

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Thursday, November 1, 1962.

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

**ASSENT TO BILLS.**

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the following Bills:

Mining Act Amendment,

The Electricity Trust of South Australia (Torrens Island Power Station),

Banks Statutory Obligations Amendment.

**QUESTIONS.****PETROL PRICES.**

Mr. HUTCHENS: An article in this morning's press states that the price of standard petrol is to be increased by a halfpenny a gallon and that the Prices Commissioner is considering prices for country areas. Can the Premier say why the increase has been granted and how country prices will be determined?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The octane rating of both standard and premium grade petrol has been increased, and this has involved the oil companies in additional cost. To compensate for that, the companies have benefited from decreases in the cost of certain other items, and this means that the companies are providing, under the new order, the higher rating petrol at the same price as previously; they are getting no increase whatever, notwithstanding the improved rating in both grades of petrol. For some time the petrol resellers have been working on very low margins compared with those in other States. Applications made by them have been examined by the Prices Commissioner, and there is not the slightest doubt in his mind that margins are due for some revision. The increase of a halfpenny a gallon in the price of standard grade petrol goes not to the oil companies but to the resellers. No increase in the price of premium grade petrol is proposed. Regarding the country, the Prices Commissioner from time to time conducts a survey to ascertain whether petrol prices cover distribution costs, and such an investigation is now being carried out. It is sufficient for me to say that when it is completed the investigation will mean that some reductions can be made in the country. The investigation already shows that the distribution cost can be reduced in the country and that the metropolitan area can be expanded a little further, so there are two aspects involved. This information is based on disclosed costs of distribution.

**INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY.**

Mr. COUMBE: An article in today's press refers to the greatly expanded industrial activity in Australia as a whole, with secondary industry being much busier than in the past, and states that in some way this has been caused by an influx of foreign capital. Can the Premier indicate whether South Australia is getting its proportionate share of this industrial activity; what steps the Government is taking to attract other industries to this State; and whether early in the New Year he will hasten the setting up of a Premier's Department, which is designed specifically, I understand, to attract industries to this State?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: It is difficult for me to answer the honourable member's question because it involves a comparison between what is happening here and in other places, and it is not easy to get a day-to-day comparison. I believe that we are getting our share of this activity. We have had some break-through this week, for instance, in salt development at Port Augusta. It appears now that that project is going along quite satisfactorily, and I believe that in due course it will become a big undertaking. I am not sure whether all the conditions have yet been sufficiently fulfilled to enable the matter to go to the Public Works Committee, but I believe they have been. I have not been able to check on all the matters involved, but undoubtedly we have scope for that expansion. One or two other interesting investigations are going ahead, and I believe we are getting our share. When a comparison is made with other States, two things are involved: first, the new companies, and, secondly, the expansion taking place from day to day in companies already established. In these circumstances, I cannot give an authoritative answer to the question.

Regarding the Premier's Department, the Government wants to organize this matter on the best possible basis, and I was not satisfied before this session was called that I had all the answers. I still wanted to see one or two things and make one or two personal investigations. However, I hope some action can be taken fairly early in the new year.

Mr. RICHES: I listened with great interest to the Premier saying that a break-through had now been made in the development of the salt industry near Port Augusta. The hopes of Port Augusta have centred around the development of that industry, and the people there hope that other industries will be associated with it. We have been told that a first essential is some better provision for loading salt on to

ships and for the access of Japanese shipping to the vicinity of the salt pans. Can the Premier give the House any further information about current development, particularly regarding the type of handling equipment proposed which, I understood him to say, was almost ready for reference to the Public Works Committee?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. The position is that the salt industry supplies a relatively cheap material and a big industry establishing would have to rely on export, as the Australian salt market is, I think, fairly well catered for already under existing arrangements. So we have been looking for a plant for the export of salt, particularly to Japan, which is a large importer. Developments would have to take place upon the assumption that the salt to be exported would be produced cheaply and made available in a form that would enable the cheapest possible form of transportation overseas to Japan to be used.

In those circumstances, the Minister of Works six or eight months ago instructed the Harbors Board to investigate alternative proposals for the best way of loading the salt from the salt pans into the ships. The first suggestion was that we should have pure belt-loading from the salt pans into the ship, but the length of the belts would be so great that the shipping authorities were not much impressed with that idea because they said that a breakdown of a long length of belt could hold up a big ship indefinitely, and to repair it in deep water would be costly. The second proposal examined was one by which the salt would be pumped in brine out to a stock pile adjacent to the ship. This idea was attractive, but not so attractive as a further proposal now being prepared in a much more detailed form—that is, that road transport should be used to convey the salt from the salt pans across an embankment to an island that would be established close to the deep water. The development of that idea, which would cost about £1,100,000, envisages an island that would be established in the gulf and capable of loading about 40,000 tons of salt adjacent to where the ship would be berthed along dolphins with an embankment with a road on top of it going back to the salt fields. That project would provide the cheapest and quickest way of loading salt and would enable us to provide a berth, if necessary, of up to 40ft.—which would, incidentally, probably provide a first-class harbour for Port Augusta if any big tonnages of other materials had to be shipped from

that area. If my memory serves me correctly, the capacity of this plant would be 700 tons loading an hour.

#### PARKSIDE CRAFT CENTRE.

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding the woodwork and home science centre at the Parkside Primary School?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I have received a fairly lengthy report from the Director of Education. The concluding paragraph (which is the most important) states:

In view of the fact that the teaching of woodwork to grade 7 boys is to be progressively reduced in the educational interests of these boys and not suddenly stopped, I would be quite prepared to recommend, for your consideration, that the proposed closing of the Parkside centre should be deferred for, say, 12 months so that further consideration can be given to the matter.

#### MISS AUSTRALIA.

Mr. HARDING: My question is addressed to you, Mr. Speaker. Will you, on behalf of members of this House, send either a telegram or a letter to Miss Tricia Reschke expressing our most sincere congratulations on the occasion of her unanimous election to the high office of Miss Australia?

The SPEAKER: I am certain that the honourable member is expressing the views of all members of this House. Because of that, and as his request meets with the approval of every member of this House, I shall be glad to comply with it.

#### DESALINATION.

Mr. BYWATERS: Recently, I attended a conference at Shepparton, Victoria, where concern was expressed about the shortage of water in Australia and particular reference was made to the proposal to take water from the Goulburn Valley to Melbourne at the expense of the agriculturists in the valley. During the conference the Vice-President of the Murray Valley Development League read an article that appeared in a recent issue of the *Home News and Farmers' Journal*. As this is interesting and of benefit to the State, I shall read it. The article, which refers to a broadcast made by the British Broadcasting Commission, states:

Desalting sea water economically—Recently, Bryan Silcock quoted a forecast made by the managing director of a British company specializing in sea-water conversion plants that in five or 10 years' time desalted sea-water might be available at 2s. a thousand gallons. This is a price fairly close to what some

British cities are already paying for fresh water from lakes and rivers, and in drier climates water—for irrigation, for industry, and for drinking—can be much more expensive. Unfortunately, said Silcock, there was no prospect of a sea-water conversion plant producing fresh water so cheaply if that plant did nothing else. The secret of cheapness was to combine the conversion plant with a power station generating electricity.

The most hopeful process for desalting sea-water, he explained, was that known as the "vapour flash" process. "Heated sea-water passes through a series of low pressure chambers and in each chamber, because of the lowered pressure, some of the water 'flashes' into vapour. The vapour is then condensed to give fresh water. The heat the vapour gives up when it condenses back into water is used to warm the incoming cold sea-water before it reaches the heater." One of the most recent plants on these line supplies the Channel Island of Guernsey with 500,000 gallons of fresh water a day.

"Obviously," said Silcock, "The process would be a lot more economical if a supply of warm sea-water were available, and that is why it is so profitable to combine a conversion plant with a power station, for power stations discharge enormous amounts of warm water from their cooling systems. The water is not hot enough for most industrial uses, but warm sea-water is cheaper to desalt than cold sea-water. In some ways the desalting situation is like the nuclear power situation. Neither can yet compete with conventional sources except in very special circumstances, but, just as the world's supplies of coal and oil will not last forever, there is a limit to the amount of surface and underground water available."

Has the Premier any knowledge of this matter and, if he has, will he consider it in relation to the power station on Torrens Island?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Minister of Works has collected much information on this topic and the Engineer-in-Chief has paid some attention to seeing development overseas. Having said that, I shall now express my own personal view. After having discussed this matter with experts from Great Britain and the United States of America, I believe desalting of sea-water will always be much more expensive in most places than supplying natural water. It may be possible to desalt water at places like Maralinga, where no fresh water is available except over long distances. However, we are supplying water in Adelaide through our present system at 2s. and 2s. 3d. a thousand gallons, delivered under pressure. The same system is providing water from the Murray River right up to Whyalla at 2s. 6d. a thousand gallons. It may be said that this does not cover all the costs, and that is so because a certain amount of social service enters into this, but it covers a substantial part of the cost of delivering water

under pressure. If water from the Torrens Island power station were desalted, all the reticulation costs (which are the prime costs of water today) would still have to be added on. One would resort to the method suggested only where one could not get water in any other way. Even if Goulburn Valley water is diverted to Melbourne, provided that we can get the Chowilla dam South Australia will be amply provided with water in the foreseeable future. The volume of water that would be stored in the Chowilla dam would be sufficient to cover any projected development of this State in this century. Desalting is too costly and conditions here do not yet justify it. I believe, and I know that members opposite agree, that as a matter of policy South Australia has one or two prime problems. I would name water and transportation as our two major problems and I can assure the honourable member that they are getting priority in Government consideration.

#### WATERVALE WATER SUPPLY.

Mr FREEBAIRN: Can the Minister of Works say what stage has been reached regarding the proposed water reticulation scheme for Watervale?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: It is several weeks since I last discussed this matter with the Engineer-in-Chief and I am afraid that I cannot give the honourable member any detailed information without a further reference. I will take up the matter again, ascertain the latest position, and write to the honourable member as soon as I have the information.

#### DENTAL CARE.

Mr. CASEY: Several years ago the Education Department's dental clinics visited the northern towns of the State and attended to the teeth of children attending departmental schools. At that time the clinics were not examining the teeth of children attending private schools. Can the Minister of Education say what is the Government's policy on this important matter?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: For some years now the dental and medical care of students attending departmental schools has been transferred to the Department of Public Health, which is administering it. I am not *au fait* as to whether that service extends to denominational schools, but I will consult my colleague, the Minister of Health, and let the honourable member have a reply as soon as possible.

## SAFETY BELTS.

**Mr. MILLHOUSE:** In the debate on the Address in Reply and by way of questions on several occasions I raised the matter of the installation in motor cars of safety belts and suggested that members of the Government and senior Parliamentary dignitaries, such as yourself, Mr. Speaker, and the Leader of the Opposition, should give a lead to the community by having these belts installed in their official cars and by using them. The replies I received were to some extent non-committal. In view of the opinion expressed by the Commissioner of Police, as given by the Premier in reply to a question, that the equipping of vehicles with safety belts is considered not only desirable, but also a very important safety measure, and also in view of the article in the Labor Party's *Herald*, I ask the Premier whether any Ministerial cars or cars used by senior Parliamentary dignitaries have been fitted with safety belts and, if so, which cars?

**The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD:** As far as I know, no Ministerial cars have been fitted with safety belts. I assure the honourable member that I personally do not intend to have one. Of course, it is a matter of opinion. As to the position in the Public Service generally, as I stated before, if anyone desires he can have a safety belt fitted. The Government will provide safety belts. I believe that police cars and certain other Government cars have them. I hope to drive slowly and safely and thus avoid the need for one. At any rate, I like comfort when driving. I find a belt in an aeroplane a little irksome so I do not intend to install a belt in my car, but such belts are provided where requested.

## LEAVING HONOURS CLASSES.

**Mr. CURREN:** Has the Minister of Education received a report about the number of students likely to attend Leaving Honours classes in country schools, particularly Glossop?

**The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON:** Today I received a report dated yesterday from the Director of Education, in which he supplied the following information:

At the Nuriotpa High School there are likely to be 23 qualified students who are willing to attend, including five from other schools in the general area. At Whyalla Technical High School there are likely to be 23 qualified students who are willing to attend. This includes two from the Port Augusta High School. At Glossop High School there are likely to be 21 qualified students who are willing to attend, including seven from Renmark and three from Loxton.

At Mount Gambier High School there are likely to be 18 qualified students who are willing to attend, including students from other high schools in the South-East. At Port Pirie there are likely to be 18 qualified students who are willing to attend, including one from Port Augusta. Unfortunately, the parents of students at Peterborough are not willing for their children to attend at Port Pirie. The same thing applies to parents at Gladstone and Jamestown. At Port Augusta there are likely to be only 11 qualified students who are willing to attend.

The numbers fluctuate from time to time and much hinges on the definition of "qualified", but it seems that there will be at least four of our country high schools that will come within the minimum requirements decided on by the Government a few weeks ago. It may be that one or more may increase their numbers in the meantime. I certainly hope they will because I am very anxious that as many of our country centres as possible will qualify so that these classes can be commenced at the beginning of the next school year.

## GLADSTONE HIGH SCHOOL.

**Mr. HEASLIP:** My question relates to the Gladstone High School. Some time ago the Education Department purchased land with the intention of moving the present high school to another site. Now two extra buildings have been offered and are required, but because of the small playing space the school council decided to defer these buildings, hoping that they would go to the new site. If that site is not to be developed for some time, however, the council considers that these new buildings will be required. Can the Minister ascertain how long it will probably be before the new site is used?

**The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON:** As the honourable member is aware, it was not considered to be in the interests of efficiency or economy that the present high school building should be extended in view of the comparatively small area of land and, as he said, the new area (I think about 13 acres) was purchased. It was, and still is, the department's intention to build an entirely new solid construction school on the new site. Unfortunately, some other areas that need high schools urgently have no school buildings and at other schools there has been very heavy and rapid increases in enrolments, and it has been necessary to make substantial additions of solid construction on existing sites. The numbers at Gladstone have shown only very slight and gradual increases, and although we are ready, willing and anxious to build the school, we do not regard it as being of the

highest priority. I discussed the matter only in the last few weeks with the Director of Education, and he could not say then whether or not he was prepared to recommend its inclusion in the 1963-64 programme. After the House has prorogued I shall discuss with him in detail our proposals for the next year and the following year and, as soon as I can come to any decision on the matter, I shall communicate with the honourable member; but, even then, it will be only at my level and will be a matter for Cabinet decision later whether it can be fitted into the programme. I shall notify the honourable member by letter as soon as possible.

#### PHYLLOXERA.

**Mr. LAUCKE:** As the entry of phylloxera into South Australia could ruin the important grapegrowing and winemaking industries, can the Minister of Agriculture assure this House that every precaution is being taken by his department to ensure that this disease is not introduced into South Australia?

**The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN:** Yes. An Act specifically provides for the prevention of this disease. There is a Phylloxera Board whose business it is to protect the State; also, the department takes, and has for a long time taken, stringent precautions to see that phylloxera is not introduced into South Australia. Notices are provided at various points of entry informing the public what they may not do in bringing cuttings into the State. I think every precaution is being taken to prevent the disease occurring in our vineyards.

**The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER:** Can the Minister say whether the Phylloxera Board under the Phylloxera Act has established any phylloxera-resistant nurseries in South Australia, and, if it has, whether vines and cuttings from such nurseries have been made available to vineyards for planting in South Australia?

**The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN:** Honourable members, and certainly the member for Angas, will recall that in 1948 the Phylloxera Act was amended to enable the board to establish a nursery for resistant stocks, and that this matter was debated in the House. Subsequently, the board took action to establish a nursery on Kangaroo Island. This area was chosen as being a place suitable for growing vine stocks, while at the same time it was thoroughly isolated from the main viticultural areas. That nursery did not succeed, because a virus disease that developed caused very stunted growth. As a nursery, it was a

failure. The Phylloxera Board then sought authority to investigate the virus disease that was causing the trouble. That is the present position. Research is going on to overcome the virus disease, and when it has been overcome the board may again try to establish a nursery for resistant stocks. As honourable members will realize, this is a somewhat long process, as is much agricultural research. It could be said that no nursery could provide resistant stocks at present, should an outbreak of phylloxera make it necessary to replant vineyards. In order to put the matter in its proper perspective, I should perhaps say that should an outbreak of phylloxera occur it undoubtedly would be tackled with the utmost vigour and there would be no reason to suppose that phylloxera would get away from us and get out of control as it did in some countries in the days before it was so thoroughly understood as it is today.

#### POINT GREY CUTTING.

**Mr. TAPPING:** During the recent debate on the Torrens Island Power Station Bill, attached to the Bill were a diagram and a map of Torrens Island quarantine station and its environs. At the time I noticed that much reference was made to Point Grey, which involves a cutting used by ketches and dozens of fishing boats taking a short cut at high tide. I have been approached by numbers of fishermen living in the district of Semaphore who believe that, if this cutting could be deepened, it would prove a boon not only to the owners of boats and other small craft but also to the ketch owners because, for about five hours of the day when the tide is low, one cannot navigate the cutting at Point Grey. Will the Minister of Marine obtain a report from the Harbors Board to see whether it would be practicable and not too costly to deepen the cutting near Point Grey north of the quarantine station?

**The Hon. G. G. PEARSON:** If my memory is correct, I have seen on the charts the area the honourable member mentions. I do not think the matter was considered; maybe some thought was given to it, but I am not aware of it. However, now that the matter has been raised, I will examine it with the Harbors Board to see what the possibilities are of doing what the honourable member requests, in some form or other: to see if access can be given at that point. I could not give any assurance on the matter until I had looked at it properly.

## TRADE LOSSES.

Mr. HUTCHENS: According to an article headed "Steep Rise in Trade Loss" in this morning's *Advertiser*, Australia had a trade loss of £45,600,000 in the first three months of 1962-63. Can the Premier indicate to what extent South Australia has been affected by this loss?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No, but I will try to get some information for the honourable member and will forward it to him.

## GOVERNMENT SUBCONTRACTORS.

Mr. FRED WALSH: Last week I asked the Premier a question about Government subcontractors and I referred to a report presented to the Trades and Labor Council about the firm of Laney and Lindberg. I have been informed since that when Mrs. Lindberg took over the company without obligations, when the firm became bankrupt, she subcontracted to do the plastering on a school at Modbury for a Mr. Sliuzas, of Metro Building Company. On about October 9 she withdrew, leaving her employees again lamenting the loss of the holiday pay due to them. Mr. Sliuzas undertook to take over her former employees, but when the last of these men left his employ on October 19 he would not pay the holiday pay incurred while the men were working for Mrs. Lindberg, although he had told them on about August 10 that he would accept responsibility for all wages and holiday entitlements due to them. These further dealings reveal an urgent need for action to be taken to protect employees from unscrupulous employers who are permitted to carry on business in these circumstances. Will the Premier try to hasten the report he promised to obtain last week?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have a report that was submitted to the Minister of Works by the Director of the Public Buildings Department, as follows:

## Financial Standing of Subcontractors Generally:

This department carries out an investigation of the financial standing of any main contractor where considered desirable, and if he is unsound financially he is not recommended for a contract. The contractor is the party to the contract and is responsible for the fulfilment of the contract. Subcontractors are not parties to the contract and have no responsibility to the Government. Their responsibility is to the main contractor. To carry out a financial investigation of every subcontractor would be quite impracticable for the following reasons:

1. This department lets approximately 380 works of various types by public tender

contracts each year. In any building work of, say, £25,000 or more in value there are generally from 8-14 subcontractors. To endeavour to check the financial standing of all of these subcontractors would inordinately delay the acceptance of a tender.

2. As very many subcontractors are not public companies and therefore do not have audited balance sheets or other financial statements it would be difficult and very time consuming to endeavour to investigate their financial standing.
3. If a subcontractor nominated by the lowest tenderer was investigated and found to be of doubtful financial standing and the lowest tenderer was then required to submit another subcontractor he could, as a result, increase his tendered price. This could then make it necessary for an examination to have to be undertaken of the financial standing of the subcontractors nominated by the next lowest tenderer.

## Financial Standing of Messrs. Laney &amp; Lindberg:

The partnership of Laney & Lindberg has carried out subcontract plastering to contractors for a considerable time. Only on one occasion has any complaint been made to this department concerning payments by this partnership to its employees. This was early in August when a representative of the union telephoned this department's Construction Manager and stated that employees of Laney & Lindberg working on the Enfield school had not been paid holiday pay. The main contractor was then contacted by the department. He stated that he was not aware of the position but would institute inquiries. He subsequently advised that he was then making payment to Mrs. Lindberg for the men's wages and holiday pay and that she had undertaken to pay the men.

The only other occasion that this department was aware of any trouble was when an officer of the department visited the Modbury school, under construction, on October 18. The named subcontractor in this case was B. Laney. The departmental officer found that, at that date, *i.e.*, October 18, the main contractor had taken the work out of the hands of Laney and was employing Laney's employees himself as weekly paid men. As far as this department is aware neither Laney & Lindberg, nor Laney, nor Lindberg, nor Mrs. Lindberg are at present engaged as subcontractors on any departmental work.

## NEGLECTED ORCHARDS.

Mr. HARDING: My question is almost a hardy annual. It relates to neglected orchards, vineyards and orange groves that can be a breeding ground for disease and pests, including gummosis in apricots, red scale and San José scale in oranges, phylloxera in vines, codlin moth in apples and pears and possibly many other diseases. Orchards are sometimes abandoned because the land has been purchased

for subdivisational purposes but not used immediately for such. I understand that the Government makes laws to deal with neglected sheep carrying tick, lice and foot-rot and, of course, to provide for the destruction of rabbits and noxious weeds. Gardeners whose properties adjoin neglected orchards and vineyards are frequently involved in heavy expenditure in combating diseases that have spread from the neglected areas. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether this Government has power to have neglected or abandoned gardens, orchards, vineyards or groves cleaned up and to direct owners to remove trees and vines therefrom? If so, has such action ever been taken?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Various Acts contain provisions to enable action of the nature mentioned to be taken. The best thing that I can suggest is that the honourable member inform me of the instance he is worried about and the type of orchard involved so that I can investigate what powers are available and in which authority they are vested. I know that the appropriate action is sometimes taken in such cases.

#### UPPER MURRAY FERRIES.

Mr. CURREN: On August 14 the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Roads, in reply to a question regarding bridges across the River Murray at Berri and Kingston, said that bridges were not being considered but that the question of improving the ferry service at Berri was receiving careful attention. As there is considerable congestion at both the Berri and Kingston ferries, will the Premier, as Acting Minister of Roads, ensure that the approaches for a second ferry at Berri will be constructed so that when a ferry is available from Blanchetown the service can be initiated without delay?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I do not have any information for the honourable member, but I will examine the matter and see if I can help.

#### FOSTER CLARK (S.A.) LTD.

Mr. BYWATERS: I have the following questions to ask the Premier regarding Foster Clark (S.A.) Ltd.:

1. What was the total consideration for which Brookers (Aust.) Ltd. sold out to Foster Clark (S.A.) Ltd.?

2. Did the purchase include stocks of canned fruits, jams, sauces and other products held at Brookers' factory or any branch, depot or warehouse of Brookers at the date of the take-over?

3. If so, what was the book value of the said stocks?

4. What was the quantity of the said stocks?

5. With reference to £70,000 which it has been stated was owing by Brookers to growers, by what amount has this figure been reduced in the past nine months ended September 30, 1962?

6. What is the present indebtedness to growers?

7. How many growers are owed money by Brookers (Aust.) Ltd.?

8. What prospects are there of further payments being received by them?

9. In what priority, if any, do they stand in relation to other creditors of Brookers (Aust.) Ltd.?

10. If the take-over purchase by Foster Clark (S.A.) Ltd. included the stocks of canned fruits, etc., held at the time of the purchase (as per question 2) does the Premier consider that this is an irregular and grossly unfair way for a company to obtain a stock of processed products without ensuring that growers receive payment for their produce?

11. Does the Premier consider there should be any legislative protection for growers against the possibility of a further take-over occurring and growers again being left unpaid?

12. Does the Premier consider that the present situation regarding this matter is satisfactory from the viewpoint of Foster Clark (S.A.) Ltd. establishing the necessary good public relations with growers, seeing that quite irrespective of questions in this House, or publicity given thereto, the non-payment of growers has created resentment by growers against a company which should be an asset to the State?

13. What financial backing has the Government and/or the State Bank given to Foster Clark (S.A.) Ltd.?

14. Will the Premier ask the Commonwealth Government to alter company bankruptcy laws to enable growers to be secured creditors in cases of this nature rather than unsecured creditors?

15. What types of creditors were secured creditors of Brookers (Aust.) Ltd.? As it is too late for these questions to be put on notice, will the Premier obtain a considered reply for me in due course?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I think the sale price was about £780,000, but it was subject to valuation and to certain negotiation between the two parties. I believe

that, if an agreement could not be reached regarding the stock and the other assets, the ultimate valuation was to be subject to arbitration. I understand that the matter was submitted not only to the shareholders but also to the unsecured creditors of Brookers, and I am given to understand that both the shareholders and the unsecured creditors voted in favour of the sale. I do not know the total assets of the company or what they comprise, but I point out that they were subject to valuation, negotiation, and even arbitration if agreement could not be reached. Nor do I know the total sum owing to growers, but I believe it was about £80,000, and I believe that the sum owing to the can makers was very much more than that, I think probably about £120,000. However, those figures must not be taken as being definite; I mention them merely to show that the growers were not the only unsecured creditors. Unsecured creditors, of course, are paid after the secured creditors in the winding-up of the company. What the surplus for distribution to the creditors will be I cannot say. The Government is not a principal in this matter in any way. I have received this information only second-hand, because Foster Clark applied to the Government for a guarantee to be given so that it could carry on some of its business and the application was submitted to the Industries Development Committee. As far as I know, since Foster Clark has carried on this business it has completely met its obligations to growers.

Mr. Bywaters: Only just!

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I think it has met its obligations to growers. I was a creditor of Foster Clark and I received a final payment for the small quantity of fruit I had supplied to the company, so I presume other growers have had the same result. I have received no complaints that the firm has not met its obligations. As far as I know, Brookers met all its obligations to growers from the time it received a Government guarantee. The Government requested it to meet its obligations when it was acting under guarantee. Pre-existing debts are subject to Commonwealth bankruptcy law.

#### GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: On July 18 I asked the Premier a question about building a new summer residence for His Excellency the Governor, the Premier having announced when speaking at the opening of Old Government House last November that the Government proposed to undertake such a project. Will the Premier

say what progress has been made in this matter since I last raised it?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government decided that it would provide His Excellency with some retreat where he could spend weekends away from the tremendous pressure of public engagements that are always awaiting him when he is occupying his official residence at Government House. It had a plan drawn up for work to be undertaken to provide a suitable building at Marble Hill, but from a modest undertaking it suddenly became a major undertaking. I think the last cost suggested was £92,000—and that, of course, is not a retreat at all. The architects probably let their heads go a little. I intend to discuss this matter with His Excellency soon; I have not had an opportunity to do so during this session. The Government will provide for an amended plan at Marble Hill or for a suitable building elsewhere to enable His Excellency to spend weekends away from all the formalities and pressure of work at Government House. The plan prepared was more than His Excellency would desire and more than the Government would be prepared to pay for.

Mr. JENKINS: I believe His Excellency is fond of Victor Harbour. Last Monday he was there for some time, and he has visited this town on several occasions recently. From the point of view of time, the distance from Adelaide to Victor Harbour is no greater than to many other places, and there is for sale on Bridge Terrace along the sea-front an excellent house belonging to the Misses Darling. This house is built on an ample site, it would be an excellent proposition, and it would cost only a small part of the sum mentioned by the Premier. Has the Premier considered purchasing this property for use by His Excellency?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Hope springs eternal in the human breast! His Excellency spent a week in the Victor Harbour district recently and he told me this morning that he had caught a cold. When I am discussing this matter with His Excellency, however, I will tell him of the honourable member's desire to get another enlightened elector in his district.

#### RAILWAY PASSES.

Mr. CASEY: It has been brought to my notice that some railway employees when attaining the retiring age of 65 still have children under 16, although I admit that such cases are rare. These children are not



entitled to free passes after the retirement of the father. Will the Premier, as Acting Minister of Railways, take up this matter with the Railways Commissioner to see whether, as I believe this came about through an oversight in the first place, something cannot be done regarding this matter under the South Australian Railways Commissioner's Act?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The honourable member's question makes employment in the railways seem most desirable. I will take up this matter with the Railways Commissioner and see whether assistance can be given.

#### TAILEM BEND TO KEITH WATER SCHEME.

Mr. BYWATERS: Can the Minister of Works give me any information about the proposed pumping station for the Tailem Bend to Keith water scheme?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am afraid I cannot add anything to what I have said before, which I admit is very little. I have not had an opportunity, because of so many other things, to inquire of the department how far its planning has gone. If there is any real development in this matter that warrants a communication, I will write to the honourable member about it.

#### WOODWORK COURSES.

Mr. RICHES: Owing to the effluxion of time, the Minister of Education was unable to finish presenting an answer to representations made yesterday about the continuation of woodwork tuition in primary schools. Does he wish to add anything to the statements he made yesterday or has he any information regarding the suggestion that these classes may be precluded from Port Augusta schools in the coming year?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yesterday afternoon I explained to the House that some time ago the Director of Education had concluded on purely educational grounds that the teaching of craft work in primary schools should be gradually discontinued. At 4 p.m. yesterday when I was so rudely interrupted by the ringing of the bells, I was reading a letter from the Director to the Secretary of the South Australian Public Schools Committees' Association. Perhaps I could quote the last two paragraphs that I left unread yesterday. The Director of Education continued:

The principal reason for starting these craft subjects in the last year of the primary schools from the early 1920's onwards was that most of

the children left our secondary schools at the end of the second year and thus it was impossible to get the three-year course in except on this arrangement. As you know and as we all rejoice to know, far more children are staying at secondary school for a later time now and the retention rate is steadily rising. It also seems likely that the need to complete these craft courses in the third year of the secondary schools will be a further factor in helping to retain larger numbers still at secondary schools to the end of the third year.

The policy is therefore to discontinue the teaching of domestic arts to girls and woodwork to boys in our primary schools as rapidly as possible. Unfortunately there are still a few areas in the State, mainly in the more remote country districts, where many of the children still leave at the end of the second year of the secondary course. In these cases I have approved of the continuance of this craft instruction in grade 7.

I repeat what I said yesterday, that the Director arrived at these conclusions after mature consideration and detailed discussion with his superintendents and inspectors. Afterwards, he submitted his conclusions to me, and I concurred in them. But, although the Director communicated his conclusions and his detailed reasons for them to both the Teachers' Institute and the Public Schools Committees' Association, their representatives are by no means satisfied either with the conclusions or with the reasons for them. In fact, they appear from their correspondence to be highly dissatisfied with them and they, as two representative bodies, and individual school committees and individual teachers at conferences have expressed their dissatisfaction. Honourable members here have done likewise, and so have individual citizens. As I read out to the member for Unley (Mr. Langley) earlier this afternoon, the Director reported that the teaching of craft work was to be progressively reduced in the educational interests of these boys and girls and not suddenly stopped, but he would be quite prepared to recommend for consideration that the proposed closing of that particular centre should be deferred for, say, 12 months so that further consideration could be given to the whole matter. That is the proposition I desire to put to him soon after the House prorogues, that we look at the whole proposition again. I have already promised the Teachers' Institute and the Public Schools Committees' Association that I will meet them and discuss the matter. We shall examine the whole problem again and I have no doubt that the Director, who is a responsible and reasonable man, will be only too pleased to consider the representations that have been made to him and to me from such a wide circle of people who are vitally interested in the subject of education;

and later, during this month, I hope to see that some satisfactory conclusion can be arrived at—not to the entire satisfaction of everyone, but, I hope, for the good of education generally. I do not know whether I can go further than that at the moment. I think I have given a reasonably clear indication of what I have in mind. I do not want to prejudice or pre-judge the position. I am mindful of the fact that I have only limited powers in this regard. I do not know which is my first duty—to communicate with the Teachers' Institute and the Public Schools Committees' Association or to communicate with the representative and responsible members of Parliament who have raised the matter with me here. I am only too pleased to communicate with everybody, but I think the first thing to do is have a full, frank and free discussion of the whole matter in the hope that a satisfactory conclusion can be reached later this year so that we shall know what is to be the outcome from the beginning of the next school year.

#### PENSIONERS' HOSPITAL BENEFITS.

Mr. LAWN: The Premier has assured this House on more than one occasion that, in the case of a pensioner who pays into a hospital benefits fund at the rate of 9d. a week and enters a Government hospital, that amount of hospital benefit will be accepted by the Government in full settlement of the hospital charges. I have just been called to interview a constituent of mine who assures me that he is a full pensioner, which means that he has no wealth behind him. As a matter of fact, he tells me that he has £200 in the bank and receives £4 a week from the State Government as a superannuated employee; those are his sole means. His wife was admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in July for 66 days and, although he has filled in the means test application form stating the facts I have just given, the hospital has charged his wife the full rate of 60s. a day (a total of £184 0s. 6d.). He showed me a letter he received in reply to a plea of his that the amount should be broken down. He is prepared to pay £15 15s. a week to the Government from the hospital benefit fund. That plea has been refused and he has been asked to pay the sum owing within a reasonable time. But this person also has the Commonwealth entitlement card, which is not given to all pensioners; and he is in receipt of a Municipal Tramways Trust concession pass. If I send the Premier the facts in writing, will he investigate the matter with the object

of giving effect to the assurance that he has given to this House?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes; I will have the matter investigated.

#### RESERVES.

Mr. RICHES: Some time ago the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Lands expressed sympathy with requests from the northern part of the State for an investigation into the area of land held in reserve as natural reserves, particularly in the Flinders Ranges. The Minister of Lands said he would examine the possibility of asking for a survey and report of the situation with a view to seeing whether those few reserves that we have could not be increased in size, and whether South Australia was doing as much as should be done in this matter. Can the Acting Minister of Lands say whether any investigation has been made so far and, if it has not (and I understand that it may not have), will he undertake to obtain reports from some authority during the coming Parliamentary recess so that this matter is not lost sight of?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I can recall asking for a schedule to be prepared of all reserves available throughout the State. As a matter of passing interest, I was surprised at the varied titles involved. They were not confined to national parks or Tourist Bureau holdings, but included also forest reserves and the various Lands Department's reserves, allotted and unallotted. Then there are native reserves and areas of unoccupied country. The schedule was prepared, I think in reply to a question, and it is being continuously used in order to determine where we can usefully enlarge present reserves or increase the number of reserves. I do not know whether consideration is being given to areas in the southern Flinders Ranges at present, but I shall be happy to re-open the whole question to see whether anything is being done or can be done about increasing the areas. I draw attention to the high cost involved in acquiring reserves. It is one thing for a Government to gazette as a reserve land it holds for another purpose, but another to acquire land by purchase from a private person. The cost involved is so heavy that I should not like it to be thought that all of our conservation of fauna and flora should rest on the Government. I believe that every property owner has the responsibility to take cognizance of fauna and flora needs.

**BARLEY MARKETING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

**DOG FENCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

**WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

**THE POPPY DAY TRUST DEED BILL.**

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

[*Sitting suspended from 3.23 to 4.35 p.m.*]

**MOTOR VEHICLES ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2).**

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

**SEWERAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2).**

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

**WATERWORKS ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2).**

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

**EXCESSIVE RENTS BILL.**

Returned from the Legislative Council with the following amendments:

No. 1. Page 2, line 19 (clause 3)—Leave out "the" and insert "an existing."

No. 2. Page 2, line 21 (clause 3)—Leave out "the" and insert "an existing."

No. 3. Page 4, line 3 (clause 7)—After "not" insert "during such period not exceeding one year as is specified in the order."

Consideration in Committee.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): Members will recall that when this measure was debated here earlier I said that if any ambiguities became obvious I would arrange for them to be straightened out in the Legislative Council. The most important of the three amendments is the last, which provides that the period of the order that is made will be the same as that provided for a rent fixation. The purpose of the amendments is to ensure that a tenant who takes a case to court is not subsequently victimized.

Amendments agreed to.

**PROROGATION SPEECHES.**

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

That the House at its rising do adjourn until Tuesday, December 11, at 2 p.m. At the outset, on behalf of my colleagues in Cabinet and myself, I thank members from both sides for their assistance and co-operation during this session. It was predicted that this Parliament would be unworkable and would not achieve much good. I have been in this House since 1933 and I cannot recall a session when more constructive legislation has been considered and when members have applied themselves more to its consideration. Although one or two measures may not seem momentous at present, over the years they will assume an importance in the State's economic and social life that will make this session one on which we can look back with considerable satisfaction. Parliament has approved of the establishment of one of the major power stations of Australia. This station will supply not only a large part of the needs of the State but will enable our economy to expand and will also result in a progressive reduction of tariffs until they become the envy of other States.

Amongst the social legislation we considered was a measure relating to loans for housing. This will insure at a most reasonable cost the breadwinner who obtains a loan and will meet with complete acceptance by the community. Indeed, it has been of interest to note that already one of the building societies, which would not normally be interested in this type of activity, has applied to come within the purview of this scheme.

I ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to convey to his Leader, Mr. Frank Walsh, the sympathy of the House in his present indisposition and also my personal appreciation of the manner in which he has assisted the conduct of this House and of his readiness to apply himself to the proper consideration of legislation.

I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on the distinction with which you have occupied the Chair since your election. You have conducted the affairs of this House during some difficult periods with much tact and you have won the respect of honourable members in your high position. I hope that during the ensuing vacation you will have the opportunity to enjoy some relaxation. Your work during a session of this type must undoubtedly take a lot out of you.

In one respect this has been a disappointing session. I express sympathy to the Opposition in the loss of one of its valued members, who was ill almost continuously throughout the session. I express sympathy to other members who have not enjoyed the best of health this year. I hope that during the coming break all members will be returned to full health and vigour so that next session we can again effectively discuss affairs of State from our relative points of view.

I was pleased when you, Mr. Speaker, announced that you were prepared to accept the Government's offer to enable the Clerk of the House (Mr. Combe) to go overseas to study Parliamentary procedure at Westminster. All honourable members realize how much is owed to our two table officers. They not only assist in carrying out the work of this House, but at all times help members with individual problems. Every member at some time has received valuable assistance and advice from these officers, and I publicly thank them for the standard of service they render to this Parliament.

This has been a heavy session for the Parliamentary Draftsman and his Assistant. One Bill was a monumental work, and we considered a large number of measures—almost 80. I convey to Dr. Wynes and Mr. Ludovici our thanks for their ready acceptance of the hard task imposed on them. We have always received the utmost consideration and courtesy from the officers of the House, messengers, catering staff and the Librarian and his assistants. We have come to accept that as a matter of course. However, that does not enable me to pass it over without thanking them personally and collectively for what they have done for us from day to day. It is greatly appreciated, and I hope that you, Mr. Speaker, will convey to the officers, the librarians, the messengers and all the staff the appreciation of Parliament for the services that those people render.

There is one other section of this Parliament that I do not know whether we have to thank or blame, and that is the *Hansard* staff. Although they give us the greatest assistance in putting into good English what are sometimes our crude expressions, they also put on permanent record everything that we say. We are greatly indebted to them, but sometimes the words that we have used in the past spring up and confront us. However, that is not their fault, but ours. The members of the *Hansard* staff have a particularly heavy

time during the session. I thank those officers for the excellent manner in which they bring out early each day a report of the proceedings. I never trouble to see whether anything I have said needs correcting, and I am sure that members opposite know they can accept *Hansard* as being a factual record of what has been said, in rather better English sometimes than the way it was said.

Finally, I thank honourable members of my own Party for the assistance they have given to me and my Ministers. As members know, Parliament imposes a much heavier volume of work on Cabinet Ministers when the House is in session, not only because the normal administration has to be carried out but because many matters have to be prepared for submission to Parliament and many subjects have to be studied before Bills are introduced. I thank those members for their consideration during this busy period. I regret that this Parliament has closed with rather a shadow of gloom upon it. I only hope that during the Christmas period honourable members will have a happy time and that they will enjoy good health. I wish all members the compliments of the season.

Mr. HUTCHENS (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Deputizing for the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Walsh), who unfortunately is indisposed, I express appreciation to the Premier for his very kind remarks concerning the Leader. It is true that we met this year in an atmosphere of expectation. Although much was said about this House not being able to work satisfactorily, no member on this side ever thought that that would be the case, because we realized that every member in this Parliament was here in the interests of the State. I thank the Government for accepting the Opposition's amendments when it thought they were satisfactory.

On behalf of my Party I express appreciation of the very kind words spoken about the late Mr. Ralston, for I know they were spoken from the bottom of the Premier's heart. We have indeed lost a good friend and valued colleague. I take this opportunity of expressing regret at the sustained illness of Sir Cecil Hincks. Sir Cecil has endeared himself to every member of this House and to all who know him. He is a man of very kindly character and great understanding, and one who has sacrificed much in the interests of his country. We are glad to know that he is recovering, and we would appreciate it if you, Mr. Premier, would convey to him our best

wishes for his speedy recovery. We are looking forward to the day when he will return to his Ministerial duties.

The Opposition wishes to express its appreciation to you, Mr. Speaker. In the short time you have occupied the Chair you have convinced us that you are well aware of the importance of Parliament and of the difficulties that sometimes confront members, and you have shown conclusively that you are prepared to do everything possible to supply members with the facilities and the service in order that they may do their work effectively. We also express our appreciation to the Chairman of Committees (Hon. B. H. Teusner), who is well known for his clear and fair rulings, and to the various members who have deputized for him on occasions. We thank Mr. Teusner and his assistants for the guidance that they have given us.

We also appreciate the help given by the Clerk of the House (Mr. Combe) and the Clerk Assistant (Mr. Dodd), who are part and parcel of the Parliamentary institution, ever prepared to give help and unbiased advice, never considering Party allegiance, but assisting every member in the same way. It was with great pleasure that we heard the recent news that Mr. Combe was to undertake a trip overseas to make a further study of Parliamentary procedure. I am convinced that, when Mr. Combe tells the Clerks in some other parts of the world about the amount of work and the great scope of procedure that he has to deal with, they will be astounded, because in my travels I found that some Clerks specialized only in certain aspects of procedure. Our clerks in South Australia know the procedure from beginning to end. We deeply appreciate the great assistance that the officers at the table render us, and the kindly way in which they do it.

The Parliamentary Draftsman and the Assistant Parliamentary Draftsman have given their assistance most readily and with great efficiency. They have been so friendly that they have encouraged us to come to them rather than the contrary. We appreciate their kindly and wise advice, and on behalf of my Party I thank them. The Parliamentary Library is the fountain of knowledge that helps us in our many duties, and the assistance of the librarians is always forthcoming. In fact, those officers do everything possible to see that members are well informed on matters that they have to debate.

I join with the Premier in expressing some doubt about the *Hansard* staff, but I must

admit that we are fortunate to have them. After making some speeches, I have received my proof next day and have wondered whether I have been given a copy of a speech made by somebody else. It is amazing what these men can do. They seem to be able to appreciate the point one is making and to report it so often in much clearer and more understandable language than is used. It is pleasing to have two young men (Mr. Stan Parr and Mr. George Hill) in charge of this staff, as they encourage their reporters to give all members the splendid assistance they have had this session.

Working in close co-operation with the *Hansard* staff of reporters we have the *Hansard* printing staff, which gives such magnificent behind-the-scenes service under the capable and enthusiastic supervision of Mr. Jim Hosking. The team work of these tradesmen is an integral part of the smooth publication of the weekly and annual *Hansard* volumes.

This year additional typistes have been appointed to the staff of members' typistes, and again we have received a most pleasant and efficient service from them. We should be glad if you, Mr. Speaker, would convey our appreciation to them. I propose to couple the Joint House Committee, the secretary of that Committee (Mr. Hull), Miss Bennett, Miss Bottomley of the catering staff, Mr. Jack Lawson and other members of the messengerial staff. In this group we have without doubt people dedicated to their service, which they give because they appreciate the importance of Parliament, never complaining but ever willing to go the extra mile if circumstances demand. If I may single out one person, I will single out Miss Bottomley, who for years has been giving loyal and charming service. To members of Parliament, who see so little of their homes, she provides a second home. I should be grateful, Mr. Speaker, if you would convey to these people the appreciation of members.

On behalf of the Leader and members of the Opposition, I express appreciation to Mr. Lloyd Hourigan and Miss Nalty, who have given loyal and specialized service to this side of the House and have not counted time or personal cost when circumstances have demanded. To members on this side, I convey the Leader's appreciation for the loyal and conscientious support given to the Leader and me during this session. I am sure we could not have received more co-operation.

I express to members opposite our sincere regret at the passing of the Hon. Allan Hookings, a young and able member of another place. As the House is about to rise and we are approaching the season when families come together and attend church services or assemble in their homes to celebrate the birth of the author of our Christian faith, although all members of this House and those they represent are conscious of the significance of this occasion, I am sure they will also appreciate the great privilege and responsibilities of the right to be able to claim membership of a Christian community. I wish all members a holy and happy Christmas and, as the new year approaches, I trust that members will return to their work and find it will be a year of satisfaction, that they will be renewed in strength after a trying session (which surely it has been, as it has been a heavy session) ready to give a lead to the people of South Australia to encourage them to give of their best endeavours, thus gaining greater respect for this State. I wish all a happy new year and trust that we shall meet here in the friendly atmosphere that has prevailed, not denying but fighting for principles in which we believe, and respecting men as we should. I second the motion.

The SPEAKER: I thank the Premier and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition (the member for Hindmarsh) for the kind personal remarks about myself in occupying this difficult position of Speaker of an evenly divided House. I also thank both these gentlemen for their kindly remarks about the Clerks, the Parliamentary Draftsmen, Librarians, *Hansard*, the House staff and messengers. Your very good wishes will be conveyed to them. In accepting this position as Speaker of this House, I realized that it had tremendous responsibilities and would entail much worry. When I mounted these steps to take over this important office, I realized that it would not be possible for this Parliament to continue in its accustomed state of decorum and dignity without the co-operation of all members. Members of both sides of this House have co-operated to make the parliamentary system work. I think South Australia should be proud of having a Parliament which, although so evenly divided, has weathered the storm through this session so splendidly. I thank members on both sides for their co-operation in getting through this session with so much decorum and dignity. I am proud of the fact that not one member in such a tied House as this has been asked to leave the Chamber for misbehaviour or for

any other reason. I think that is a wonderful achievement, and I hope it will continue in future years.

I, too, congratulate the new members who have had their first experience of Parliament this year. I think we are fortunate in the new members on both sides of the House, as they have shown much dignity, decorum and comradeship—and these, after all, are important to make Parliament work. They have also mixed socially with other members. This augurs well for this State and the work of this Parliament. I commend them for the work they have done for their districts.

Unfortunately, this Parliament closes on a sad note—too many deaths in too short a time. I endorse the expressions of sympathy that have been conveyed by the Premier and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and add my note as Speaker to the remarks made about this very sad time.

I ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to convey to his Leader my personal wishes for his speedy recovery. I should like to thank the Leader for his splendid co-operation in putting his Party's point of view and for his services to members. I have been anxious to co-operate with him in every way. Although he (together with every member on his side) has fought splendidly for his principles, he has done so in a proper and dignified manner.

I thank the Government and Government members for making this system work. Above all, we could not have done this without the assistance of the two officers at the table—the Clerk (Mr. Combe) and the Clerk Assistant (Mr. Dodd). They have done a magnificent job at a most difficult time. I wish to add my personal remarks to those of the Premier and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in wishing Mr. Combe a successful trip overseas. No doubt he will return with a greater knowledge of Parliamentary procedure, which will benefit not only this Parliament but everybody in South Australia. I join with everyone in wishing Gordon Combe *bon voyage*.

The Joint House Committee, of which I am Chairman, has done a good job. The catering staff, in the charge of Miss Bottomley, has given magnificent service. There have been staff problems and its members have experienced a hectic time this session, but nevertheless I hope that their efforts will have a successful culmination in the function to be

held this evening. I wish to thank the members of the catering staff personally for the way they have co-operated. We have an excellent catering staff here.

The *Hansard* staff has improved even on its previous outstanding efforts, and I am sure that the Premier and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition will agree. The Leader of the staff asked me at the beginning of the session how I should like the proceedings reported and I said, "First of all, truthfully." The whole staff has done a magnificent job. I asked them on all occasions to try to catch all the interjections they possibly could. At various times honourable members may have thought that the Speaker was having too much to say, but I think it does help to try to intermingle a little humour in the proceedings and to have it in the report. *Hansard* recorded those interjections very well and thus made *Hansard* better reading. My thanks go to all the staff.

The messengers, under Jack Lawson, have done a magnificent job, particularly in the Chamber. I wish to thank Jack Hull for his wonderful work during this session. We have had some new stenographers on the staff, necessary because of the increased work of honourable members. Two of them will not be with us during the recess but as soon as the next session starts we shall bring them back to

handle the work of honourable members. I thank them for the task they have performed so well. The Parliamentary Draftsman and the Assistant Parliamentary Draftsman have done very good work. I am sure honourable members would want me to thank them.

We are approaching the festive season and I take this opportunity to wish every honourable member a happy Christmas and a bright and prosperous new year. The Premier has said that during the recess, as Speaker, I should have some relaxation. I intend, as soon as Christmas is over, to take a sea trip to Suva, have a good rest and come back refreshed. I hope that honourable members will enjoy a good holiday during the festive Christmas season. I know they will attend to their district work and I hope that they, too, return refreshed to get on with the work of governing South Australia. I wish you all a merry Christmas and a bright and prosperous new year and I thank you very much for your kind remarks. I trust that the next session will prove as fruitful as this past one.

Motion carried.

#### PROROGATION.

At 5.15 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, December 11, at 2 p.m.

Honourable members rose in their places and sang the first verse of the National Anthem.