

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, July 23, 1963.

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:

Appropriation (No. 1),
Pulp and Paper Mill (Hundred of Gambier) Indenture Act Amendment,
Supply (No. 1).

CONDOLENCES.

The SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received the following letter from Lady Hincks, of 28 Alexander Street, Largs Bay:

Dear Mr. Stott,

Thank you for your very kind letter of the 12th inst. It is a great comfort to me to know that Cecil was held in such high regard and affection, and that he left nothing but very pleasant memories to his many friends.

Yours sincerely,
Edith Hincks.

I have also received the following letter from Mrs. Hill, of 82 William Street, Norwood:

Dear Mr. Stott,

Many thanks for your kindness to me. It was a great comfort to know of the respect and appreciation of his public service. Would you please convey to the honourable the Premier, Sir Thomas Playford, and members of the House of Assembly my most grateful thanks? Wishing you and Mrs. Stott good health and happiness for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,
Elma Hill.

QUESTIONS.**NUCLEAR POWER.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Mr. Speaker, before asking the Premier a question, may I say that, from his appearance, the climates of the areas he has been through apparently agree with him. Should he seek leave of absence to make an overseas trip on another occasion while the House is in session, I hope that, in his own interests, he will take a single ticket.

I refer to an item that appeared in yesterday's *Advertiser* under the heading "Ten Years Ago", which states:

The next power station to be built in South Australia after completion of the two units being constructed at Port Augusta would be operated by atomic energy, the Premier (Mr. Playford) announced.

Can the Premier say whether, as the result of his visit to the United Kingdom, it will be another 10 years before the Electricity Trust of South Australia builds a nuclear plant at

Torrens Island, or will it mean that, as the result of his visit, the proposed conventional plant will not be proceeded with but will be superseded by the erection of a nuclear power plant? Concerning his overseas visit, will the Premier indicate to this House the result of his discussions with MacMillan, Bloedel and Powell River, regarding the establishment of the paper pulp mill at Mount Gambier?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I shall deal first with the latter question. Negotiations with MacMillan, Bloedel and Powell River at present centre on the contracts for the supply of timber by private and Government forests to the proposed plant near Mount Gambier. The plant, which would cost about £16,500,000, would have to have an assured timber supply. On the other hand, the forestry authorities have a definite interest in this matter and would naturally want the agreement to be in accordance with conditions that would be able to maintain the successful operation of the forest. The outstanding matters at present relate to these timber contracts.

The negotiations have been narrowed down to two matters. The first is the question of the method of determining the ordered price from time to time, to deal with changing economic conditions. Honourable members will appreciate that a long-term contract must have consideration for changing conditions arising over that period, and the forestry interests naturally want some condition inserted regarding a re-assessment of the timber price in the event of a change in economic conditions.

The second question deals with the quantities of timber that would be taken and supplied under all circumstances to the plant. Those are the two outstanding questions. Questions of locality and so forth were determined in a Bill that was assented to recently. I do not know whether it will be necessary to introduce supplementary legislation, but it may be. I have discussed these two outstanding matters related to the forestry contract with the private forest interests and with the Chairman of our Forestry Board who are now considering what alterations would be required to the proposed contract to make it fulfil their requirements.

Regarding the question of future power supplies, members will know that the expansion in the rate of consumption of electricity here is rapid and requires that the trust continually erects new power stations. The power stations at Port Augusta are almost completed. Some final work has to be done on one unit but it will be operating soon. Another unit

has been approved for the Osborne B station, and contracts have been let for the erection of two units on Torrens Island. These are larger units than previously used, each being of 120,000 kilowatts. The first is due to commence operating in 1967 and the second in 1968. These units are designed to meet the expanding consumption until 1969. The trust is confronted with planning beyond 1969. If the trust is to use nuclear energy it will be able to avoid the heavy capital expense in providing harbour and coal handling equipment on Torrens Island, but if it is not, it will have to consider this as a matter of close urgency.

My trip abroad was made at the request of the Electricity Trust to renew associations that the trust thought would enable it to get information at the top level in the United Kingdom and in the United States. I was accompanied by Mr. Huddleston. The authorities we interviewed in both countries comprised atomic authorities, leading manufacturers of power units, and electricity authorities. I will not be able to reach any final conclusion on this subject for some time. I am unable to express my views to the trust until some supplementary studies that are being undertaken in the United States and in Great Britain by atomic authorities are available to me. Mr. Huddleston is remaining overseas until the studies are completed.

The position as I found it is that generally there has been a dramatic change overseas in connection with the adoption of nuclear energy and power. This applies particularly in the United States where, until recently, there has been no great interest because that country is in a low fuel cost area. In Great Britain the matter has been pursued over a longer period and plants have been operating there longer than they have been in America. Consequently, they have more experience with such plants. I saw plants in both countries. They have different characteristics, use different fuel, and have different problems. Investigations being made on our behalf in the United States will be completed in about a fortnight. The British authorities are going further. They have chosen a site and are making specific studies on that site to supply us with detailed information as to the cost of a station, the cost of the generation of power at the station, and all relevant circumstances associated with it. To give us a clear picture they are going to the trouble of studying the cost of a plant to be established in Australia. Generally speaking, at present nuclear power would not

compete with a conventional station in an area where low cost fuel is available. If coal is available within 250 miles of a power station, nuclear energy would be dearer. The cost of nuclear power reduces dramatically according to the size of the plant. If a small plant is established, the cost of the power would be extremely high, whereas if a large plant were established the cost would quickly fall to a rate competitive with the cost of other power.

At present there is an application before the American Atomic Commission to establish a 1,000,000 kilowatt plant in the heart of New York. Such an establishment would be competitive and would undoubtedly avoid many transmission problems in supplying electricity to the area. I do not know whether that plant will be approved by the commission. A smaller, but similar, plant has actually been approved close to central Los Angeles. There was no objection to that plant because it was considered that it would be preferable to the smoke and smog which is prevalent in that area from the use of conventional units.

Another problem to be clarified is the Commonwealth Government's policy. At present the Commonwealth Government has enacted legislation that gives it some over-riding authority concerning nuclear reactors. The South Australian Government and the South Australian Electricity Trust are not interested in nuclear reactors from a defence viewpoint, but only for power. The unit to be established here would have no bearing on the defence of this country. I cannot go into all the ramifications of the matter in reply to a question, but in general terms I can say that the position has changed dramatically since I was last overseas. Many reactors are now coming into operation, many have been contracted for, and leading industrial countries like Japan are ordering them as a means of industrial expansion. I believe that South Australia will have to consider atomic power for the future because, by overseas standards, this State is in a dear fuel area.

Mr. JENKINS: The Premier said that it cost a smaller nuclear power unit more to produce energy than the bigger one. Can he say what the output of the minimum power unit would be in relation to the output of the Electricity Trust's conventional power station, and whether nuclear power stations would have any effect on the cost of desalination?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: It is possible to have a small nuclear power station the same way as it is to have a small conventional power station. What I meant to tell honourable members (although I may not have expressed myself clearly) was that the advantage of nuclear energy became much more apparent with a large station. A large station may have a much more favourable ratio of costs compared with the conventional station, particularly as the station becomes larger. In a smaller station the overhead cost is high, considering the output. These stations would have no bearing on desalination. I received information recently from the American authorities that they have made a substantial advance in desalination. This was at a large station involving a large capital cost and a large output. Those authorities believe the price could be reduced to about 30 cents a thousand gallons. Although that is not a conclusive figure, it is the result of a study that has been made. This figure is much more favourable than those I have seen quoted previously, but it is still much higher than the cost of water provided from our normal catchment areas.

RAILWAY TIME TABLE.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: As a result of alterations made to the South Australian Railways time table, which became effective earlier this month, the mail from Adelaide arrives in the Barossa Valley and at some of the Murray plains towns about one and a quarter hours later than previously, causing considerable inconvenience to many business people in the district. I understand that in some places on the Murray plains people do not receive mail until the day after its delivery to the nearest town. At the beginning of this month, I took up this matter with the railway authorities to see whether some alteration could be made. Since then, a protest meeting, arranged by the Barossa Valley Chamber of Commerce, has been held and I have been informed by the District Council of Sedan that petitions have been received by it from residents of Sedan and Swan Reach. Will the Minister of Works refer this matter to his colleague, the Minister of Railways, and request him to secure an alteration to the railway time table so that the railcar that now leaves the Adelaide railway station at 9.20 a.m., with the mail for the Barossa Valley and certain Murray plains towns, will arrive at Angaston at least half an hour earlier than it now does?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will bring the honourable member's further representations to my colleague's notice.

TREES.

Mrs. STEELE: In view of the growing public disquiet at what appears to be the unnecessary and ruthless removal of trees, some very old and beautiful, which adorn our public highways, will the Premier say whether the Government will give a lead by encouraging the setting up of a council or committee representative of the Electricity Trust of South Australia, the Highways Department and perhaps any other Government departments concerned, the Botanic Garden Board, and the Local Government Association, to advise whether such trees should be preserved or removed?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The removal of trees from district roads is at present under the control of the local government authority, which must give permission before any trees on district roads can be removed or touched in any way, so the local authorities deal with the matter on a district level. No trees have been removed from highways unless the Minister of Local Government has given approval. I am not sure from the question whether the honourable member wants to take away power from local government, which would be a tricky thing to try to do. If this authority were set up, it could act only as an advisory body, and I think the honourable member would realize that the councils that have the responsibility would naturally want to have their own advisory authority, that local people would usually have something to say, and that council officers would no doubt also be involved in making specific reports. I shall have the matter submitted to the Minister of Local Government to see whether any useful alterations can be made. I assure the honourable member that the Government is most anxious to see that every worthwhile tree is maintained, as it realizes that generally South Australia is deficient in trees, particularly along highways.

ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL.

Mr. DUNSTAN: My question is directed to the Premier either in his capacity as Premier or as representing the Chief Secretary in this Chamber. Is he aware that a survey is now being made of all inmates of the Royal Adelaide Hospital and its various associated wards with a view to moving out those patients who need permanent nursing attention in order to make room for patients who urgently need to be brought into the hospital for attention? Is he aware that in fact pressure is put on many patients needing such heavy nursing attention to move into private nursing homes or

infirmaries where, in some cases, they are unable to get the heavy nursing attention they require? If the Government is aware of this situation, what plans has it got and what does it intend to do about the provision of greater infirmary capacity for the Hospitals Department, since it is evident that many people need infirmary treatment or permanent nursing attention which it is difficult for them to get at the moment?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: If the honourable member will put that question on notice, I will get him a report.

NARACOORTE SOUTH SCHOOL.

Mr. HARDING: The outside of the Naracoorte South school seems to be completed but evidently there has been some difficulty about work to be carried out by subcontractors. Work not completed includes the painting of the inner walls, the laying of linoleum, the filling and sealing of pavements around the school, the erection of a front cyclone fence and the covering of the proposed playground and oval with suitable soil. As the subcontractors appear to be letting the school down, will the Minister of Education obtain a specific report on these matters?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I shall be pleased to do so. My understanding was that the school would be ready for use at the beginning of next term, but I will have all the matters inquired into and inform the honourable member.

ISLINGTON SEWAGE FARM.

Mr. JENNINGS: Last year I asked the Minister of Works what plans his department had for the use of the Islington sewage farm following the establishment of the new Bolivar sewage treatment plant. The Minister was then not able to give me a very full answer, but since then the plan for the new Bolivar treatment works has been substantially advanced, so I now ask him if he is in a position to inform me and the House about his department's future intentions regarding the valuable property at Islington.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am not able to take the matter much further than I did when I made my statement just a year ago. The Government did make available certain land north of Grand Junction Road and offered it by tender to interested parties but, so far as I know, the inquirers at that stage did not consider that the land was as valuable to them as the Land Board valuation placed upon it. Indeed, so far as I know, no land was sold.

In respect of the area south of Grand Junction Road, the Government has not recently further considered the matter because it will still be some time before this area can be vacated. Since my previous statement we have called and received tenders and awarded contracts for the construction of the very large trunk sewer to reach Bolivar, which will take over the duties and functions of the present sewage farm; but it will be some time before that trunk sewer is completed. We have been delayed by some minor matters, but we are now pressing on with that and we hope—in fact, I think I can give the House an assurance on this—that by the time the trunk main reaches Bolivar the Bolivar works will be capable of receiving sewage from it, so the first stage of the work will be complete.

Many representations have been made to the Government about the future use of the sewage farm. I recall that the Director of the National Fitness Council approached the Government about the reservation of some area for recreation purposes. The Corporation of the City of Enfield has also made representations from time to time, and only last week I received a letter from that council on this matter. The council is also concerned with the effect of the various uses of this land on the drainage problem, which is of some moment to councils in that area and, I think, to areas as far away as the member for Hindmarsh's area. Therefore, the whole matter becomes involved.

I have on hand for reply a letter from the Corporation of Enfield and I shall endeavour to give the council the fullest information I have available, but it will not be complete because it is an extremely valuable area and the Government is concerned that it should be used to the best advantage of the people of the State generally.

BOTTLE COLLECTIONS.

Mr. CUMBE: Is the Premier, representing the Chief Secretary, aware that for many years boy scouts and lads of various youth organizations have collected empty bottles and sold them to marine store dealers, from the proceeds of which they have raised many hundreds of pounds which have helped to build youth club halls and other amenities for youth clubs, one of which is in my district? Is the Premier also aware that recently a senior police officer issued a warning that these lads were breaking the provisions of the Marine Stores Act? Will the Premier take this matter up with the Chief Secretary to see whether the present

legislation can be amended so that the activities of these boys who are doing a worthwhile job for the community will not be jeopardized?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes.

LICENSING ACT.

Mr. FRED WALSH: An article in the *Advertiser* of July 18 states:

Attempts are being made to postpone State Parliamentary discussion on restaurant liquor hours until a conference at the University of Adelaide has discussed the alcoholism problem in general. Mr. Don Langman, a member of the Institute of Scientific Studies for the Prevention of Alcoholism, said he had spoken to the Superintendent of Licensed Premises (Mr. V. J. Pope) and the secretary of the South Australian Restaurant Association (Mr. John Gelencser) about postponement of any Parliamentary discussion.

Does the Premier know of any Bill to be introduced this session to amend the Licensing Act to extend the time for the sale of wine in restaurants, and does he know of any reason why Mr. Langman should believe that Mr. Pope and/or Mr. Gelencser could cause postponement of Parliamentary discussion on this question?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Some legislation dealing with the Licensing Act will be introduced this year. Discussion has taken place between the Government and the Australian Hotels' Association in connection with licence fees paid by the members of the association. The Government has received complaints about the scale of licence fees charged, particularly to small country hotels where the turnover of liquor is very small but where the licence fees have risen steeply because of alterations in district council rates. The Government has had requests, particularly from persons conducting restaurants, for the alteration of certain provisions of the Act, and some minor alterations may be made. For example, the Government considers there is not much merit in preventing a person from having a glass of liquor with his dinner in a restaurant on Christmas Day. For some reason or another that is prohibited. When or why the prohibition arose I do not know. That is a question not of hours but of whether on Christmas Day a person can have a glass of liquor with his Christmas dinner in a restaurant. This would be all right on every other day but not on Christmas Day, and that is the sort of anomaly being examined.

The Government has also had a request from the restaurants association for a long extension in the hours during which liquor can be provided with meals at night, but I do not

believe that this will be a topic of the legislation to be introduced: the Government is certainly not considering it at present. I know of no reason why this matter could not be debated anywhere at any time, or why it could not be debated outside the House at the same time as Parliament may be debating it inside. Further, I know of no reason why anyone would try to prevent a discussion on the topic. I think it might well be discussed in the interests of getting good and clear conditions in this matter. The answer to the honourable member's question is that I know of no reason why discussion would not take place.

Mr. Fred Walsh: The question is why Mr. Langman should approach Mr. Pope.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have no knowledge of that matter. This session the Government will introduce a Licensing Bill that will deal specifically with the question of hotel licensing fees, and it hopes that this legislation will be considered by the House to be satisfactory. It may provide for some minor amendments to deal with anomalies that have arisen, but no substantial proposals for the alteration of hotel hours are involved.

PARK LANDS.

Mr. LAWN: The Premier has told honourable members previously that the Government is purchasing land, as occasion arises, for the purpose of ultimately providing Adelaide with a second green belt. Yesterday's *News* stated that as soon as the member for Bolivar removed the sewage farm, the Enfield Council intended to turn that area into a recreation ground. It reported that the Adelaide City Council decided, on May 6, to grant the Parkside Bowling Club an additional 22,500 sq. ft. in the south park lands for use as a bowling green, conditional on the club's removing the hedge surrounding the ground and replacing it with a mesh fence. Will the Premier refer to Cabinet the question of the administration of our park lands so that it may give the Government authority to resume the park lands and thus make them a Government responsibility? Alternatively, will Cabinet consider amending the Act to prohibit any further alienation of the park lands?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government has always taken the view that control of the local recreation areas should be a local government matter. While it has often assisted local councils in securing land—and it has an active policy in helping to purchase additional land where required—it is the invariable policy of the Government to

dedicate that land for recreational purposes and place it under the control of the local government authority. I believe that that policy is a sound one and in the general interests of the community. While the Adelaide City Council has authority to control the park lands, it would not have authority to dispose of them, because the control is still in accordance with rules which have been laid down by Parliament and are common to all local government authorities. The council can give a lease only for a certain period and, if a longer lease is required, express Parliamentary approval is necessary.

The Government would not be prepared to take away the control of recreation areas from the local government authorities that at present exercise it. In fact, the Government has only recently made available to local councils some reserves that had been the property of the Tourist Bureau as national pleasure resorts. We are negotiating actively at present with the authorities at Victor Harbour to take over Granite Island and control it as a recreation area. I believe that that generally is a sound policy and should be continued.

AFRICAN DAISY.

Mr. SHANNON: Last night I attended a meeting of representatives of local government authorities in the hills ranging from Burnside and Mitcham in the foothills to Meadows, Mount Barker and East Torrens farther out. The introduction of African daisy to this State was discussed. This weed has been present for a few years and in some places has become a serious menace. We are concerned with it in the hills. I was concerned at what appeared to be a lack of appreciation by those that attended of the urgency of something being done to save what might ultimately be a heavy expense, not only for local government authorities, but for all landholders who might suffer from this infestation. It is mainly on the roadsides at present but its seeds have the unhappy habit of floating some distance from the parent plant, so that it spreads quickly. Mr. O'Neill, an officer from the Agriculture Department, who addressed the meeting, gave an excellent resumé of the difficulties the department encountered in dealing with this weed and impressed on councils the need for early action so that they would not be involved in heavy expenditure. It is estimated that it will cost about £7 10s. an acre for weedicides, and in some instances such a cost would be more than the value of the land involved.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member must not debate the question.

Mr. SHANNON: I was pointing out the facts to the Minister of Agriculture. Can the Minister say whether his department will encourage councils by making a subsidy—by way of cash, material or plant—available to them? If the Government assists at this stage it may save the State much money. I think it would be in the interests of all concerned if immediate action could be taken.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I, too, am concerned at the spread of African daisy. It entered this State comparatively recently, but it has already proved to be a serious weed. No part of the Agriculture Department is more energetically trying to assist councils in administering the Weeds Act than the Weeds Branch, and I am glad that the honourable member spoke so well of the officer who attended this meeting. Immediate action is called for from any council that has African daisy within its boundaries. The question of whether a direct financial subsidy could be given to a council to meet the cost of treating this or any other weed is naturally one of Government policy. What must be considered, if money is available, is how best it can be spent. I shall be happy to consider any proposition put to me and, if necessary, will refer it to the Government for a decision.

MILLICENT COURTHOUSE.

Mr. CORCORAN: Following on discussions I had with the Minister of Works last week about the frontal appearance of the Millicent courthouse can the Minister say whether any action will be taken to improve it?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: At the request of the honourable member and of the President of the Millicent Chamber of Commerce I took this up urgently with the Director of Public Buildings and consulted the senior architect for general works and examined plans to see whether it appeared possible to effect any improvements to the frontal appearance of the building. Substantial problems are connected with this. The design of a building is determined by the shape of the block of land on which it is sited. It is not possible, because of the narrow aspect, to do what the architect would like to do with this building and keep the total cost of the project within reasonable bounds. We discussed the possibility of making alterations of an apparently minor nature that could have a major effect on the frontal appearance.

From the smile on his face, the honourable member does not seem to think that that is possible, but I am inclined to disagree with him. However, I am not an architect, and I know that he does not pretend to be. I asked the Director to confer with Mr. Lees (Chief Architect) to get his opinions and to take other possible steps. I did this before I left for my district at the weekend. I have not had a report this week and I do not know whether the Millicent authority has had any correspondence from the Director on it, but I will check tomorrow to ascertain what conclusions were arrived at. I assure the honourable member that the department and I are anxious to meet the wishes of the Millicent people if those wishes are at all practicable.

POWERLINES.

Mr. LAUCKE: The major asset of the Hope Valley, Highbury and Tea Tree Gully area, as a residential area, is the natural beauty that is enhanced by magnificent specimens of gum and other trees. Deep concern has been expressed to me by residents at the lopping and removal of trees bordering roads for the purposes of installing overhead powerlines. Will the Premier seek of the Electricity Trust an assurance that where the installation of overhead powerlines would necessitate the destruction of trees underground powerlines be laid?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Undoubtedly trees are desirable but the cost of underground powerlines is so great that if we introduce a policy of providing them it will seriously increase electricity costs and impair the trust's expansion programme. I will bring the honourable member's question to the notice of the trust, but I know that it has been the subject of many studies and the cost has always prevented such a proposal from being implemented.

WHYALLA BRIDGE.

Mr. LOVEDAY: The Broken Hill Proprietary Company has advised that the lowering of the permanent way on the Whyalla to Iron Knob tramway at the site of the proposed Gowrie Avenue bridge at Whyalla is about to be completed, which will enable the changeover on the line to take place on July 28. Every day traffic congestion is caused by B.H.P. Co. employees going over the Playford Avenue bridge to work at the shipyards, steel site and other parts of the company's plant, and frequently men have been late as a result. Similar congestion and dangerous situations occur at knock-off time. Will the Minister of

Works ask the Minister of Roads whether the work of constructing the Gowrie Avenue bridge can be expedited so that portion of this traffic can be diverted to the new route?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will certainly do so.

TOD RIVER RESERVOIR.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: Following the beneficial rains on Eyre Peninsula, can the Minister of Works say what water has run into the Tod system?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have a detailed analysis of the water holdings of all reservoirs. Tod River reservoir is now holding almost 1,200,000,000 gallons, which is not quite half its total capacity. During the last week there has been a useful intake into the Tod and the position is much improved on what it has been in previous winters.

RAL RAL IRRIGATION CHANNELS.

Mr. CURREN: About 12 months ago I asked a question about the necessity to line with concrete the earthen channels in the Ral Ral Division of the Chaffey irrigation area. Will the Minister of Irrigation say whether provision will be made in the Loan programme this year for this work to be done?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: I will bring down a reply for the honourable member tomorrow.

EGG MARKETING.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: On June 13 I asked the Minister of Agriculture a question about the Commonwealth Egg Marketing Association plan. As this matter is apparently still fluid and is causing poultry farmers much concern, can the Minister give any additional information?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Additional detailed information of the proposed plan is being sought. Since I replied to the question earlier this year many features of the plan have been altered, but much of the machinery of the plan is still not explained and details will be required before the plan can be put into a proper form for poultry farmers.

Mr. BYWATERS: The Minister will recall that last year I presented a petition to Parliament seeking an amendment to the Egg Marketing Act to allow for producers to be elected representatives to the board. Does the Minister intend to introduce legislation this session to provide for this?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I am unable to give a complete answer now, but I have asked the Parliamentary Draftsman to draft an amending Bill to provide for the election of producer members of the South Australian Egg Board. No doubt the Parliamentary Draftsman will ask me about many conditions in order to get the correct framework for the proposed amendment, and I will discuss the matter with representatives of the industry later. At this stage I cannot commit the Government on introducing this amendment. After the legislation is prepared and I have discussed it with the industry, I will see whether it can be introduced.

ODNADATTA RAILWAY LINE.

Mr. CASEY: Recently in the morning press appeared a statement made by the Commonwealth Railways Commissioner (Mr. Smith) that a new railway line linking Kingoonya and Oodnadatta in the Far North of the State was practicable and that it would minimize the washaways to which the existing line through Marree was subject. Will the Premier say whether any discussions have taken place between the Commonwealth Government and himself about this proposed new link?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The last time this matter was discussed with the State Government was when the Government was negotiating a long time ago on the Red Hill to Port Pirie railway line. There have been no discussions that I know of in recent years, but I will check with the Railways Commissioner and the Minister of Railways to see whether they have had any communications from the Commonwealth Government about which I am not aware.

UNMARRIED MOTHERS.

Mr. TAPPING: On July 17 the *Messenger*, which circulates in Port Adelaide and Semaphore, contained the following report:

Last year 1,017 unmarried girls and women (whose ages range from 12 to 47 years) gave birth to children in South Australia. Church leaders and social workers are alarmed at the increasing number of unmarried mothers they are being called upon to care for, and claim a stricter parental control and greater parental companionship is the only solution to this tragic problem. Some parents are asking whose daughter will be next.

I have been inundated by letters from parents living in Semaphore who have expressed alarm. Although we know that parents often fail to impart the desired knowledge to their daughters, a greater influence could be wielded in the schools by teachers who could give lec-

tures to the various classes. Will the Minister of Education discuss this matter with his officers to ascertain whether the department will co-operate by including appropriate lectures in the curricula for girls?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I am prepared to do so, but I think the newspaper has taken an extreme age range when it mentions 12 to 47 years as the child-bearing age. I would think that any members of the fair sex in the middle forties who had not learned the facts of life could not hope to learn much from a school curriculum. They might do better if they read in the daily or weekly newspapers the lurid accounts of a rather celebrated court case at present in course of hearing. I would not know from the report how many of the number mentioned would be teenagers. I would think, however, that a large number would be adults. I do not doubt the authenticity of the figures, but in the past, when reports have been made to me about girls in our various schools and colleges who have given birth to children (some of the reports have been about schools in my district), I have tracked them down and have found that they have been wild distortions of the truth with no foundation of fact. On this subject, we do not want to lose our sense of proportion: in this State there are nearly 1,000 educational institutions (departmental schools, independent schools and colleges, the university and such other bodies) and there are almost 250,000 students in them. I think it will be found that the unmarried girls who have children or indulge in serious acts of immorality are but an infinitesimal minority. I think people who make sweeping assertions that condemn the whole generation of young people in a few loose sentences by ill-considered rhetoric are doing a grave disservice to our youth, and I deplore the statements, such as these current ones, that are recklessly made from time to time. I do not include this reputable newspaper, the *Messenger*, which is merely giving some rather vital statistics. I will endeavour to see whether something can be done to give further information in our school curriculum, but I do not think the panacea for the cures of all the ills and evils of the world can be included in our school curriculum. However, the matter of whether something can be done in addition to what has already been done by our very earnest teachers I shall be only too pleased to take up with the responsible officers in order to see whether the honourable member's request can be acceded to.

OCCUPATION CENTRE.

Mr. BURDON: On January 30 last I received a letter from the Minister of Education following an interview I had previously had with him concerning the erection of a building for an occupation centre in Mount Gambier. On April 19 last an officer of the department visited Mount Gambier in connection with the acquiring of certain property for the centre. As the Minister has already given approval for the centre to be established, can he give me details as to how far this project has progressed?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I cannot give the exact details at the moment. I confirm that I am most anxious for this centre to be established as soon as possible, and I am disappointed that it has not already been established. However, as the honourable member is aware, one piece of land we sought was not available. I know that officers of the department have been seeking other sites, but I am not aware of whether finality has been reached in the matter. As the honourable member has raised the question again, I shall have a detailed examination made and let him know the result as soon as possible.

PORT PIRIE WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. McKEE: Recently a most drastic fire at Port Pirie caused the death of two young children. I understand that the fire brigade was delayed considerably by the bursting of a main when the pressure was applied. Had the main not burst it would have been possible to bring the fire under control much sooner. As it was, the brigade had to move into Senate Road and lay a further 600ft. of hosing to bring the water around to Wilcher Street. I understand that these water mains have been down for 50 years or more, and that although their condition has been continually reported over a number of years nothing has been done about them. Will the Minister of Works obtain a full report on this incident and on the condition of water mains in this area and, if necessary, other parts of Port Pirie?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am not conversant with the details of the rather tragic occurrence to which the honourable member refers, but I will inquire into the matters he has raised as they affect the Engineering and Water Supply Department. I can only imagine that in order to assist the fire brigade the authority in charge of the water undertaking at Port Pirie probably applied to the main in question more than the normal pressure in order

to build up the supply of water to the brigade at that point, otherwise the main would not have burst, because the moment a heavy draw of water occurred through the operations of the fire brigade the pressure would have been reduced. I may be wrong about that, but I would assume that that was probably the cause of the bursting. I have not seen the reports regarding the condition of the mains to which the honourable member refers, and I will ask the Engineer-in-Chief to give me a report on them. The age of the main that he quoted is not great in relation to the life of water mains generally: some mains are 20 or 30 years older than that—70 or 80 years of age—and are still giving reasonable service. However, that depends largely on the type of ground in which the mains are laid. I know the ground conditions at Port Pirie, and they could be damaging to the mains. I will get a report on the condition of the mains, the number of bursts that have occurred, and the nature and the cause of them so that remedial action can be taken. I point out to the honourable member that the department is very much on the alert in these matters. Every week of every year we are re-laying large lengths of main which have a history of bursts and faults. Always when we have notice that a road is to be reconstructed we examine the condition of the main underlying the road to see whether it is nearing the end of its economic life, and, if it is and even if it is not yet completely worn out, we re-lay ahead of the programme to avoid disturbance to the road. I will get all the available information for the honourable member.

UNLEY FLOODING.

Mr. LANGLEY: Since coming into this House I have on several occasions taken up with the Engineering and Water Supply Department the dissatisfaction of numerous people in my district concerning a creek which runs through Young Street, the park lands and private property in North Unley. Can the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Local Government, say what the Government is prepared to do to avoid the flooding that has caused so much damage to my constituents?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will direct the honourable member's question to my colleague and ask him for a report.

ABORIGINES.

Mr. HUGHES: Last week a press article referred to the strong criticism by an aboriginal churchman of the Australian Governments

regarding the alienation of aboriginal reserves, and also to his criticism of State and Commonwealth Ministers who attended a conference recently at Darwin. I am concerned mostly with the charge made against the Aboriginal Affairs Board, which this person described as a joke. Will the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs answer this criticism in the House?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: First, although I have a high regard for Pastor Nicholls as a gentleman I thought that he had been in error somewhat in describing the Aboriginal Affairs Board in this State as a joke. I therefore took steps to point out the calibre and qualities of the members of that board. I think we are fortunate to have available to us the services of people of such high calibre. Secondly, I was criticized for drawing to public attention the facts relating to the constituency of the Federal Council for Aboriginal Advancement. I have been asked publicly and privately for the authority on which I made my statement. The authority is that of the Commonwealth Minister for Territories, who at the recent conference of Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs in Darwin the week before last made a definite statement in which he said it was a demonstrable fact that at the last conference of the Federal Council for Aboriginal Advancement a preponderance of organizations that sent delegates to that conference were either Communist front organizations or were organizations in which the responsible executive authority rested in the hands of known Communists. For some time I have been concerned because of information that I have received, as Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, about this matter in the various States. I consider that there are a number of warm-hearted, well-intentioned people whose sole object is to assist the Aborigines in every possible way and in the widest possible sense. I believe those people deserve our full support and encouragement, and I always listen with much attention to criticisms or comments they may make. I believe it is in the interest of these people particularly, that some factual statement should be made regarding the infiltration of Communist organizations into this worthy group. For that reason, and that reason alone, I passed on, through the press, to the people of South Australia the contents of the statement the honourable Minister for Territories made to the Darwin conference. I certainly did not attach any labels to Pastor Nicholls: I did not by inference or statement suggest that he was a

Communist. I believe the contrary is true. I know him personally and have a high regard for him as a gentleman, but in the interest of the people of the State who lend their support to these worthy organizations, I considered that the opportunity should be accepted to make some comment in that regard.

URANIUM TREATMENT PLANT.

Mr. McKEE: Some time ago it was suggested that a Canadian firm was interested in taking over the uranium treatment plant at Port Pirie. Can the Premier say whether he made further inquiries regarding this company's interest while he was overseas?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: It was a United States firm that was interested. Much supplementary information was sent to it, but no reply has been received whether its interest will lead to the establishment of a worthwhile industry. I will inform the honourable member as soon as any decision of consequence is made.

MILK TANKERS.

Mr. JENKINS: On June 12 I asked the Minister of Lands whether the calibration of 2,000-gallon milk tankers was to be undertaken. I thank him for his reply of July 15 in which he stated that it was intended that the department would obtain another set of standards to enable it to make these calibrations. Can the Minister say when this apparatus will be available?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: I cannot say when it will be available, but I will inform the honourable member as soon as this information is received.

SCHOOL BOARDING ALLOWANCE.

Mr. CASEY: Recently a constituent of mine in the Far North questioned me about the Government's policy regarding the payment of £25 a term boarding allowance for children attending secondary schools. This man is a chef and his work takes him from place to place in the Far North. He has a daughter aged 14 who attends the Norwood High School. It is impossible for him to keep her with him because of his work. He applied to the department for the allowance and was told he was not entitled to it. This man has no permanent place of abode because his work takes him from town to town, as he acts as chef in hotels and shearing sheds. Will the Minister of Education inquire whether a boarding allowance could be made available in these circumstances?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: This seems to me to be an exceptional case. I will have it investigated. We have some fixed rules on these matters, but this may be the exception that proves the rule. I shall be pleased to give it my personal and sympathetic consideration.

MARRABEL PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: The Marrabel Primary School Committee has drawn my attention to the unsatisfactory water drainage in the school playing area. Young children, being what they are, seem irresistibly tempted to play in the surface water and this presents a real menace to health. Will the Minister of Education investigate this matter with a view to improving conditions at the school?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes.

POLICE ACTION.

Mr. DUNSTAN: On June 13 I asked the Premier a question concerning certain police officers who were involved in a case of assault upon a boy named Peter Edward Hurley. I ask the Premier, firstly, whether any further action has been taken in this matter regarding the officers concerned; in particular, has any administrative inquiry been made; has any charge been laid before a police tribunal; or has any complaint or information been laid before a police court? Secondly, has the Premier obtained from Mr. Ward the reply the Premier said he would obtain, and does that reply indicate whether Mr. Ward ever requested that no action be taken against police officers while the case of his client was pending?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have not yet received all the information upon this matter. As the honourable member knows, I have been away overseas for almost three weeks and have only just returned. However, I notice that there are two documents in my file dealing with this matter, and for what they are worth I shall make them available. In accordance with my promise I checked on the reports that have been issued to me. Mr. Kevin Ward has reported as follows:

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 20, 1963. I regret the delay in answering but I was interstate when the letter came. So far as the matters therein are known to me, the report to the Premier by the Crown Solicitor appears to be correct with the exception of paragraph 5.

As I understood the position, Mr. Corney (Hurley's stepfather) told police officers that he had engaged me to act for the boy. Despite this knowledge, a police inspector was sent

to interview the boy while he was a patient at Royal Adelaide Hospital. When I heard of this I rang Inspector Lenton and told him that I did not want the boy interviewed again without my being present. At no stage did I use the words "whose civil rights might thereby be prejudiced" in lines 8 and 9 of the report of the Crown Solicitor.

It is mentioned in *Hansard* that I requested no administrative action be taken. This is not correct. At no stage did I make such a request. Throughout this matter, I maintained the attitude that it was my task to look after the boy's interests and that it was the function of the Police Department to investigate any possible breaches of Police Regulations. I return your extracts from *Hansard* and the Crown Solicitor's report herewith.

The other report, from the Crown Solicitor, is as follows:

At the request of the honourable the Premier, the Assistant Crown Solicitor (Mr. Wells, Q.C.) prepared a report on the above which I forwarded. Following a perusal of the *Hansard* report of the question asked by Mr. Dunstan, M.P., and the honourable the Premier's answer, Mr. Wells desires to draw attention to what he describes as the distinctly misleading nature of the honourable member's rejoinder to the reply given. I append his further comments which I think may be summarized as follows:

Mr. Ward (Mr. Hurley's solicitor) not only did not request the police to take no administrative or disciplinary action, but there is not one word in the report used by the honourable the Premier to suggest that he did. Mr. Ward requested that the police should not again interview his client Hurley since he proposed to take civil action.

The result of his request was to prevent a continuance of inquiries from Hurley to ascertain what he alleged had happened until the civil proceedings were dealt with. Naturally, if asked, Mr. Ward would say that he made no such request, but no-one had said he did. A resort to allegations that something was said in a report which was not said, for the purpose of having it denied, while not new in Parliamentary debate is still ethically unjustifiable.

FOXES.

Mr. LAUCKE: I have received reports from several country districts that with the decimation of the wild rabbit population by the myxomatosis virus, the losses of lambs and poultry through depredations of foxes has increased sharply. Can the Minister of Lands say whether consideration will be given to the introduction of a bonus payment for foxes destroyed—in other words, scalp money—as an incentive for their destruction, as applies in Victoria?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: Foxes are classed as vermin and there is no special Act, like the Wild Dog Act, covering them. It is the responsibility of landholders to see that vermin on their properties are adequately dealt with.

It has frequently been suggested to me that because of the decline in the rabbit population the fox now constitutes a greater menace to lambs. In view of that I will have this matter examined, but with what results I cannot forecast.

DECENTRALIZATION.

Mr. LAWN: Some time during the last 10 years—and I cannot remember exactly when—Parliament, by resolution, established the Industries Development Committee as a special committee to investigate the possibility of decentralization in this State. As I do not expect to be a member of this House in another 10 years, can the Premier say whether I can look forward to seeing the report of that committee some time during the next 10 years?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have no direct information as to when the committee's report will be available. I know that it has taken evidence in many country centres, and I believe that it is preparing a report. I will inquire and let the honourable member know.

NARACOORTE ADULT EDUCATION.

Mr. HARDING: The old Naracoorte High School will become vacant immediately the new school at Naracoorte South is occupied. Will the Minister of Education assist the establishment of an adult education centre at Naracoorte by recommending to Cabinet that the old school be made available for an adult education centre?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I shall be pleased to investigate the whole matter and to let the honourable member know what decision is made.

WHYALLA WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Education been able to consider further the proposal I made in relation to the prevention of flooding of the Whyalla West Primary School grounds, and can he comply with the suggestions I have made in my recent letter to him?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I have not yet received a report on this matter. As soon as I do so, I will let the honourable member know.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the following reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence:

Beetaloo Trunk Main Replacement,
Pennington Primary School,
Royal Adelaide Hospital Additional
Buildings (final),
Yorke Peninsula Water Supply (Extension of Water Mains to Additional Areas in the District Councils of Milalton and Yorketown).

Ordered that reports be printed.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Consideration of Committee's report.

Mr. HEASLIP (Rocky River): It is with much pleasure that I rise to move the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Speech given by His Excellency the Governor at the opening of this second session of the 37th Parliament. On two previous occasions I have seconded the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply; on this occasion I have the honour to move it, and this is an honour which I greatly appreciate.

I have now attended many openings of Parliament and have listened with great attention to the Governors' Speeches in which the Government's proposed legislation has been outlined. These Speeches have always been impressive and, of course, informative, but I do not think I have ever listened with more attention or that I have been more impressed than on this occasion. It is now just over two years since Sir Edric and Lady Bastyan arrived in South Australia. One of His Excellency's first country tours was to my electorate of Rocky River to open the Crystal Brook show. I believe Crystal Brook has the honour of being the first town in South Australia in which His Excellency has opened a show. That was when His Excellency was a newcomer to this State and was not sure whether Mildura belonged to South Australia or to Victoria! Since then he and Lady Bastyan have travelled through the country extensively, and I suggest that His Excellency knows much more about this State than do most South Australians and, what is more important, many South Australians have had the opportunity to meet and talk with him as the direct representative of Her Majesty the Queen. No-one could help being impressed by the way with which His Excellency outlined the Government's proposals, which signify further progress in this State.

May I, Mr. Speaker, convey to His Excellency the unwavering loyalty of the people of Rocky River to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Early this year we had the honour and pleasure of a visit from Her Majesty. Reports have

been made that the Queen Mother may visit South Australia for the Festival of Arts. Should that be so, I am sure that the people of South Australia will give her the same warm and affectionate reception as they gave her daughter.

On looking around this Chamber, one cannot help noticing the absence of colleagues of previous sessions. I refer first to the passing of Sir Cecil Hincks—a loveable, kindly man if ever there was one—who served as a member of Parliament for 21 years, and as a Minister for many years. I refer also to Mr. Ron Ralston, who was the member for Mount Gambier. He was not with us for long—only four years—but he left his mark and made many friends in this House. We greatly regret their passing, and I extend sincere sympathy to their relatives. I take this opportunity to welcome their successors—Mr. Jim Ferguson, the member for Yorke Peninsula, who will second this motion, and Mr. Allan Burdon, the member for Mount Gambier. I am sure their contributions to this Parliament will justify the choice of their electors.

Listening to His Excellency outline the Government's proposals, no-one could but be impressed by the stability and progress of this State. When I was elected to this House nearly 15 years ago, South Australia was still a State with a small population, dependent on primary production and the price available for that product on overseas markets for its economy. Far too often, because of unseasonal conditions or low overseas prices (both beyond the control of this State), this industry was carried on at a loss, which resulted in no spending power for the producer, a big reduction in revenue for the Government, and inevitable unemployment. In fact, at that time the State lacked stability and the people lacked security. South Australia's position had become stagnant.

As the census illustrates, for the seven-year period that ended in 1947 there was an increase of 11.21 per cent, which was the lowest gain ever recorded. From then on, however, the wise administration of the Playford Government began to bear fruit. By keeping down costs, it attracted industries to this State. Because of the building up of secondary industries work became available and, instead of losing our population to other States, we began to gain population. The 1954 census showed a gain of 23.38 per cent, and this gain was maintained in the years that followed. Our economy became stable and we were able to balance out bad seasons. This was shown in the 1957-58 and the 1959-60 harvests, which

followed the two lowest rainfall growing periods ever recorded. These would have proved disastrous to any country or State entirely dependent on primary production but, with the aid of secondary industry, we can boast of having the highest rate of population increase, the second lowest unemployment figure (Victoria being the only State with a lower figure, and it is only .1 per cent lower), and the highest saving bank deposits per capita. We have a stable economy now, the people have security, and confidence is such that private enterprise is investing millions of pounds in our industry. I hope all will join with me in congratulating the Premier and his Government on this wonderful position and on the high regard in which South Australia is held. Paragraph 6 of His Excellency's Speech refers to the Government's scientific services to primary producers. His Excellency said:

My Government continues its active policy of the provision of scientific services in all fields of primary production. Shearing and wool classing schools have been established in country centres. Detailed programmes have been continued in connection with the development of recommended wheat varieties. Pasture seed production, weed control, cereal research, and investigation into soil fertility and associated problems have received special attention.

Mr. Speaker, that is a very small paragraph and it does not seem to be a very important one, but in my opinion it is most important because today science is playing an important part in primary production and without it Australia could not compete on world markets. This is essential if we are to continue to employ our increasing population and maintain our standard of living. Since farmers accepted wheat stabilization, which has helped considerably to keep down the cost of living, they have had payable prices. However, seasonal risks still remain. Science aids in this direction with hormone sprays, insect sprays, improvement of soil fertility, modern machinery and selected seed wheats—rust-resistant wheats. All these things help to reduce this risk. Science has made farming more efficient and, as shown in the statistics, it has raised production levels.

If we look at the five-year period ended 1952-53 we find that the Australian yearly average wheat yield over that period was 154,000,000 bushels. In the following five years the average yield was 159,000,000 bushels. Those yields were grown off some 10,000,000 to 11,000,000 acres. In the five-year period ended 1962-63 the average yield was 250,000,000 bushels; in other words, 100,000,000

bushels a year extra. Last year, off 16,000,000 acres, Australia reaped 300,000,000 bushels, which is a record. The yield per acre has increased from 15.5 bushels to 18.5 bushels. Of the 300,000,000 bushels reaped last year about 73,000,000 bushels will be required in Australia for home consumption and seed, which leaves 227,000,000 bushels for export. I compliment the Australian Wheat Board, which has now disposed of the whole of that quantity. Instead of waiting for buyers to come and buy the wheat it sent representatives overseas, with the result that so early in the season the whole of that record surplus of wheat has been sold at satisfactory prices.

Under the wheat stabilization scheme, introduced some 14 years ago, the Government guaranteed the price for export wheat up to 100,000,000 bushels. At that time producers were accepting 6s. 8d. a bushel for their wheat for home consumption, while the overseas price was 16s. a bushel. In other words, the producers were keeping down the cost of living to the extent of about 9s. 6d. a bushel. Farmers are now asking that this guarantee in respect of export wheat be increased from 100,000,000 to 150,000,000 bushels, and, quite frankly, I think it is a most reasonable request. I have heard people say that it is no good guaranteeing the price of export wheat for a bigger quantity because if we do we may not be able to sell it and it may become an embarrassment to us. My view is that that is a defeatist attitude. If we are to develop Australia as we have done in the past we have to produce as much as we possibly can. Secondary industry is dependent upon primary industry for all its overseas credits, and if farmers do not export or are not able to do so in competition with world markets then secondary industries must suffer. Secondary industries can expand only at the rate that overseas credits are provided, and primary producers practically supply the whole of the overseas credits.

The wheat that was sold last year—about 220,000,000 bushels—averaged about 13s. 6d. a bushel. The guaranteed price last year was 15s. 10d., so the effect of that was that the Government had to subsidize about 100,000,000 bushels to the extent of 2s. 4d. a bushel, involving a total cost of about £13,000,000. I cannot see that it would be on the grounds of cost of subsidy that the Commonwealth Government would refuse to increase this export quota. I am fairly certain—and I have this on good information—that the price of wheat this year will be reduced by 1s. 6d. to 2s. a bushel. If we took the lower of those two

figures and assumed a reduction of 1s. 6d. a bushel, the subsidy would be only 10d. a bushel, and that 10d. on 150,000,000 bushels would mean that the Commonwealth Government would then have to subsidize exports to the extent of only half of what it did last year. Therefore, I do not think there is any justification for the Government's refusing to accede to the producers' request to raise the export quota to 150,000,000 bushels on the score of the cost of subsidy.

It may be said that we may not be able to dispose of the wheat. I consider that if we produce the wheat it is our job to dispose of it. If the pioneers of this country had taken the view that they could not sell the goods they produced, Australia would not have advanced as it has over the years. The Commonwealth Government's subsidy to primary industries amounts to only a few million pounds, whereas the British primary industries this year will receive a subsidy of £364,000,000.

In 1962 there were 16,500,000 sheep in South Australia—a record. It might be claimed that wheat production was reduced at the expense of sheep production, but that was not so. There was an Australian record quantity of wheat and a South Australian record number of sheep. No doubt the sheep figures have been reduced this year but the numbers will be far above the average that has been carried in South Australia. There would be about 15,000,000 sheep in this State at present. With a good seasonal opening, more sheep are needed as a far greater number can be carried. This extra production has been assisted by the scientific knowledge that has been made available to primary producers. I commend the Government for extending scientific experiments and making information available to primary producers.

Mr. Jennings: You have not mentioned the 40-hour week yet!

Mr. HEASLIP: I am dealing with an industry that does not have a 40 hour week: I am dealing with primary producers who, in order to make a living, have to work, irrespective of whether there is a 40-hour or a 60-hour week for others.

Mr. Ryan: Not all the year round!

Mr. HEASLIP: They have to make a living. I do not know whether there is a 40-hour week now; I do not think there is. I think the so-called 40-hour week is below 40 hours. I am dealing with extra production. It seems that some people think there should be less production, and the way to do that is by working less.

Mr. Ryan: You mean produce more in less time.

Mr. HEASLIP: There cannot be extra production if people do not work. Primary producers do work, and if they did not there would be no secondary industries. There would be no 40-hour week or a shorter working week, because there would be no overseas credits and no establishment of secondary industries in this State.

Mr. Ryan: Are other States going backward?

Mr. HEASLIP: If you think South Australia is going backward, well I do not.

Mr. Ryan: Other States have it.

Mr. HEASLIP: Not in primary industries. There has been a remarkable opening to the season. I have never seen a better one and fodder will be readily available. This good opening may cause two problems, fodder and fire, both important and possibly dangerous. With modern machinery fodder has played a great part in the production of extra stock. Modern methods of conserving fodder, and of having it available during the period when stock could not be carried without it, have enabled stock numbers to be increased to the extent they have. I hope that with the wonderful seasonal opening and the pasture that will be available, producers will restock their sheds with conserved fodder. They should also take precautions to make their fire breaks adequate and so guard against the ravages of fire.

The Electricity Trust and the Engineering and Water Supply Department are two important departments that have greatly assisted primary producers. The single wire earth return service in small country towns and houses has been a wonderful boon. Today, most of those farms are connected to the trust's service. It is not essential perhaps, but it is a wonderful amenity.

Mr. Ryan: You say it is not essential?

Mr. HEASLIP: Yes. It was many years before I had electricity, and I was a member of this House then. Many country members were here before they had electricity on their properties.

Mr. Ryan: You still say it is not essential. Why isn't it essential?

Mr. Casey: On present-day standards electricity is most essential.

Mr. HEASLIP: It is not essential, but it is most desirable. That is why I congratulate the trust on a wonderful job. Water is most essential. In a State which is the driest in the Commonwealth (and the Commonwealth is the driest continent on earth), it is a remarkable

achievement that 96 per cent of the people can turn on a tap and get water. Only four per cent of the total area of this State has a rainfall of over 20 inches. In the last year or so Melrose has been supplied with reticulated water; Orroroo, Booleroo Centre and Appila have greatly improved services; and work will soon proceed at Wirrabara where people have been patiently awaiting a reticulated supply.

I have much pleasure in moving the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. FERGUSON (Yorke Peninsula): Having been recently elected to this Parliament, and being probably the newest member of this House, it affords me great pleasure to second the motion so ably moved by my colleague, the member for Rocky River. He has now represented his district for many years, and I am sure that he has rendered valuable service to the electors in that part of the State and to South Australia in general.

I join the mover in extending expressions of loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen. The people of South Australia and Australia had the great joy and satisfaction of seeing and meeting Her Royal Highness and the Duke of Edinburgh on the occasion of their recent visit to Australia. I was unable to be present at the functions arranged in honour of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, but I should like to join the Government in extending congratulations to all the people and organizations who had anything to do with the arrangement of them; outstanding among which was the music festival at Elder Park. On such occasions big crowds of people congregate, and I think that the efficiency the Police Force displayed in handling them is to be commended.

We express our sincere thanks and gratitude to His Excellency and Lady Bastyan for the devoted service they render to this State. I am sure that the people are mindful of their devotion to duty and the fact that distance, time and personal considerations have not deterred them from making special efforts to meet the people, and to help them in their community undertakings. Especially do country people appreciate meeting and talking with His Excellency and his Lady in their own towns and surroundings. Recently, His Excellency, accompanied by Lady Bastyan, visited Yorke Peninsula towns, and I express on behalf of the people of Yorke Peninsula the very great pleasure of being able to share their company, and we look forward to another visit that His Excellency is to make in the near future.

I pay my respects to the memory of the late Sir Cecil Hincks, who represented the Yorke Peninsula district for a period of 22 years. During that time he served the district and the State with great distinction. Not many years after his entry into Parliament he was made a Minister of the Crown, and as Minister of Lands he won the respect of all who had any association with him. Working under great physical disabilities, he displayed great courage and interest in the affairs of returned soldiers and those on the land. Returned soldiers, particularly soldier settlers, owe much to him, and have benefited greatly from his efforts on their behalf. Although he was not personally known to me, I know that Mr. Ralston, too, was a respected member of this House.

His Excellency, in his opening Speech, referred to the many great undertakings within the various Government departments which augur well for the continued progress and prosperity of this State. With increasing population, the development of more and bigger industries and larger housing programmes, even greater progress will be achieved. One of the first matters dealt with in His Excellency's Speech related to developments within the Agriculture Department. Having been associated with primary production all my life, and representing a district that is primarily agricultural, I should like to comment on some things mentioned in paragraph 6, which says that the Government continues its active policy of providing scientific research in all fields of primary production. I pay a great tribute to the work of the Agriculture Department, under the direction of its Minister. I feel sure that I am not only expressing my own views and opinions, but that I speak for all those engaged in primary production. Through scientific research and field experiments, farmers today are engaged in production which our fathers never dreamed of. I believe that if more people engaged in agricultural production were more inquiring about the success of research, and the help available to them through the officers of the Agriculture Department, even greater achievements and success would be in store for them.

Weed control is very important, not only in safeguarding the interests of those directly engaged in agricultural pursuits but to the State as a whole. I was pleased to note that this matter was raised during question time and that other members on this side of the House are concerned with this problem. We are continually reminded that this State, and

indeed the whole of Australia, is dependent upon primary production for the maintenance of a favourable trade balance. Recently, a chairman of one of our district councils reminded us that weeds cost primary production in Australia £70,000,000 annually, and that it is the duty of every landholder to eradicate them. Weeds take up valuable land that should be given to worthwhile production, and if their eradication is not seriously considered all work in connection with the development of recommended seed varieties, pasture seed production and cereal research, will not reap its full reward. I commend the district councils and landholders in my own district for the way they are tackling this problem, and hope that other areas will be successful in this great undertaking of eradicating weeds.

Investigation into soil fertility has received and is receiving special attention. Many parts of this State, once regarded as waste lands and useless, have been brought into production because of this research. Portions of my own electorate have not yet responded to the experiments that have been undertaken. I refer to that portion of Yorke Peninsula west of Warooka, commonly known as the foot. I should like to quote from some investigations undertaken by the Warooka District Council in respect to the production of this area, and receipts of barley last season. I have a table, as follows:

	Acres Sown	Bags Delivered
Hundred Warrenbien	1,284	5,961
Poor lands—Hundreds Coon- arie, Carrbie, Para Wurlie, and Moorowie	9,297	34,391
Good lands in Hundreds Carrbie, Para Wurlie and Moorowie	14,643	117,073
Totals	25,224	157,425

It will be observed that the average of the poor land is approximately three bags to the acre, and the average for the better land, seven bags to the acre. Crops in the poorer areas mature and develop to the dough stage of ripening, and then for some unknown reason die away. It is estimated that there are 200,000 acres of this poorer type of land in this area, and if half of it could be developed and brought into production—given a three-year rotation, with an average yield of six bags to the acre—it would return 200,000 bags of barley annually. This land is situated in an 18in. to 25in. annual rainfall area, and I consider it is worth persevering with. This year the Agriculture Department is undertaking an extensive research programme with

landholders, who are co-operating with field officers, to try to rectify apparent deficiencies in the soil in this area. The Director of Agriculture has informed me that he considers the present research is one of the best co-ordinated programmes between farmer and field officer, and I trust that the investigations will be successful. One of the matters that has been the concern of many of the primary producers in the southern part of my district, is the fact that all cereals produced are transported to the northern portion for shipment overseas. Surrounded by sea, they believe that deep-sea loading facilities should be available to them to relieve them of some of the heavy differentials that they have to carry at the point of their present receipts. Representations have been made to the Government and investigations have been taking place into available deep water and the nature of the sea-bed for such an undertaking. Giles Point, six miles north of Edithburgh, is considered to be the most suitable place for this project. I understand that the Government has indicated to the electors on the southern part of Yorke Peninsula that if the survey at Giles Point proves satisfactory it will submit, for investigation, proposals to the Public Works Committee for its recommendations, or otherwise.

One of the conditions for the establishment of deep-sea loading facilities will, of course, depend on the co-operation of the Bulk Handling Co-operative in setting up receipt silos at this point. Here I pay a tribute, Mr. Speaker, to the great part you have played in the establishment of bulk handling in South Australia. In this State we have a system second to none, and I feel it is because of your vision and foresight that bulk handling has advanced to the stage it has. Many farmers in this State were reluctant to co-operate in bulk handling, and it was only because of your persistence, Mr. Speaker, that cereal growers obtained the great saving and advantage that I am sure they appreciate today. The silos towering high on the horizons of many parts of our State will be a memorial to your foresight and effort long after your labours are terminated here. I envisage the day when all cereals will be handled by the Bulk Handling Co-operative, with great saving and advantage to all cereal growers.

I refer now to another development taking place on Yorke Peninsula—a new type of lime kiln being erected north of Stansbury by Dehydrated Lime Ltd., of which two of the local farmers of Stansbury are directors. There are large deposits of limestone on Yorke

Peninsula and, if these could be converted to better uses in the way of cheaper roads and streets, the benefits would be twofold. In recent years great advances have been made in the use of lime for the stabilizing of soils, mainly in the preparation of soil on the spot as a base for the making and sealing of roads. This applies more particularly to the heavy clay soils of higher plasticity. The use of lime in this type of soil under wet conditions can have some amazing results. When applied in the right proportion to wet sticky clay, lime will rapidly dry it out. The chemical reaction is to convert the wet clay to a non-plastic material which is easily worked with the normal road-grader and will immediately carry the weight of a vehicle. When the material is formed up and compacted, a sealing of bitumen can be applied to make an excellent road surface.

It will be appreciated that this method of using on-the-spot material will effect great savings, as against the conventional methods of carting vast quantities of crushed stone and filling to form a base for sealing. Experiments have proved that in the case of main highways, where extremes of traffic are encountered, a layer of crushed stone is desirable before sealing. I have read an interesting article written by Sydney Berman (Soil Engineer, Chicago Department of Public Works) on the use of lime as a help for road construction. In the United States of America many experiments with lime stabilization have been carried out. Many test sections of road have been made since 1945, mostly with outstanding success, airway runways, where extra heavy wheel-loads are encountered, being one of the most successful. I understand that there are several test pieces of road in South Australia; also, that the Housing Trust is interested and is inquiring about the possibilities of lime stabilizing underneath house foundations in wet clay soils, to prevent the cracking of walls later.

There are possibilities for the use of this product in the making and sealing of roads in many district council areas where heavy wet clay soils are encountered. However, the use of lime in the stabilization of soils is no new undertaking. The first great road-builders of antiquity, the Romans, used lime extensively in the building of roads, including the famous Appian Way that leads into Rome. Here we find cobblestones set on a base of lime-stabilized soil. This road has been used for many centuries and is still there today. This should speak for itself.

If this new method of burning lime is successful and production costs can be reduced, then it has possibilities and the old-established means of burning lime will be outmoded and obsolete. The capacity of the present kiln is 30 to 40 tons a day. Whilst referring to the way in which it would be possible to build roads, I am pleased to note that it is estimated that £12,000,000 is to be spent on roads during the current financial year, an amount nearly twice that allocated for this purpose in 1957-58, when the member for Barossa (Mr. Laucke) referred to the huge amount being spent on road development. The people of my electorate appreciate what has been and is being done by the Highways Department, but it must be remembered that road transport is the only means by which we travel and carry our produce on Yorke Peninsula. In days gone by ketches that called at many of the small ports transported most of the cereals produced and the superphosphate used in their production. Today, the ketch trade is almost non-existent and production, which has greatly increased, is transported over the road system. Those interested in the production of fat lambs and breeding are greatly satisfied that lambs can now be transported by road. This should apply to all sheep transported to and from Yorke Peninsula, a certain distance south of the present railway, where a buffer zone could be created. Sheep bought at a Burra market on a Thursday do not arrive (by rail) at Kadina until Sunday morning, and one can readily imagine how this affects stock in transit.

His Excellency mentioned the great progress maintained in the supply and reticulation of water for this State. Whilst this is being done in and around the metropolitan area, I am pleased to note that the schemes having their beginnings from the River Murray are reaching out still further, with the object of giving reticulated water to more remote country areas.

I am pleased to note that the Public Works Committee has been investigating the proposal for extensions to the Yorke Peninsula water scheme. When first inquiries were made in respect to a scheme for Yorke Peninsula, I believe that electors in the southern part were opposed to water reticulation. With a series of dry years, which depleted supplies from the shallow wells in these areas, the present generation has come to realize the value of a permanent reticulation scheme. I understand that the Engineering and Water Supply Department has stated that, if these extensions are granted, the limit of the existing trunk main will be reached.

At present a reticulation scheme supplies Warooka and the surrounding district from an underground supply in the hundred of Para Wurlie. This is a limited supply, but I hope that investigations will be continued to discover other underground supplies, as many landholders in the southern area desire reticulated water.

The development and progress that has been achieved by the Electricity Trust in South Australia has been fantastic. The figures stated in His Excellency's Speech show how efficient this department must be and indicate something of its capacity to get things done. I am sure country consumers appreciate the reductions that have taken place in tariffs and look forward to the day when further reductions are possible. I understand that, within a short period, the whole of my electorate will be connected to a supply of this necessary commodity.

I congratulate the Minister of Education on having performed a difficult task in providing accommodation and teaching staff, as far as is practicable, to satisfy the needs of education in this State. I believe that electors generally are interested in this problem of education. I am constantly approached by electors in my own district who have a genuine desire to help improve the standard of our education system. Some time ago the residents of Maitland and district were given to understand that a new area school would be built in their town. I hope that this school will be erected and in use soon. Mr. Speaker, the proposed legislation for this session of Parliament is such, I am sure, that stability and progress will be maintained for the people of South Australia under an efficient Government so ably led by the Premier.

I thank my electors for the confidence they have shown by electing me as their representative. I am sure that by mutual co-operation we shall be able to help solve some of their problems. I thank the members of this House for the manner in which they have received me into this place. I acknowledge the great assistance and courtesy that the officers and staff have extended to me in my introductions, and I trust that I may be able to make some contribution to the accomplishments of this Parliament.

Mr. FRANK WALSH secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.33 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, July 24, at 2 p.m.