The Government has on his certificate made available a larger sum than previously.

Mr. HUTCHENS: The amount provided last year for control of rents and housing improvements and administration expenses was £17,254. Provision is made this year for £17,075, a decrease of £179. My district may be different from many other districts, but I believe the expenses in my area are becoming greater than ever before. However, it would appear that the Government anticipates that there will be less work. Has the Treasurer any information that this is so?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The honourable member will notice that a somewhat larger sum than was actually spent by the trust was voted last year. The sum provided has been supplied to me as being necessary for the administration of the Act. Line passed.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND MINISTER OF
REPATRIATION.

Lands Department, £883,122; Government Motor Garage, £50,007—passed.
Miscellaneous, £197,357.

Mr. SHANNON: The sum of £1,500 is provided for the purchase of land at Mount Lofty. I know that certain land has been purchased there for the purpose of establishing a native flora reserve. Is it intended to purchase more land and, if it is, is that land contiguous to that already purchased?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Acting Minister of Lands): I cannot supply the details of this matter, but I will obtain information for the honourable member.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF WORKS.

Public Works Department, £8,727; Engineering and Water Supply Department, £4,520,823; Public Buildings Department, £198,803; Government Offices, £279,000; Cemetery, £19,171; Public Stores Department, £122,034; Aborigines Department, £536,398; Public Works, £1,653,850; Miscellaneous, £89,900—passed.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

Education Department, £14,665,387.

Mr. CORCORAN: I refer to boarding allowances paid by the department to parents of children living in the country who have to leave their homes to go to the city to complete their education. As recently as today I received a letter from a constituent regarding this matter. Many subjects available to children in the city are not available to children in country schools and often this causes the parents to send them away from home so that they may study these subjects. I refer particularly now to the Kingston and Robe districts.

The Kingston Higher Primary School does not provide a business course—and a business course is often desirable for those children who may not be interested in going beyond Intermediate standard and are looking for employment of a business nature immediately they leave school. Because a business course is not available at this school (nor will one be available at the Kangaroo Inn Area School when it opens), those parents who desire their children to enter the business world are forced to send them to the city or to a school some distance from home, and to pay board to allow their children to attend there. Applications submitted to the department on this matter have been consistently rejected, the excuse always being that this subject has no bearing on a student's gaining an Intermediate certificate. Will the Government or the Minister of Education make representations to see whether in respect of a business course the policy of paying a boarding allowance can be changed?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The relevant regulation is to the effect that every qualified student who is forced to live away from home in order to attend the nearest approved secondary school which has a secondary education course of the kind selected by the student and approved by the Director will be granted a boarding allowance of £75 per annum. The operative words there, of course, are "approved by the Director". That is the regulation made under the Education Act and approved by Parliament. The Director of Education, not the Minister of Education, is the one who makes the decision. Often he refuses to say that a particular subject is, in his opinion, necessary. If the honourable member will let me have particulars of the case referred to, I shall be only too pleased to take it up.

In some instances we can administer the regulation a little more generously. I shall be prepared to consider any of them and take them up with the Director to see whether some more flexible ruling can be given in future.

Mrs. STEELE: I refer to the line "Transport of handicapped children—Purchase of vehicles and conveyance of children". I understand that when the scheme was commenced the idea was that taxi-cabs should be used, the Government paying two-thirds of the cost and the parents one-third. Has the original scheme been revised and are vehicles now being provided for the purpose of transporting these children?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: No. The same arrangement still applies: the provision of taxi-cabs for handicapped children. There is, however, a large item for purchase of vehicles and conveyance of school children generally. We have 545 services transporting country children to and from their schools. A large number of vehicles used are operated by the department, whereas others are under the control of the department and operated by an independent contractor.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I notice that £70 was voted last year to the Apprentices Board and that actual payments were £34. It is proposed to spend £50 this year. Another item relates to "Northern Territory schools—teachers and staff—£234,000", an increase of £11,894. I know that South Australia is responsible for supplying the educational needs of the Northern Territory, but is this amount reimbursed by the Commonwealth Government?

The Hon. Sir Baden Pattinson: Yes.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Has the Government made any further representation to try to get more assistance from the Commonwealth Government is providing the educational needs of this State besides the scholarship arrangements? If we were not operating under the uniform system of taxation, the State would have to impose some unpopular taxes. It is proposed to spend £14,665,387 this year on education, an increase of almost £1,500,000 above last year's expenditure. In view of the constant agitation for greater financial assistance from the Commonwealth Government, can the Minister of Education indicate what representations he or the Government has made to the Commonwealth?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I have no authority to make any representations to the Commonwealth Government. All I can do is to voice my opinions from time to time in making speeches here and elsewhere in the hope that they won't fall on deaf ears. This question has been raised at a Premiers' Conference with the Prime Minister. The States received a courteous hearing, although I do not know whether the matter was taken further. The Prime Minister said that large sums had been made available by the Commonwealth to the States for university education and that it was considering the question of technical education and certain forms of sub-tertiary education, but no affirmative reply has been given to the States' claim for assistance for primary and secondary education.

Mr. LAWN: The Minister has previously given similar replies to his reply to the member for Millicent (Mr. Coreoran) tonight about his lack of authority in this department. It is time attention was drawn to this matter. The Minister is placed in an embarrassing position and I strongly resent the Minister's having to say, in effect, "I don't run my department; the Director of Education does." On August 29 the member for Burnside asked the Minister whether it would not be advantageous for children to be taught civics in our schools, and the Minister replied:

To answer the honourable member's question, steps could be taken but I have not the specific power to initiate such steps. Perhaps this will serve as a suitable opportunity for me to dispel a popular misconception that I control the courses of instruction in our schools and other institutions of learning. Actually, the Education Act provides that the Director of Education shall determine the courses of instruction for each branch of education in the public schools.

A similar question was asked in the Legislative Council on September 5 by the Hon. Mr. Bardolph, and the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Education, concluded his reply by saying about the question:

I am happy to bring it under the notice of my colleague for reference to the Director. How belittling can we be? Tonight the Minister was forced to say that a certain aspect of education was not under his control but under the control of the Director of Education. I strongly resent the fact that a Minister has to rise in this House and say, "It is not a matter under my jurisdiction. Some subordinate officer in my department has full authority,

not I." We belittle our Parliamentary institution when we provide in our Acts that a Minister is subordinate to an officer under his control. I hope that the Government will consider this matter, or that the Minister of Education will draw Cabinet's attention to my remarks so that Cabinet can review the position and ensure that a Minister is head of his department and has the prestige associated with that position. I do not expect a Minister to investigate everything in his department: he can call for a report, but he should make the final decision. Actually, in his reply to the member for Millicent, the Minister said, "All I can do is make public statements in regard to these questions." The Minister at a school opening, a university function, or in Parliament, expresses his opinion about what should be done in his department hoping that his subordinate officer, the Director of Education, will take heed of it.

Mr. Jennings: Don't you know that the same applies to the Minister of Railways?

Mr. LAWN: There is a difference in the Ministers. At least the Minister of Education has the ability to run his department. I think all honourable members will know what I mean and will agree with me. The Minister of Education has the ability and he is a man in whom I have confidence. Although we disagree politically, I say unhesitatingly that I would have full confidence in the Minister of Education running his department, but I could not honestly stand on my feet and say that I have any confidence in the Minister of Railways, who is also Minister of Roads. In fact, I will ask a question when we discuss roads later. I am sincere in the point I have raised this evening and I hope that the Minister of Education will see the justice of my point in the interests of our Parliamentary institution, if for no other reason. This is not a personal matter that I am raising on the Minister's behalf. Will the Minister explore this matter further to see whether Cabinet cannot give him final authority in his own department, and not have that authority vested, as apparently it is now, in the Director of Education?

Mr. McKEE: Can the Minister explain the item "Overseas visits of officers, £200"?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: This is an additional amount to cover the expenses in connection with the overseas visit of the Inspector of High Schools.

Mr. CLARK: Recently I raised the matter of Salisbury and Elizabeth being included in the metropolitan area in connection with technical high schools, and the Minister gave me a

full reply. I said that, because Salisbury boys and girls had to travel to the Elizabeth technical high schools and pay their travelling expenses, in future it meant that many of them would not attend those schools, but would go to the Salisbury High School. People associated with that school are concerned, as well as those interested in the Elizabeth technical high schools. I am concerned because in the main this is related to newcomers to the district who find the additional expense somewhat burdensome. I fear that some of the boys and girls, because of the circumstances of their parents, will have to attend the high school when they would be more suited to receiving technical high school education. I am not taking sides in this matter because each type of school is doing an excellent job. The Minister gave me a careful reply according to the views of his officers, but will he again look at the matter to see if the difficulty can be overcome?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I shall do that.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The sum of £548,000 is to be spent on buses for the conveyance of pupils. Several members, including the Treasurer, have raised the matter of transporting children living outside the metropolitan area to schools within that area. I have in mind particularly the Blackwood High School. When I raised the matter on July 26 the Minister said:

I suggest that it is beyond the resources of the Education Department to provide these facilities, particularly at present, but the whole matter is now being considered in relation to the Estimates.

That gave me some hope that we might see a change in departmental policy when the Budget was presented. The proposed expenditure this year is an increase of £34,468 on last year's expenditure, which rather confirms the hope that the present anomalous position will be rectified. Children from outside the metropolitan area are transported to primary schools within that area, but the same facility is not provided for children attending secondary schools that happen to be in the metropolitan area. Does this increase in expenditure mean that in future the department will be able to transport the children to schools inside the metropolitan area?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: At the time, I hold the honourable member that the matter was being investigated, as it was, and I have just promised the member for Gawler that I shall have another look at the problem.

The increase in expenditure mentioned by the member for Mitcham has not been caused by a change of policy, but by a further increase in the number of vehicles and the extra mileage covered. The Education Department now provides 545 transport services throughout the State, 305 contract services, 80 subsidized services, and 160 departmental buses. The number increases as additional facilities are made available. Constant pressure is on country members in particular for new services where none exist, and for extensions to existing services. The services constantly fluctuate because of changes in employment of families in different localities. Because of the tremendous pressure to provide additional services the Treasurer felt he was not able now to extend the scope and pay for children coming into the metropolitan area, although that is desirable. The Treasurer has several classes of people in his district requiring it, and as the member for the district he impresses it upon me, in the same way as the members for Mitcham, Gawler and Onkaparinga do, but we have not been able to do anything in the matter up to the present. I am sympathetic and will have another look at it.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Can the Minister say whether it is customary for the department to insure school material and equipment? A reference is made to the replacement of material and equipment destroyed by fire at three schools. Does the department carry its own insurance?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Until recent years the Government carried all its insurance, but we had a spate of fires in schools. Fortunately, they were in a narrow compass of time. Someone set the fashion and irresponsible people followed it. It was an expensive business to have timber frame schools and equipment destroyed by fire, and it was decided that it would be cheaper to take out a cover, which the Treasurer did on very good terms. We have found it to be a payable proposition.

Mr. LANGLEY: Will the Minister of Education consider a further increase in the allowance made at the beginning of each year for school books?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Each year we consider this very vexed question of the cost of books, and we rely on the expert advice of the heads of some of our larger secondary schools. These people do not always agree exactly on what the allowance should be, but from the consensus of opinion we obtained last year I was advised by the then Deputy Director

of Education (Mr. Griggs) that the allowance was adequate, and no increase was recommended. However, we will be considering the matter again before the beginning of the next school year.

Mr. CLARK: I notice that £3,000 is provided for bringing teachers from overseas. Can the Minister say whether we are still bringing some teachers from overseas to South Australia?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes, particularly secondary teachers and more particularly high school teachers and special teachers that we cannot always obtain here, such as gifted teachers for handicapped children. The number of teachers coming is not large, but we are endeavouring from time to time to obtain them, with a fair measure of success.

Mr. JENNINGS: Can the Minister provide any information about the number of teachers who are attracted to this department from overseas but who return overseas disillusioned and disappointed?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I have not those details, but I know that a number of them have come and gone back, if not disillusioned, certainly disappointed. However, I am indebted to a large number of them who have come out here with their families, settled in very well, and carried out a remarkably fine job in many of our high schools; I do not know what we would have done without them. Others were disappointed for a variety of reasons. Some of these teachers claimed that the position had not been correctly represented to them; they thought that because of their qualifications they would gain promotion more speedily, whereas they did not have the qualifications necessary to go beyond a certain level. Other teachers or their wives and families did not like the climate or the locality, and unfortunately some of them left. Some, of course, have gone into other institutions or to private schools or colleges, so they are not wholly lost to the cause of teaching.

Mr. HALL: Small amounts are provided for incidental expenses associated with the free milk scheme. I realize that apart from these small amounts the scheme is financed entirely by the Commonwealth Government. I know that in certain country schools this scheme is considered a nuisance, especially in the hot weather, because milk is very difficult to keep. I am sure that people in my district would much rather see the money spent in providing buses for the transport of their children than

on free milk. Will the Minister express an opinion on whether he thinks this scheme is worth while and whether good value is being obtained from the money so expended?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: First, the money for school buses is provided out of the State's revenue and the money for the free milk scheme is provided by the Commonwealth: the State Education Department merely administers it. By and large, this scheme is very successful. I would be disappointed, and I am sure thousands of children and their parents would also be disappointed, if the scheme was not continued.

Mr. RYAN: Last year £500 was voted for Education Week and £627 was actually spent, but this year only £20 is proposed. Can the Minister say whether it is laid down when Education Week shall take place; whether, for instance, it follows a set pattern of years or whether it is left to the Education Department to decide in which year it shall be held? In view of the small amount of £627 actually spent last year, which amount does not go very far these days, can the Minister say whether Education Week in the past has been a success and whether it has resulted in any benefit to the department?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Last year the item was merely a carry-over to provide for accounts which were outstanding at the time, and the provision of £20 for this year is merely to keep the line open so that it will be there if and when a decision is made to have a further Education Week. I think the general consensus of opinion in educational circles, not only in the Education Department but throughout all the independent schools and colleges, the university, the Institute of Technology, and the Kindergarten Union, was that Education Week was an outstanding success and that it had a tremendous impact on the cause of education generally. However, at the same time the vast majority of people who were closely associated with it say that they do not think it is possible for South Australia to run an Education Week annually with success. I know that it is an annual event in New South Wales, but because of that I do not think it has anything like the impact there that it has in South Australia.

Mr. Shannon: It would mean a tremendous amount of work for officers of your department.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes.

Mr. Clark: It takes up much time.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes. I think the general consensus of opinion is that it should not be held any more often than every other year or perhaps every three years.

Mr. Ryan: Nothing is laid down about it?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: No. What I usually do is call in the members of the central authority of the Teachers Institute and the Executive Committee of the Public Schools Committees' Association and a few interested bodies with the Director and some of the principal officers of the department to discuss what they think about it, and then when we get some degree of unanimity I call a much larger meeting and later I take the matter up with Cabinet for a final decision. I have no doubt at all that another Education Week will be held before long, but no decision will be made at this stage and no discussions are taking place regarding it.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: As a contribution towards the cost of developing or improving recreation grounds, £4,000 is provided. Will the Minister say whether the Government intends to subsidize recreation grounds on a pound-for-pound basis or whether straight-out grants will be made?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The money will be provided on a pound-for-pound subsidy basis.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: For maintenance, etc., of high schools, £529,000 is provided. As the Minister knows, there have been considerable agitation, pressure, imprecations and almost prayers (with which I respectfully concur) over the last few years to make the Urrbrae Agricultural High School a boarding high school, as was originally intended. Nothing has been done, although I know the Minister agreed with this in principle in years gone by. Does the Minister think the time is close when this can be done? Also, there is a great deal of agitation at the school for additional permanent classrooms and, although this is a Loan matter, if the Minister could provide information about it I should be grateful.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I think the time is coming closer when we can start to plan for a boarding school at Urrbrae, but I hasten to add that the words "close" and "closer" are relative terms and that we have so many pressures for day schools (infant, primary and secondary) that I cannot and do not want to say when this can be done because, nearly every time I make a prophecy, I find later that I cannot fulfil it. We are doing some planning, but I cannot say when this will be brought to fruition.

Mr. LAUCKE: Last year a loss of £5,416 was made on publishing the *Children's Hour*, and this year £2,000 is provided for this item.

Does the reduction mean that there will be any major alteration in the form of this publication or that there will be any decrease in its value?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The whole matter is being reorganized, but I hope this publication will still be conducted with great value to the children.

Line passed.

Libraries Department, £270,700; Museum Department, £53,460; Art Gallery Department, £32,559—passed.

Miscellaneous, £3,729,728.

Mr. HALL: For subsidies to institutes *pro rata* to their approved subscription incomes up to a maximum subscription income of £500 per annum, £7,000 is provided, which is a reduction of £250 on last year's expenditure. I cannot understand this in relation to the development of institutes in my district, where there has been a great upsurge in the building and maintenance of institutes. Fine institutes have been built at Port Broughton and Brinkworth, and these substantial buildings reflect great credit on the districts. Substantial additions have been made to institutes at Owen, Port Wakefield and Mallala, and nearly every town in my district has had institutes left from the early days. This applies to Snowtown, Blyth, Red Hill and Balaklava. Almost without exception the district is served with good, well-maintained buildings to cater for all needs. The libraries may have suffered because of the effect of television, of course. A reduction in this line is not in keeping with the great development of institutes in my area, which has been carried on to such an extent that I cannot see any need in the near future for new institute buildings. Will the Minister explain the reduction?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The matter was carefully investigated by the Treasury on the budget submitted by the Institutes Association. Worked out on the three or four categories outlined, there was a reduction. I share the honourable member's admiration for a great many institutes. I think controversies that have raged in the last year or so have produced some beneficial effects and that many members of institute committees are realizing their responsibilities to the community and are livening up the institutes in many ways. As I said at the annual conference of the Institutes Association a few weeks ago, I intend soon to initiate discussions with the Public Libraries Board and the Council of the Institutes Association

to see if we can get some better working agreement between the two bodies, both of which are capable of doing an immense amount of good for the public and, indeed, are achieving it. With closer co-operation and the pooling of ideas, I believe that in conjunction with the Government they can do much better in future than they have done in the past.

Mr. LAUCKE: Although £1,200 was paid to the Youth Clubs Association last year, no provision is made this year. Will the Minister say whether there is any reason for the deletion?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The Youth Clubs Association approached me two or three years ago and asked for a special grant. It was doing fine work in bringing all these clubs together and it was developing one or two camps—I think one was at Macclesfield. I recommended to the Treasurer that the association be granted £500, and this was approved. The next year the grant was doubled and a special grant of, I think, £200 was made to purchase chairs from the Radium Hill surplus. That brought the total to £1,200. Some time ago the National Fitness Council waited as a deputation on the Treasurer and suggested that it would be far better if these grants were consolidated into one grant to the National Fitness Council. The £200 was a non-recurring item, but the other £1,000 was transferred from the Youth Clubs Association to the National Fitness Council.

Mr. BYWATERS: I would not have spoken had it not been for the question of the member for Barossa on this line. I am disappointed at the amount made available to the National Fitness Council for distribution to the various youth organizations. I understand that the amount mentioned was formerly paid to the Youth Clubs Association. There is a distinction between the Youth Clubs Association and the youth organizations' committee that came to the Treasurer. I believe £500 has to come out of that £5,000 allotted to the National Fitness Council, reducing the amount to £4,500. An amount of £2,000 was given last year. Therefore, the increase is £2,500 for the National Fitness Council to distribute amongst youth organizations. Thus, the amount to be distributed is meagre and has caused some concern as to the allocation of the money. In addition, extra administrative costs will be incurred by the National Fitness Council. This amount will prove an embarrassment. More money

should be made available for this important work. The work being done helps to keep youths active, in which case they do not get into trouble. Because of this I believe it is not a grant in the true sense of the word, but an investment, because youth is being well trained and well looked after. This work should be greatly extended. The Minister said that the National Fitness Council asked that this money should be distributed by it. I believe that the initial deputation to the Treasurer asked that a special Act be passed to deal with the distribution of this money, and that it should be under the control of the Minister. I understand that during the course of discussions it was suggested that the National Fitness Council should be the body to distribute the money. The council is happy to do this, but problems will be created because of the meagreness of the amount.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I am glad to see that £35,000 has been provided for residential colleges. Can the Minister give further details of how that amount will be spent?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: It will be shared *pro rata*.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Has the Minister any details?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: No.
Line passed.

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRY.

Department of Labour and Industry, £133,576; Miscellaneous, £2,055—passed.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FORESTS.

Minister of Agriculture Department, £7,153; Agriculture Department, £843,049; Agricultural College Department, £137,451; Produce Department, £285,728; Fisheries and Game Department, £44,059; Chemistry Department, £69,296—passed.

Miscellaneous, £481,880.

Mr. HALL: I understand that at some stage the Minister spoke on the provision of funds for roads in inaccessible areas to facilitate bush fire fighting. Has the provision for the Bush Fire Advisory Committee anything to do with this question? Is the Minister aware of how much is being allocated to fire-fighting access roads?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Agriculture): The access road works referred to by the member for Gouger will be subsidized from the funds of the Bush Fire Research

Committee. Broadly speaking, what the honourable member wishes to know is whether substantial funds will be made available and how they will be spent. Following on the public announcement of the Treasurer some months ago on this subject I arranged with the Bush Fire Research Committee to accept applications from different local government bodies that considered they had difficult access roads that should be improved for bush fire fighting purposes. The committee will consider all these applications and recommend the expenditure necessary to put these roads in order. A wide range of work will be done under this line.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Provision of £120 is made for "Egg drying plant—rent of land". Will the Minister explain that item?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: This expenditure, which has continued for some years, relates to the renting of land from the Railways Department by the South Australian Egg Board.

Mr. LAUCKE: I refer to the item "Fire-fighting Equipment—subsidy towards purchase by volunteer fire-fighting associations, £20,000". Last year the amount voted was £10,000. I commend the Government for having increased the allocation to these worthy associations by 100 per cent, similarly with the insurance companies. What effect will this increased amount have on the rates of subsidy in respect of the various equipment?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: At present vehicles and certain other items of equipment, including uniforms, are subsidized at the rate of 20 per cent or 25 per cent of cost, while all other equipment is subsidized at the rate of 50 per cent. Now that the amounts have been doubled, it will shortly have to be decided to what extent further increases in subsidy can be made. Subsidies up to 66½ per cent are permitted under the Act, and certainly there will be a big increase. Whether the amount for vehicles will be increased to 50 per cent or whether it will be some smaller amount I am not sure, but I expect that everything will be subsidized in future at the rate of 50 per cent.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I notice that the proposed expenditure towards fencing under the item "Fauna and Flora Board" is £1,000. Does that include expenditure on fencing for the board in the hundred of Archibald, east of Tintinara?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: This proposed amount is to fence Flinders Chase on

Kangaroo Island. This money will enable fencing to be proceeded with along the northern boundary.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Under the item "Bush fire prevention publicity" the amount of £400 is one of the smallest provided. For instance, I see that £30,000 is proposed for "Demonstrations and research" and £20,000 for the item "Fire-fighting equipment—subsidy towards purchase by volunteer fire-fighting associations", while £15,000 is proposed towards the cost of maintaining and operating fire-fighting organizations. I would be the last to complain about any expenditure on fire-fighting, but could we not perhaps better use the money on prevention publicity than on providing equipment for fire-fighting? We could make a drastic appeal to the owners of land fronting roads. I appreciate the desirability of asking people in bush fire areas to refrain, as from November 1, from throwing things out of car windows that could cause fires, or from lighting fires in the open. It is essential for people to take sensible precautions. When one travels in the country one sees that some people with land fronting roads have ploughed the land to prevent fires, but in other cases on the strip that is not sealed between the road and the fence (where sometimes there is a footpath), an area 20ft. or 30ft. wide, there is often much growth that can easily catch fire. Although I do not want to deprecate any voluntary work in fire-fighting, for we have too many fires with serious loss ensuing, consideration should be given to whether we can better achieve our ends by increasing expenditure on bush fire prevention publicity rather than on fire-fighting equipment.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I notice that the amount provided for the Waite Agricultural Research Institute is £8,000 less than what was actually spent last year. Can the Minister intimate why this is so?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Waite Institute budget forms part of the University of Adelaide budget which is submitted to the Treasury. I do not know of any embarrassment that is being caused the institute through the grant being less this year. The institute has functioned satisfactorily with heavy Government grants and it has performed outstanding service. Regarding bush fire prevention publicity, a big sum is spent by the Bush Fire Research Committee quite apart from the £400 mentioned in these Estimates. When this committee was formed it queried whether it should deal with publicity and its

powers were widened to permit it to spend money on publicity. Much of its vote is devoted to publicity. We will soon have "Clean-up Week"—I think it commences on October 22—when householders and landholders will be encouraged to clean up all unnecessary inflammable material in preparation for the fire danger period. "Smokey" the koala will again be used for publicity purposes and the Bush Fire Research Committee will again conduct a children's party at the Zoological Gardens. Not only must children be impressed with the need for exercising care, but various steps must be taken to impress motorists to be careful, and farmers and landholders to be sure that their equipment is in good condition. Farmers are also encouraged to take the positive action mentioned by the Leader. We will never rest in this matter. I believe we have improved our approaches to the public.

Mr. SHANNON: It might be inferred from the Leader's remarks that the Bush Fire Research Committee has not carried out its duties properly. This committee has rendered valuable service. I cannot understand why it underspent its vote last year by almost £15,000, but the fact that the Government proposes to increase its grant by £9,121 above its expenditure last year indicates the Government's confidence in this expert committee. Some of its recommendations have been acted upon in my district with great benefit. My district comprises some of the worst country, from a fire-fighting viewpoint, in the Adelaide Hills, because it is difficult terrain and most dangerous for those who have to fight fires there. The Government is encouraging district councils to purchase and maintain fire-fighting equipment by voting £15,000 for this purpose. It is easy to talk of educating people to prevent fires, but I do not know of any way to prevent a fool from doing the wrong thing on a hot day when a north wind is blowing. On bad days we will always have some danger, but I believe we can more effectively prevent the spread of fires now because we are better equipped and our fire fighters are well trained. Much of the credit for this must go to Mr. Kerr. The Bush Fire Research Committee holds fire-fighting demonstrations, which are an invaluable means of educating fire fighters. The amount of £400 for bush fire prevention publicity is a mere bagatelle when compared with the actual amount spent on publicity. The £400 may be for the preparation of road signs. In my district the Apex Club co-operates on a voluntary basis in erecting and maintaining

these signs. I believe that the Bush Fire Research Committee is performing an excellent service.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Can the Minister indicate why no provision is made this year to subsidize volunteer bush fire fighters?

Mr. HALL: Last year an amount of £1,382 was spent for the fees and expenses of the Abattoirs Markets Inquiry Committee, but nothing is proposed for this year. Can the Minister say whether that committee has finished its investigations, whether its recommendations are ready, and whether they will be considered?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Abattoirs Markets Inquiry Committee has not finished its work but is not expected to sit often. At present it is discussing with the Abattoirs Board the divergence of opinion between it and the board on various proposals of last year. In some instances it agrees, but not in others. I have attended meetings of the committee with a view to all facts being discussed and I believe there will be practically a unanimous decision on the proposals. I am working on the matter and hope that something will be decided shortly. Regarding the matter raised by the member for Albert, when the fund exceeds £10,000 no further contributions are received until it falls below that figure. That is why there is no provision this year.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Can the Minister indicate whether the money to be made available for repairs to fishing boat slipways, ramps and facilities is spent in the interests of professional fishermen, or are amateurs also covered?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I do not think there is any specific way in which the money shall be used. I know of one instance where a ramp was constructed and the number of amateur fishermen using it was as great as the number of professional fishermen. I think there is an element of commercial value in that small item.

Linc passed.

MINISTER OF IRRIGATION.

Department of Lands (Irrigation and Drainage), £479,419—passed.

MINISTER OF MINES.

Mines Department, £759,500—passed.

MINISTER OF MARINE.

Harbors Board Department, £1,550,000; Miscellaneous, £16,554—passed.

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS.

Railways Department, £14,430,111.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: At the Islington workshops many men are employed. The workshops are situated within a reasonable distance of the Royal Adelaide and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals, but does the Government intend, in the interests of safety, to appoint a fully qualified and full-time medical officer at the workshops? In some items all the money voted last year has not been spent, and in others there is to be reduced expenditure this year. In the Rolling Stock Branch for mechanics and labourers there is to be a reduced expenditure of £42,659 this year. The money not spent last year could not have been due to labour shortages. It could have been due to some workmen retiring and not being replaced, or to not as much work being done at the workshops as should be done. I cannot understand why we do not make better use of the workshops. I do not want again to refer to the building of diesel-electric locomotives. In the Loan Estimates debate I asked why some obsolete rolling stock was being converted into sleeping vans for use by railway workers in the country, but I have not yet received a reply. Other rolling stock at many different sidings is lying idle and deteriorating through vandalism or neglect and could have been used. This would have been more beneficial in the long run, for it would have provided suitable vehicles at less cost than has already been incurred.

If we are prepared to provide good and modern rolling stock for carrying passengers and to introduce a time table that is somewhere near acceptable to the public, we will then be utilizing railway working to the full. I have great confidence in the railways, provided the necessary equipment is used. I think the demand for railway travel generally is most evident when we see what has happened with the Southern Aurora running between Melbourne and Sydney following the standardization of that line. I should like to see better advertising of the South Australian railways. I believe that many children and even some adults have never travelled by rail. The Government should see that the Railways Department possessed the best quality rolling stock and that it widely advertised the fact that that rolling stock would be used for excursions on weekends and holidays at special fares. People could then enjoy themselves and the department could capitalize on the tourist angle, at the same time assisting our tourist trade.

This morning in the Trades Hall I addressed a conference of the Australian Railways Union, whose members are vitally concerned with their industry. Members of that union have a great interest in railway working, because it affects their livelihood. Undoubtedly, that union will carry certain resolutions. It is not much use saying that we in this State will depend entirely on the quantity of ore that we can safely carry from Broken Hill to Port Pirie, or that because there will be an abundant wheat harvest the rolling stock and equipment in the Railways Department will be fully engaged. I hate to think what could happen on the West Coast, in view of the weekly notice that is sent out from time to time in that division. The Minister of Works knows something of this matter, and I know that he would compliment the men in that division on their ability to keep the trains on the tracks. Unfortunately, the forecast is that we will not have to transport this year the tonnage of wheat that we hoped to have, and it will be interesting to see whether that will result in a further reduction of railway working generally. What other solution can we offer to assist in the welfare and the workings of our railways system? This is a very important matter. I have great faith in our railways, but I have not the same faith in the administration of the department that I had a few years ago.

Mr. Lawn: Have you any faith in the Minister?

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I do not wish to become personal. Can the Minister say whether it is the intention of the Government to appoint a full-time medical officer at the Islington workshops? Can he also say whether there is any reason for the decrease in the expenditure of departments which, I understand, have been asking for more money for vital equipment? I hope the Minister is prepared to give me these answers, and, following that, I ask the Treasurer whether he will report progress.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Minister of Works): The £13,084 provided on the line mentioned by the Leader is a considerable sum. I realize that the staff to be cared for medically is a large one. I do not know whether or not there is a full-time medical officer at Islington, but I presume there is not.

Mr. Frank Walsh: There is a trained nurse.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I do not know if the Leader considers that this is adequate. I have not heard questions asked on this point before, and I do not know whether it is

intended to appoint a medical officer. However, I think the Leader can be assured that the matter will be investigated. I will ask my colleague to make inquiries.

Mr. Shannon: There is a railways medical officer.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes. Also, railwaymen are highly trained in first-aid, and there are safety officers in the works whose efforts are devoted to safety and the avoidance of accidents. Regarding the Leader's second query, it is correct that proposed expenditure is reduced by £42,659. However, if the Leader examines this he will see that, although it appears to be a substantial sum, when placed against a total expenditure of £1,443,239 it is less than a three per cent. reduction. I think he could expect a reduction because much of the more expensive maintenance on the old type of rolling stock has been avoided by the utilization of more modern locomotives and the large expenditure incurred from Loan funds for replacement of rolling stock generally. This, of course, tends to reduce maintenance, and I think this will explain the reason for the reduction.

Mr. CUMBE: On five or six occasions I have pleaded for improved conditions at the North Adelaide railway crossing, and I have mentioned inconvenience caused to road traffic by this crossing, which is a main artery to the northern suburbs and the northern part of this State. The only busier crossings are at Emerson (controlled by automatic lights and automatic gates) and on Port Road (controlled by automatic lights). The North Adelaide crossing is controlled by lights and old-fashioned gates operated by a signalman from a box. The Railways Commissioner has said that nothing can be done and that an alteration involves roadworks on the approaches. The same answer has been given by the Adelaide City Council, within whose area the crossing is situated. No matter how good the signalman (and I am not reflecting on him) he is only human and, if there is a longer than normal space between trains, he sometimes leaves the gates closed, and traffic builds up. If any member goes there between 8 and 9 a.m. and between 4 and 6 p.m. on week days he will see that traffic banks up from this crossing to the Bowden crossing, where a policeman is now situated so that vehicles will not be stopped on the lines. There is also a problem on days when sporting fixtures are held on the Adelaide Oval.

If the automatic lights were retained and perhaps supplemented, and automatic gates

were installed, the position would be greatly improved. Incidentally, automatic gates were installed a few years ago at the Ovingham crossing and they work admirably because, as soon as a train passes, the gates rise and traffic moves on, and, immediately another train approaches, the warning lights flash and the gates lower again. In a busy period often there is a gap of only half a minute or so between trains. At these times the gates rise and some traffic passes, whereas at North Adelaide the gates are often closed while two or three trains pass in each direction. This happens because it is difficult to open and close the gates, but this does not apply to automatic gates. If automatic gates were installed at North Adelaide, the only time they would have to be operated manually would be when shunting occurred, but this does not happen often. The signalman could be placed in a job elsewhere.

My hopes were raised about three months ago when I saw a gang of men widening the road slightly and putting new markings on either side of the crossing, but to my dismay all the lines did was separate the traffic. I know that the road approach on the eastern side presents a problem that is not easy of solution, but, until a scheme has been devised, possibly by the Road Traffic Board, to get over the bottleneck there (which, after all, is aggravated by hold-ups on the crossing), automatic gates should be installed. Although this would take some time, the savings to the general public would be great. This crossing not only is used by people on their way to and from work or travelling for pleasure but is a main business artery between Port Adelaide and the north. The man-hours lost by carrying companies at this crossing is enormous. I ask that this matter be referred to the Commissioner.

Mr. McKEE: At the Ellen Street station at Port Pirie no drinking facilities are provided for the travelling public, and railway employees who work there all the time have to obtain drinking water from hand basins in the toilets. Climatic conditions at Port Pirie are not good and better facilities are warranted for the employees and general public. Other sections of the goods sheds are provided with taps over hand basins, and with water bags. The drinking facilities provided by the Railways Department at Port Pirie are not good. A letter I received from the Commissioner of Railways through the Minister claimed that the facilities were not required by the public at the Ellen Street station. He said that the employees preferred to buy soft drinks, but

I doubt whether they would prefer to do this if cool water were available. Will the Minister again take up this question with the Commissioner of Railways? We have had considerable difficulty on the Port Pirie line in the past when it came to obtaining the facilities required by the public.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I am disappointed to note a reduction of £42,659 for work done in the Rolling Stock Branch. Some consideration should be given to the provision of more work in that branch. No reduction would be needed if all the necessary work were done in that branch. Provision for artisans, gangers, timekeepers, packers, labourers and miscellaneous has been reduced by £9,278. The success of any railway system depends on efficient track maintenance. Last year, when it was considered desirable to create more employment, I would not have been surprised if the amount for this item had been exceeded. One would have expected, in view of the conditions last year, that the expenditure would have been increased, whereas it was decreased. These points should be explained more fully. Surely Parliament is entitled to know.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Leader has referred to the line dealing with artisans, etc. My explanatory note is that this decrease is due to the use of new equipment. Again, the honourable member will see that the decrease of about £9,000 is set against a total expenditure of about £1,583,000, which represents a decrease of about 0.6 per cent. Perhaps he forgets that the Railways Commissioner, from my observations (and I use that expression advisedly), has been replacing the ordinary sleeper-by-sleeper maintenance with a fairly large programme of line rebuilding. That is occurring on Eyre Peninsula and in other areas and it was shown in the Loan Estimate figures, but is not shown in these Estimates. Furthermore, I notice with much pleasure that the Commissioner is tending to provide his way and works men with better equipment with which to work and the Leader will agree that that is a step in the right direction. Those factors will probably explain this slight decrease. From the point of view of efficiency in the Railways Department and the running of trains I believe that the Commissioner's policy of relaying in larger sections instead of doing maintenance sleeper by sleeper by small gangs has much to commend it. That is the information I have and when all factors are taken into account it is a satisfactory explanation and one that should commend itself to the Leader.

Mr. LOVEDAY: I notice that on page 112 under "Rolling Stock Branch" £50,000 is proposed for writing off obsolete stocks and under "Way and Works Branch" £15,000 is proposed for writing off obsolete stocks, making a total of £65,000. Are those stocks disposed of? One thing that strikes one about railway workshop yards is the tremendous amount of rusty material and obsolete stock that has been lying around for years, including locomotives that obviously will not be used again. In these days when scrap can be cut up rapidly, it seems a waste of good material to leave it lying about when there is a good market for scrap both locally and overseas. Has this matter ever been investigated, not only from the point of view of turning to good account this wasting material but also from the point of view of making better use of a considerable amount of space, because this material takes up much room? It may be that the position of this material results in additional transport of other used material. Obviously some of it may have value and could be used again. On the other hand, much of it stands wasting and rotting. Carriages are subject to vandalism and are completely worthless. This aspect of railway management could be looked into to try to get rid of what is obsolete as soon as possible for the reasons I have given.

Mr. LANGLEY: Some new bells have been installed at the Victoria Street crossing, Goodwood. Representations were made to the Minister of Railways about the noise and loss of sleep caused by them to people in this area. They cannot entertain because of the noise. These bells, which ring consistently, even during the night, are close to houses. Will the Minister of Works take up with his colleague, the Minister of Railways, the stopping of these bells during the night? There is plenty of light there and people go to bed with wadding in their ears to try to get some sleep. They have to shut their windows.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The matter is being investigated and I will endeavour to expedite a reply.

Line passed.

Transport Control Board, £20,025.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I have always regarded this board as an irksome necessity. I refer to the line "Refund of interstate permit fees". An amount of £300 was voted last year. Will the Minister of Works explain that line?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes. As the honourable member may know, under a High

Court ruling certain fees collected from interstate hauliers were declared invalid. The Government therefore took immediate steps to refund the fees so collected. In the present year it is not expected that any refunds will be required. The board presumes that the calculable refunds have all been made. There is no need to make further provision for them.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF ROADS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Office of Minister, £6,769.

Mr. LAWN: On August 30 I asked a question about traffic signs on Park Terrace. I will quote my question in full because I do not want to be accused, when the Minister is giving his reply, of not having stated what the question was. I want to make it clear so that members can relate the Minister's reply to the question. I am directing my comments to the Minister of Roads, not the Minister of Works in this place. My question on August 30 stated:

My question has reference to traffic signs on Park Terrace between South Terrace, Adelaide, and Goodwood, Unley and Parkside. In travelling from west to east there are about three signs along the road which require traffic to deviate and keep to the left. Motorists who know the road and are travelling in the evening know that on each of these three intersections is a sign to deviate. However, I have noticed that a number of motorists go straight through, because, unless one knows the road, one will not see the signs. They are away on the left side and are not lit. Will the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Roads, take the matter up with his colleague to see if these signs can be illuminated?

The Minister replied "I will do that." It can be appreciated from the question that I was referring not to the intersections being badly lit but to the deviation signs that are off the road on the left side and apply to traffic travelling from west to east; they do not apply to traffic travelling from east to west. I made the question clear. I, like other members, have on occasion waited for my question to be considered and to receive a reply from the Minister of Works representing the Minister of Roads.

To my surprise, a few days later (my question was asked only on August 30) on September 7 I received a letter from the Minister of Roads in reply to that question as follows:

Following your verbal inquiry regarding traffic signs on Park Terrace, I have spoken to the Traffic Engineer, Mr. Johnke. Mr. Johnke tells me that until recently this road was under the direct control of the councils and, although he had made certain suggestions regarding the

signs, nothing had been done. However, now that the Highways Department has taken over the responsibility for Park Terrace, Mr. Johnke assures me that the Road Traffic Board will be dealing with all the important direction signs at the earliest opportunity.

It appears to be a sensible letter, and I was pleased when I received and read it. I thought, "Obviously, the question has been thoroughly understood by the Minister" (who I doubted had the ability to understand it!). I was thrilled to think that he had understood it and I was also pleased to think that the difficulty in regard to these signs had been noticed by the Traffic Engineer (Mr. Johnke). He had drawn the attention of the councils to this matter whilst the road was under their jurisdiction and they had failed to act. But now, as I pointed out in my question, I asked if this matter could be placed by the Minister before the Road Traffic Board, and the Minister tells me that, now that the Highways Department has taken over the control of Park Terrace, the matter will be placed before the Road Traffic Board and dealt with at the earliest opportunity. I was pleased with that.

To my surprise a few days later I received the usual advice that the Minister had a reply. I was disillusioned but tried to be fair, and the Minister of Works will bear me out that I pointed out to him that the letter I had just received was different from the reply he was going to give. I showed the letter to the Minister of Works who could see that there was a difference in the two replies. The matter was deferred for a few days and the Minister of Works, in giving the reply this afternoon, said that there had been some misunderstanding. The Minister's reply this afternoon was as follows:

My colleague, the Minister of Roads, has informed me that an inspection has been made of the intersections of Park Terrace between Anzac Highway and Eastwood Terrace. It is agreed that the lighting facilities are inadequate and should be increased. However, the lighting of intersections is the responsibility of the local governing authority concerned. Therefore, any representations which may be made to improve the illumination of the signs at the intersections referred to should be referred to the Corporation of Unley, which is the local government authority controlling this portion of Park Terrace.

In the letter the Minister of Roads informed me that Mr. Johnke had drawn the attention of the councils concerned to the traffic signs but that nothing had been done; however, now that the Highways Department was taking over Park Terrace it was referring the matter to the proper authority—the Road Traffic Board. In

his prepared reply, given by the Minister of Works this afternoon, the Minister of Roads states that the lighting facilities at the intersections are bad, that the lighting of those intersections is the responsibility of the local government authority, and that any representations I want to make should be made to the Unley council, which is the local government authority controlling that portion of Park Terrace.

Mr. Bywaters: Who answered your letter?

Mr. LAWN: The Minister of Roads dictated the letter I read earlier. It is available for any member to see. There can be no doubt that the Minister dictated the letter, not his secretary or anyone else. The reply given by the Minister of Works this afternoon was returned to the Minister of Roads for checking. The Minister of Roads was responsible for that reply. I think all honourable members will agree with me when I say that we all know the Minister of Roads to be a fatuous, incompetent, muddle-headed nincompoop—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Standing Order No. 49 does not permit any member of this place to refer in unbecoming language to any member of another place. I ask the honourable member to withdraw.

Mr. LAWN: I withdraw, and substitute that the Minister does try to look wise. The facts that I have given members are completely true and no objection can be taken to them. Government members heard them in silence. All they can take exception to is my description of their Minister. They must formulate, in their own minds, thoughts of a Minister who is capable of giving two totally different replies in respect of one question.

Mr. Jenkins: You cannot condemn anyone for one mistake.

Mr. LAWN: It is not a mistake. I said that I had received a letter that I showed to the Minister of Works when he said he had a prepared reply to my question. That reply was referred back to the Minister of Roads for checking. I did not attempt to take advantage of the position. The Minister of Roads could have corrected the reply that was given to me this afternoon. Presumably the Minister reconsidered his reply, so surely I am entitled to rise and speak of that particular Minister. Earlier this afternoon I spoke of the Minister of Education, but I did not describe him in similar terms. He represents almost 30,000 electors. The Minister of Roads represents one-quarter of the 25,550 electors in the Southern District. He represents many sheep, goats, galahs—

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. LAWN: The reply I received this afternoon indicates just what he does represent. I close with those remarks. I think it is about time that the leader of the Government took stock of his Cabinet Ministers. We know that he is the guiding star, but surely to goodness we can have better representation in Cabinet than a Cabinet Minister who thinks—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There is no line dealing with Ministers of the Cabinet.

Mr. LAWN: Oh yes! The office of Minister—

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is referring to Cabinet Ministers.

Mr. LAWN: I was only concluding on that note. The gentleman—and I do not want to describe him in unparliamentary language—who holds the office of Minister of Roads—

Mr. Clark: You would be the last to do that.

Mr. LAWN: Yes. Surely his leader should take stock of the position to see whether he cannot get it filled by a gentleman who can give more sensible answers to questions raised by members in this place.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I think that this matter calls for a brief word from me. I am afraid that the honourable member has entangled himself in his own lack of information. The facts are these: in his original question—and I want to deal as kindly as I can with him—he referred to the fact that the signs were in a position where they were difficult to see at night. That, of course, raises the thought in the mind of anyone to whom the question is directed as to how better to illuminate those signs so that they can be seen at night. The Commissioner of Highways has no power to light any road except two highways—Port Road and Anzac Highway—which are the only roads on which he may spend money for lighting purposes.

Mr. Shannon: That is covered by special Act of Parliament.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I accept that. That being so it is correct that, although the Highways Commissioner has taken over Park Terrace, if lighting is required it is still the responsibility of the local council concerned.

Mr. Lawn: I am not disputing that.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: However, if it is a question of shifting or altering or standardizing the signs on the road, that is a matter for the Highways Commissioner on the recommendation of the Road Traffic Board.

I think that makes the matter perfectly clear. If the honourable member wants better lighting to illuminate the existing signs, that is a matter for the local government authority. If he wants the signs shifted, altered or standardized, that is a matter for the Highways Commissioner, and probably for recommendation by the Road Traffic Board. If the honourable member had only taken the trouble to examine the matter thoroughly, he would have realized that there was no inconsistency in the two advices he received, and I think on reflection he will regret having reflected on my colleague, the Minister of Roads, in that way.

Mr. LAWN: I anticipated that something along those lines might be said so I quoted in full the question I asked on August 30. My question referred to traffic signs and at no time did I complain about the illumination of the intersection. I consider that it is well lit, and I have no complaint about it. The Minister said that if there were any complaint about its being badly lit it was a matter for the council, and I did not disagree. I did not raise any query about the lighting of the intersection, for I find it adequate. I clearly said that there were three deviation signs when travelling from west to east along Park Terrace, and that they could not be seen by the travelling public. Unless a driver knew the terrace he would not know that they were there.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: You said you could not see them at night.

Mr. LAWN: If two motor vehicles travelled abreast during the day the signs could not be seen, but I did not refer to all the disabilities. It is obvious to all who travel along the terrace that the signs are in a bad position. All my queries were in connection with the signs.

Mr. Fred Walsh: The road could be widened.

Mr. LAWN: Yes, and that would do away with the three deviations. I said that the Minister clearly understood the complaint, and that he said it was a matter that Mr. Johnke had under control before I raised it in Parliament, and that it would be placed before the board. It was a sensible reply, and if the Minister had stopped there I would not have spoken again, but he persisted in sending the second reply. I do not hold anything against the Minister of Works for standing up for his colleague in another place, but I make it

clear that I did not complain about the intersection being badly lit, and to make sure that no-one could say I misrepresented the position I quoted in full the question I asked on August 30. If members read that question, as reported on page 806 of *Hansard*, they will see that the complaint was about the three signs, which the Minister now says is a matter for the Road Traffic Board.

Line passed.

Highways and Local Government Department, £616,879; Miscellaneous, £36,757—passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2).

The Estimates were adopted by the House and an Appropriation Bill for £70,646,000 was founded in Committee of Ways and Means, introduced by the Hon. Sir Thomas Playford, and read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It is for the appropriation of £70,646,000, details of which are set out in the Estimates which have just been dealt with. Clause 2 provides for the further issue of £50,646,000, being the difference between the amount authorized by the three Supply Acts (£20,000,000) and the total of the appropriation required in this Bill. Clause 3 sets out the amount to be appropriated and the details of the appropriation to the various departments and functions. This clause also provides that increases of salaries or wages that become payable pursuant to any return made by a properly constituted authority may be paid, and that the amount available in the Governor's Appropriation Fund shall be increased by the amount necessary to pay the increases. It further provides that if the cost of electricity for pumping water through the Mannum-Adelaide main and from bores in the Adelaide water district, and through the Morgan-Whyalla water main, should be greater than the amounts set down in the Estimates the Governor may authorize the additional expenditure, and the amount available in the

Governor's Appropriation Fund shall be increased by the amount of such additional expenditure.

Clause 4 authorizes the Treasurer to pay moneys from time to time authorized by warrants issued by the Governor and provides that the receipts obtained from the payee shall be the discharge to the Treasurer for the moneys paid. Clause 5 authorizes the use of Loan funds or other public funds if the moneys received from the Commonwealth and the general revenue of the State are insufficient to make the payments authorized by this Bill. Clause 6 gives authority to make payments in respect of a period prior to July 1, 1962, or at a rate in excess of the rate in force under any return made by the Public Service Board or any regulation of the South Australian Railways Commissioner. Clause 7 provides that amounts appropriated by this Bill are in addition to other amounts properly appropriated. The Bill is the annual Appropriation Bill. It contains the necessary provisions to enable the Government to function, and it has no unusual features. I commend it for the consideration of honourable members.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): Owing to the lack of rain the question of the cost of pumping water, particularly to the metropolitan area, must cause great concern to all. Although rain has appeared likely at times, it seems that the season is now so late that we will be fortunate indeed if we get rains in our catchment areas to benefit the reservoirs. Further expenditure will have to be incurred on pumping water from the Mannum-Adelaide main. However, at the rate money is being made available for carrying on the business of the State, probably within a couple of years the sum required will exceed £100,000,000 and perhaps this additional expense will not be so noticeable. I support the second reading.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 10.47 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, September 26, at 2 p.m.