

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, August 14, 1963.

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

QUESTIONS.**CORONER'S DEPARTMENT.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Recently I have had brought to my notice the fact that there is a long delay in the hearing of matters before the Coroner. Will the Minister of Education ask his colleague, the Attorney-General, to consider reorganizing the Coroner's Department to provide a select staff who would become expert in advising the Coroner and who would assist in expediting coronial inquiries? It must be remembered that the practice of having a police officer known as the Coroner's Sergeant is of long standing. Further, as inquiries are frequently adjourned for lengthy periods, could a list of the cases to be heard be published on a specific day weekly, fortnightly or monthly to aid those who are vitally interested in the inquiries, but who at present do not know what is happening?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I shall be pleased to do so. I know that my colleague, the Attorney-General, has been considering somewhat similar matters, although not exactly on the lines suggested by the Leader, in connection with the reorganization of the Coroner's Department. As the Leader knows, the Deputy Coroner, Mr. Teesdale-Smith, died some time ago. It was only yesterday morning that Mr. Rowe discussed this matter with me. The Coroner is also Chairman of the Betting Control Board, and he will be absent for some time on an important mission. It is a question of appointing an Acting City Coroner, but the Attorney-General discussed with me the larger problem which he has been considering in the past and will consider in future. I shall be pleased to bring before him the specific suggestions of the Leader.

MAITLAND AREA SCHOOL.

Mr. FERGUSON: Can the Minister of Education say whether plans for the proposed new area school at Maitland have been completed and, if they have, when this school will be erected?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I understand that plans have been completed. I think specifications are being drawn by one of the leading architectural firms in this State,

which is pushing on with all possible expedition. I will try to obtain a firm date or dates for the honourable member. As a former representative and resident of that district, I have a personal interest in this school, and I am sure we shall have it commenced and completed as soon as possible.

WATER CONSERVATION.

Mr. LANGLEY: In view of the high costs attached to the reticulation of water, will the Minister of Works consider launching an early publicity campaign to conserve water to meet the needs of consumers in summer months?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: This question has often been discussed by the Engineer-in-Chief, the Engineer for Water Supply and me. The idea has much merit. Water consumption per capita in this State, particularly in the metropolitan area, has, in line with consumption in other major cities of the world that have a like climate, increased markedly in the last 12 or 15 years. In 1948 (I speak from memory, but I think I am correct) the per capita consumption in the metropolitan area and principal country towns of this State was about 70 gallons a day. That is the average taken over 365 days of the year.

Mr. Clark: Does that include industrial needs?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: It includes all consumers. The per capita consumption had risen by 1962 to 112 gallons a day—an increase of over 50 per cent in that period. Relative consumptions in Melbourne and Perth, particularly Melbourne, have risen in a similar ratio. That indicates a general tendency to use more water when it is available, and it has been available without restriction in the metropolitan area of Adelaide and, indeed, in practically the whole of the State, for many years, even in the stringent conditions of the 1959 drought. Apparently, this tendency will continue. By interjection, the member for Gawler suggested that industry was a factor to be considered. That is so, but, from memory, I think that industry consumes not more than 24 per cent or 26 per cent of the total water consumed in the metropolitan area. Indeed, the days of highest consumption in the hot summer months in Adelaide have occurred at weekends, when industry is not a consumer and public parks and gardens are not normally being watered. That indicates that by far the greatest proportion of our consumption is in domestic premises and on suburban gardens. That is shown by the quality of gardens and the care taken by

residents in their gardens, and I think people in Adelaide and in our main country towns can be proud of the fact that they show such excellent results from the water that they use. Nevertheless, the Engineer-in-Chief believes—and I am led to similar conclusions—that much water is used unnecessarily, not deliberately although in some cases there is an element of carelessness. Generally speaking, the wastage or over-use of water is not deliberate: it is rather a lack of understanding of what water is required to maintain suburban gardens in tip-top condition.

From time to time we have considered whether steps could be taken to educate public opinion on the economic and wise use of water, having in mind the cost of providing it and the fact that, as consumption per capita continues to rise, the headworks and the size of the reticulation mains and storages must be increased all the time at considerable cost in order to maintain supplies at their accustomed level. Charges for water must relate to the cost of supplying the volume of water required at peak periods. Apart from having consultations with those people who advise gardeners on the way to improve their gardens—and we have had some useful co-operation from some of the writers and broadcasting people who offer good advice from time to time on the way to improve gardens and plants—we have not yet entered into any general publicity campaign. I shall be pleased to have further discussions with the Engineer-in-Chief now that the honourable member has raised the matter, because it is important. I consider that a continued rise in the per capita consumption will inevitably in due course—

The SPEAKER: The Minister is beginning to debate the question.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I was about to conclude, Mr. Speaker, by saying that I believe that eventually the cost of the services and mains required to maintain consumption at this level will bring about an inevitable increase in charges which nobody wants to impose and certainly nobody wants to pay.

BLACKWOOD ORCHARD.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: During the last few sessions of Parliament I have several times asked the Minister of Agriculture whether he had any plans for the Government Experimental Orchard—quite an old property—at Blackwood. From time to time doubts have been raised whether this orchard should continue to be used for the purposes for which it is now being used. As I understand that

a decision has now been made on its future, will the Minister say what that decision is?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: This week the Government purchased some land at Forest Range with the ultimate object of establishing a fruit and vegetable research station in the area, thereby replacing most of the work being done at Blackwood. That is as far as the matter has gone. Land has been purchased, but there is no fixed plan for the future, so the plans cannot be worked out in detail. However, the general idea is to gradually move out of the Blackwood area because it is in a climatic region that is not typical of the horticultural areas of the Adelaide Hills. The rainfall is lower than that in most of the other areas; it is a very old orchard; and many varieties grown there have lost their significance. However, no matter what happens in the future there is no present intention to dispose of all the department's activities in the Blackwood area. Many valuable research projects are going on around the headquarters of that orchard and there is no present intention of dispensing with those activities.

GEORGES CORNER.

Mr. LOVEDAY: On the Port Augusta to Adelaide road, about 50 miles from Port Augusta, and close to Port Pirie, there is a most acute corner known as Georges Corner. It has notices indicating that there is a corner, but not its acuteness and, as a result, vehicles approaching at high speed frequently try to take it at too high a speed. Accidents have occurred, most of them involving vehicles overturning. Will the Minister of Works ask his colleague, the Minister of Roads, whether adequate sign posts can be provided at this corner to indicate its acute nature?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes, I shall be pleased to do that.

RAILWAY POLICY.

Mr. HALL: I ask my question of the Premier. It involves railway working and, as it concerns a matter of Government policy, I believe that the Premier should answer it. Last year I received a letter from a constituent at Blyth concerning the use of return tickets on alternative railway routes. I received a reply from the Minister of Railways, through the Minister of Works, which gave the following reasons for altering the by-law which in the past had enabled return tickets to be used on alternative lines when no return service existed on the original line. The reason given for the alteration of the

by-law was that it was desired to overcome certain inequities in the use of alternative travel. The Minister went on to say:

The by-law is similar to the existing practice in N.S.W.

That was the sum total of the reasons. This morning I boarded a train at Mallala and noticed this sign opposite the ticket window:

Tender correct fare. In order to prevent inconvenience and delay, passengers should provide themselves with the exact amount of the fare, as booking clerks are not able at all times to give change.

The SPEAKER: Has the honourable member sought permission to make a statement?

Mr. HALL: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I looked for some friendly words in that notice and could find none; the thing that stood out was "Tender correct fare" in large type. In view of those two matters (which are two of many), is it the Government's policy to discourage the use of passenger services of the South Australian Railways?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No.

Mr. HALL: I appreciate the Premier's reply; indeed it is one of the few times I have appreciated a negative reply from him. I, and other people, have had the impression that this is the Government's policy, whereas the Railways Commissioner's endeavours have certainly given the public the impression that he does not want their patronage on his trains. As I find from the Premier's answer that the Commissioner's policy is out of line with the Government's policy, will the Premier use every endeavour to see that the Railways Commissioner's policy is brought into line with the Government's policy?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes.

TEACHERS' ALLOWANCES.

Mr. HUGHES: My question relates to allowances paid to student teachers attending the Teachers College. I wish to refer to a summary of rates as they affect the various States. In South Australia, for the first year the allowance is £305 a year; for the second year, £315; the third year, £330; the fourth year, £350; and for married students, £450. In Tasmania, the allowance for the first year is £400; for the second year, £425; for the third year, £475; for the fourth year, £525; and the allowance for adult students ranges from £525 to £650 a year. In New South Wales, for those under 21, the first and second year allowance is £260; for those over 21, the first and second year allowance is £400; the third year under 21, £360; the third year over 21, £400; the fourth year under 21,

£400; and the fifth year over 21, £400. In Western Australia, first to fourth year under 21 the allowance is £345; over 21, £490. In Victoria, the allowance paid for the first year is £500; for the second year, £500; for the third year, £600, and for the fourth and fifth years, £650. As it is five years since an increase was granted in this State, and in view of the dissatisfaction amongst student teachers with the allowances paid in this State, will the Minister of Education obtain a report on this matter?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I shall be pleased to do so, but I have had the matter under consideration and investigation for some time during the last two or three years. I had the matter investigated by the Director of Education and by some of his principal officers. We have had discussions with officers from the South Australian Teachers' Institute, and I received a deputation from young students at the teachers' colleges. Although I am sympathetic to their request, these are, after all, substantial allowances in addition to other benefits of free education, free tuition at teachers' colleges and free education at the university, which are not available to young people seeking to enter any other profession. Further, there is no dearth of applicants for entry to our teachers' colleges.

Mr. Shannon: That is the real answer.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes. The recruiting branch of the Education Department under the Superintendent of Recruitment and Training (Mr. A. W. Jones) has been an outstanding success. We are able to become highly selective in taking entrants into the colleges. On Monday morning last I opened a conference on the matter of guidance to teaching scholars, attended by a large group of teachers from independent and departmental schools, and the principals and vice-principals of the three teachers' colleges. I requested them to exercise the greatest scrutiny in their recommendation of aspirants to the teaching profession: we want only outstanding students both in ability and integrity; we want only the cream of the applicants. Although I am sympathetic to the request, I point out that, even on the present rates, we have more applicants than places to be filled.

CHOWILLA DAM.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I ask this question knowing that you, Mr. Speaker, are concerned in this matter. In view of statements made elsewhere last evening, will the Premier say what stage has been reached concerning the

agreement between the State and the Commonwealth Governments on the Chowilla dam project, and when work will commence on this important undertaking?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Agreement was reached at a conference in Canberra between the Commonwealth, New South Wales, Victorian and South Australian Governments for the construction of the dam pursuant to the River Murray Waters Agreement, under which South Australia would be the constructing authority as agent for the River Murray Commission. The estimated cost of the dam is £14,000,000, and under the agreement each of the authorities will be responsible for one-quarter of the capital cost. Since then, the Chairman of the commission has been preparing the necessary agreement for signing by the various State Premiers and the Prime Minister, and when that agreement is signed it will then be ratified by Parliament. I believe the agreement has reached an advanced stage of preparation and is probably now ready for signing. Its general terms were satisfactorily resolved at the conference in Canberra six or eight months ago.

RAILWAY STANDARDIZATION.

Mr. McKEE: Last night the Commonwealth Treasurer, when referring to the money for conversion of the standard gauge between Port Pirie and Broken Hill, said that provision had been made for the expenditure of £1,680,000 in 1963-64. Can the Premier say how this sum will be spent?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I would have to get a report from the Railways Commissioner setting out what is proposed this financial year. I will get that for the honourable member because it will set out precisely what work is expected to be accomplished this year. Most of the work will be done in the next three financial years. It has taken considerable time to arrange contracts and have detailed surveys made. Probably at present there is no formal document concerning financial arrangements enabling us to start the work. I have no doubt that will come soon, but I will get a report.

KALANGADOO SAWMILL.

Mr. HARDING: It is rumoured that many employees working at the privately owned sawmill at Kalangadoo will be transferred shortly to other employment away from that town. Local business people, in particular, have expressed concern at this possible transfer. Can the Minister of Forests say whether this

mill depends on State forests for supplies and, if it does, whether the supplies have been curtailed in any way?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Supplies for the Kalangadoo mill have not been curtailed. About four years ago they were increased by nearly 100 per cent and have remained at that level. Any future dislocations will certainly not be the result of any reduction in the Woods and Forests Department licence. This mill is running on the same licence as it has had for some time, and no reduction in supply is contemplated.

LAND SETTLEMENT.

Mr. CASEY: The South Australian Secretary of the Australian Primary Producers' Union (Mr. T. G. Retalie) is reported in today's *Advertiser* as saying:

Small farm holdings would prove impracticable anywhere in Australia and would only aggravate the difficulties of the industry.

In view of that opinion, together with the opinion of other leaders in primary production in this State, does the Premier still consider that small holdings will be an economic proposition? Further, did the Premier consult any primary producer organization before making his recent announcement about financing small farmholdings?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I make it clear that I never made a statement that the financing would be confined to small holdings. What I said was that on a recent visit to America I was astounded at the number of small holdings that were functioning successfully there. Actually 96 per cent of the total farms in America are between 40 and 160 acres in size, and they produce 70 per cent of America's total agricultural production. I said that at present there is a lack of finance for the purchase of farms by people of limited finance—people who would be capable of undertaking primary production but who could not put up the £20,000 that might be necessary to start them off. I said that under those circumstances I believed that it would be advantageous to country areas if the Government could make finance available to people who were prepared to undertake primary production, particularly if a suitable farm for the purpose were offering.

Regarding the second part of the question, I come from a rural district where all of the holdings are very small—in fact, I do not think the average would exceed 50 acres. However, I do not want to enter into a controversy with Mr. Retalie about the size of

farms. Each proposition will be considered on its merits, but I make it clear that the Government does not intend to provide finance to make a large farm, which is already economic, larger, because that would not be in the public interest.

EGG GRADING.

Mr. LAUCKE: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my recent question about the grading of eggs?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Chairman of the South Australian Egg Board reports:

With regard to the supervision of grading by the South Australian Egg Board, I have to advise that the board has three inspectors constantly engaged in this work. They visit the various grading floors of the board, and at times can be full-time on some particular floor. Their duties are to see that the producers receive correct gradings for their eggs, and also that the consumers are getting a first-quality product for consumption. All receipts and disposals of eggs graded on the floors are under constant investigation by the board. It is known to the board that some producers are selling the pick of their product to other markets, and the board is receiving the balance of the production, which does not come up to the standard necessary for some particular buyers.

FRUIT FLY BLOCK.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I asked yesterday about the Ceduna fruit fly road block?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The honorable member asked about the possibility of the Ceduna road block being by-passed by traffic taking a district road. This matter has been under constant surveillance for some time. It is not considered that there is any large-scale evasion of the fruit fly road block, if there is any evasion at all. The district road has no sign posts and it is somewhat insignificant compared with the highway. It would have to be a deliberate evasion for anyone to take it. The authorities have been patrolling this road at frequent intervals. Up to the time of the last report no vehicles from Western Australia had been intercepted on that road.

SOUTH-EAST RAIL SERVICE.

Mr. BURDON: Has the Minister of Works a reply from the Minister of Railways to my recent question about the South-East railway service?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Railways, says there are no

plans at present for the provision of air-conditioned passenger rolling stock for use on the South-East night service.

VENDING MACHINE COMPANY.

Mr. TAPPING: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on August 1 about the doubtful activities of the Development and Vending Corporation of Adelaide?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Auditor-General reports:

The investigation into the affairs of the Development and Vending Corporation is nearing completion and a report will be issued in about six to eight weeks. The investigation, which has necessitated operations in four States, has been protracted for reasons which will be given in the report, but further interstate interviews shortly will complete the inquiry.

EXPLOSIVES THEFTS.

Mr. FRED WALSH: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question about the theft of explosives from the quarry magazine at Yatala?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have a report from the Sheriff and Comptroller of Prisons, as follows:

On the night of Thursday, July 25, 1963, the explosives magazine at the Yatala Labour Prison was broken into and a quantity of gelignite, detonators and fuses, the property of the Mines Department, was stolen; also a quantity of .303 ammunition, the property of the Prisons Department. The magazine is situated approximately half a mile north of the prison proper. It is surrounded by a high stone wall and a locked steel door. The walls of the magazine are constructed of stone and concrete and about 1ft. 9in. in thickness. The roof is very thick and is built of concrete covered with iron. Entrance to this is by way of a heavy wooden door.

The offenders climbed over the outer wall. They were unable to force the wooden door, but entrance was made through the wall. Portion of the wall was broken down, as far as can be ascertained, by means of gelignite brought to the magazine. The magazine was a place of maximum security and every protective measure had been taken to guard against any theft of explosives. It is inspected daily by prison officers. Extensive investigations are being carried out by the Police Department.

APPRENTICE TRAINING.

Mr. McKEE: Members of the Port Pirie Technical School Council and the organizer of the Vehicle Builders Employees Federation of Australia (S.A. Branch) have written to me indicating concern about the lack of training facilities at Port Pirie for motor trade and panel beating apprentices. Will the Minister of Education take up this matter with the

technical branch of the Education Department in an effort to have this unsatisfactory position rectified?

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

RAILWAY CROSSINGS.

Mr. CURREN: The Glossop sub-branch of the Returned Servicemen's League has referred to me a request that warning devices be placed at the level crossing at Glossop. This matter was an item before the Upper Murray sub-branch conference. The matter was referred to the State conference of R.S.L. sub-branches and was referred back to the Glossop sub-branch for a report. Will the Minister of Works ask his colleague, the Minister of Roads, to investigate and report on the need for warning devices at level crossings on the Start Highway?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

MARRABEL WATER SCHEME.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: In May this year I submitted to the Minister of Works a report indicating the general acceptance of the rating schedule by landholders and townspeople concerned with the Marrabel water scheme. As I understand that the Minister is now able to make a statement on this scheme, I ask him to do so.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: This scheme involves much difficulty. The township urgently needs a supply but the country lands adjoining it are not in such urgent need and, as a result, some landholders have objected to paying a special rate. Negotiations have proceeded, and the Engineer for Water Supply has made a recent report to the Engineer-in-Chief that contains certain recommendations. I have not yet been able to complete discussions with the Engineer-in-Chief but I will do so as soon as I can, and, if his recommendation is favourable, I will take the matter to Cabinet for consideration. I cannot say any more at the moment except that the matter is being handled expeditiously and that I hope to have a final report for the honourable member shortly.

SCHOOL TEACHERS.

Mr. BYWATERS: Yesterday, in reply to a question I asked on notice, the Minister of Education said that 476 teachers left the Education Department in 1961 and 531 left in 1962. As this seems to me to be a large number, will the Minister say how many of these teachers were males, how many were females, and whether some females left the department to be married?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The reply to the honourable member's question on notice was necessarily a short factual reply without any explanation, and I think it could cause misunderstanding. I noticed a large heading in the last edition of the *News* yesterday and, although there was nothing wrong with it, I think it gave a completely false interpretation of the true state of affairs. First, I think we have to consider these figures in their proportion, as there are over 7,500 full-time employees in the Education Department and even the loss mentioned in one year is not a high proportion. Secondly, the corresponding gains each year are much higher so that there is a large net gain of teachers each year. In 1961 there was a loss of 476 teachers, 416 of whom were women; in 1962, total losses were 531, of whom 479 were women. It is not obligatory on any teacher resigning to say why he or she is resigning, but many women who resign do so for the laudable purpose of being married. I think that about three-quarters of the total number of women who resign do so for marriage, and many of these resign only temporarily and are almost immediately re-employed by the department, so that the losses are not as great as would appear from the factual statement I gave yesterday. I could go into more detail, but I think that what I have said roughly covers the position.

ORIENTAL FRUIT MOTH.

Mr. CURREN: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my question of yesterday concerning regulations under the Oriental Fruit Moth Control Act?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Director of Agriculture reports:

The district was defined and gazetted on August 1, 1963. Forms to enable growers to register have been sent to Renmark, and the need to register will be advertised in next week's issue of the *Murray Pioneer*. The closing date for the poll is likely to be September 26, 1963. This is the earliest practicable date, having regard to the formalities involved in registration, printing of ballot-papers, etc.

INSECTICIDES.

Mr. HUGHES: A recent article in the *Advertiser* stated:

Air spraying sends 30 to hospital. About 30 people were treated at a hospital here (Toppenish, Washington) last night after becoming ill from the effects of a deadly insecticide which hung in the air like smog. The insecticide, which was sprayed from the air on hop fields, remained hanging in the

air instead of settling, due to unusual atmospheric conditions. Residents of the affected area were evacuated when the danger was discovered.

Because aerial spraying of crops is being carried out in South Australia adjacent to towns, can the Minister of Agriculture say whether he knows of any insecticide used for aerial spraying of crops in this State that, in the event of certain atmospheric conditions, such as the changing of winds, could become dangerous to residents living close to where the operations are being carried out? If any such danger could arise, will the Minister see that every precaution is taken in using this spray in order to safeguard the health of the people?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Some insecticides in use today are at best very unpleasant and, under certain conditions of mis-use, they could be dangerous. I do not know of anything being used in this State that would be likely to cause the type of happening referred to by the honourable member. However, I shall be pleased to take a note of his question and obtain a considered reply on all aspects of this matter as it could apply to South Australia.

CLEAN AIR ACT.

Mr. HUTCHENS (Hindmarsh) to move:

That in the opinion of this House, in view of the industrial development of South Australia, it is desirable that a Clean Air Act be enacted similar to the Clean Air Act, 1958, of Victoria, but with such modifications as are necessary to meet the different conditions and requirements of this State.

Mr. HUTCHENS: As a Bill introduced last evening will, I hope, achieve the desired result, I do not intend to proceed with this motion.
Motion lapsed.

MAINTENANCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Maintenance Act, 1926-1958, and for other purposes. Read a first time.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The Maintenance Act, which is administered by the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board, relates amongst other things to relief for persons in necessitous circumstances and provides protection for deserted wives and their children. The Labor Party is dissatisfied with this form of administration because in another place we have found that

the Government is able to shirk this important social responsibility by sheltering behind the decisions of the board. The responsible Minister has merely related replies by the board to the House when questions have been raised by members of Parliament. Thus, in actual practice we have found that the department is not answerable to Parliament. No doubt, if these matters were more forcibly brought before Parliament, members on both sides of the House would wish to see the community as a whole adequately meeting its responsibilities to these unfortunate people. In this State, however, the reverse has been the case, for in South Australia, since the Second World War, there has been consistently less spent a head of population on child welfare and public relief than has been spent in any other State. I am sure that the Government is not proud of this record, and no doubt many Government members desire to reduce the suffering and degradation experienced by these people.

The Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board is deficient in its policy on public relief. We were informed in the Governor's Speech earlier this year that more field staff were to be employed and that a staff training scheme was to be implemented. These are schemes for the future, but my latest information is that there have been considerable retirements from the department and I should like to know when sufficient officers are to be employed, at least in the prosecutions branch of this department to provide adequate advisory assistance to deserted wives and children and to prosecute their claims for maintenance. I understand that the delays in this section are protracted and thus contribute towards additional worry and hardship to many people in distressed circumstances. In addition to the difficulty in country areas, the department is not adequately meeting the needs of neglected children.

The varying Government statements that have been issued from time to time relating to the provision of a suitable boys' reform institution concern another field of child welfare about which the Government should not feel particularly proud. This is another necessary project on which we have had plenty of statements from time to time from the Government but no effective action to ensure that this necessary work is carried to completion. Members on this side of the House firmly believe that these shortcomings of the Government are still evident, and that substantial changes are necessary in the administration and

responsibility of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department. We sought to introduce these amendments earlier, but it was ruled that it remained the prerogative and responsibility of the Government to introduce legislation to cater for certain administrative changes. However, it is possible for the Opposition to introduce amendments to legislation that will not impose additional charges on the Government of the day and, therefore, in this Bill, I will introduce amendments to the Maintenance Act to lessen the hardship imposed on persons in necessitous circumstances, including deserted wives and neglected children.

Clauses 1 and 2, which are the machinery clauses concerning title and incorporation, require no further explanation. Clause 3 amends section 24 (2) of the principal Act dealing with the recovery of past relief. At present, this section provides that a person or near relative may be ordered by the court to make repayment of relief to the board. This may or may not be desirable and, therefore, I seek to insert a provision that the court shall only issue an order such as this if it considers that special circumstances exist to make repayment desirable.

Clause 4 amends section 34 of the principal Act, which relates to relief for children. In particular, subsection (2) sets the upper age limit for child relief at 14 years of age, subject to an extension of two years on the approval of the Minister, thus making the upper age limit 16 years of age. Children may be subject to control by the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board until they reach 18 years of age and, therefore, I see no reason why relief should not be available for the same period if the Minister so directs. This amendment does just that.

Clause 5 enacts two new sections, 35a and 35b. New section 35a allows a person to appeal to a special magistrate if the appellant feels that the decision of the Minister relating to his public relief is unjust. On hearing the appeal, the magistrate may make an order either dismissing the appeal and thus endorsing the Minister's decision, or he may alter the Minister's decision. It is essential that such a right of appeal should be available to all persons, because to my knowledge persons have been refused relief because of some small gifts of food from friends. I am sure it was not the intention of the framers of the principal Act that poor people in these circumstances should be denied relief by the Government of the day. It is for this reason that provision is made for an appeal by persons who should be eligible for relief. To clarify the

point in regard to gifts, a new section 35b has been included. This sets out that various Commonwealth social service benefits may be considered in assessing an applicant's means, but provides that gifts of food or the loan of household goods shall not be included in this assessment.

I understand that this week a member asked whether a television set should be taken from a mother who was receiving relief. It is wrong to deny this person the use of a television set merely because she is on relief. A friend or a relative who has a television set may lend it to her. Provided that the relief money is not used to pay off the hire-purchase instalments or the interest on the set, the person should be entitled to the benefit of having this set. There are many other instances, but I will not mention them at this stage. Clause 6 strikes out existing section 38, which relates to the recovery of relief from maintenance payments, and to substitute new section 38 providing that the Minister shall not make deductions from moneys in his hands received as payments of maintenance, except when authorized to do so by the order of a court of summary jurisdiction, and on condition that the deductions may be made without imposing hardship. At present cases occur of women receiving maintenance payments as a result of court orders, but the department makes deductions from these maintenance payments for the repayment of past relief. This is certainly an injustice, because some of these maintenance payments are insufficient for a woman to maintain herself and her children in reasonable decency and comfort.

I believe that the department should not be a party to imposing additional hardship on these women; therefore, the clause provides that the Minister shall not be able to collect repayment of past relief from maintenance payments unless the repayments are subject to an order which has been made by the court after it has determined the repayments can be made without imposing hardship. Clause 7 provides for the enactment of a new section 61a dealing with the taking of blood tests in paternity cases. It states that the defendant in an affiliation case may insist upon the taking of a blood test of himself, the mother of the child, and the child to see whether the charge that he is the true father is consistent with the blood samples. If the mother does not agree to the blood test, then she is prevented from proceeding with the affiliation action. Although a blood test

cannot prove paternity, it can disprove paternity and there is no valid reason why any person should make maintenance payments when a simple blood test can prove his innocence.

Clause 8 provides for the attachment of earnings of persons liable to pay maintenance. In practice, it is often found that it is difficult to obtain regular and sufficient maintenance for mothers and their children. Whilst I am not in favour of attaching earnings for all types of debts, I see no reason why a person should not be compelled to provide adequately for his dependants when he is able, and clause 8 provides for a court of summary jurisdiction to issue an order for the attaching of the earnings of a person who is liable to pay maintenance. This provision has long been asked for by the courts and social workers in South Australia, and already it exists in the Commonwealth Matrimonial Causes Act.

Clause 9 is a consequential amendment. Clauses 10 and 11 contain provisions which have been sought by the courts for many years. As the law now stands, where a magistrate commits a child to an institution he must be committed until he is 18 years of age, and for a minor offence a child may be restricted to one of the department's institutions for many years. Many magistrates have pointed out that the discretion should be left with them as to how long a child should be committed to an institution for a particular offence, and that for minor offences they should have the right to commit the child for correspondingly short periods. Clauses 10 and 11 make these provisions by leaving the discretion with the court to commit a child "for such lesser period as the court may order". Last year the Opposition introduced a more comprehensive Bill dealing with child welfare, but it could not be debated. Therefore, on this occasion I have restricted the amendments to those matters that are glaring weaknesses in our present Maintenance Act. Most of the amendments I have sought are already operating in other parts of Australia and have been requested in this State by the courts and social workers, and therefore I sincerely commend this Bill to the House.

I believe that we should do everything within our power to ensure that a child is fully maintained. Normally this is the responsibility of both parents, but where disputes arise between parents the child should be protected. Many organizations are available to guide disputing parents, but where the family breaks up the

child is frequently left without adequate maintenance. We should ensure that it receives the maintenance to which it is entitled. I believe the same can be said of deserted wives. I realize that it takes two to make an argument, but we should do everything possible to see that children do not suffer.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON secured the adjournment of the debate.

REAL PROPERTY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON (Minister of Education) moved:

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Real Property Act, 1886-1961.

Motion carried.

Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House. Bill introduced and read a first time.

BUSINESS AGENTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON (Minister of Education) moved:

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Business Agents Act, 1938-1954.

Motion carried.

Resolution agreed to in Committee and adopted by the House. Bill introduced and read a first time.

ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONSOLIDATION BILLS.

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

That the House of Assembly request the concurrence of the Legislative Council in the appointment for the present session of a Joint Committee to which all Consolidation Bills shall stand referred, in accordance with Joint Standing Order No. 18, and to which any further questions relative thereto may at any time be sent by either House for report.

That, in the event of the Joint Committee being appointed, the House of Assembly be represented thereon by three members, two of whom shall form the quorum of the Assembly members necessary to be present at all sittings of the committee.

That a message be sent to the Legislative Council transmitting the foregoing resolutions.

That Mr. Millhouse, Mrs. Steele, and Mr. Frank Walsh be representatives of the Assembly on the said committee.

Motion carried.

PARLIAMENTARY DRAFTSMAN.

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

That Standing Order No. 85 be so far suspended for the remainder of the session as to enable the Parliamentary Draftsman and his assistant to be accommodated with seats in the Chamber on the right-hand side of the Speaker.

Motion carried.

LOAN ESTIMATES.

In Committee.

(Continued from August 13. Page 466.)

Grand total £32,914,000.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): In the presentation of these Loan Estimates, the Treasurer in some respects gave members much information, but, in other respects, information that would have been invaluable in assessing how some of the major projects were progressing was missing. For example, some major projects extend over many years and the Loan Estimates should show the total estimated cost, the expenditure up to the present, and the proportion of the project completed, together with the proposed expenditure for the current year. If this were done, members on both sides of the House would be more able effectively to control Government expenditure, which has now reached colossal figures. For example, a programme totalling nearly £48,000,000 has been placed before us, comprising £33,000,000 ordinary State works, £10,000,000 Housing Agreement funds, and £5,000,000 from semi-governmental borrowings and the use of their internal funds. I do not believe that it is satisfactory for the Treasurer just to indicate that so much money is to be spent here and so much is to be spent somewhere else as already indicated. Undoubtedly, it would lessen some of the legitimate criticism that is being levelled at the Government. Even though they are well-padded to make them palatable, these Estimates still have all the earmarks of stop-gap measures; this was most apparent under housing, government buildings and land, including hospital buildings, and educational buildings.

In June this year, the Loan Council approved a total new borrowing programme of £272,000,000, of which South Australia's

share was £37,292,000—an increase of £2,072,000 over new borrowing in 1962-63. This is not a substantial increase in view of the hard pocket of unemployed persons that has remained with us over the last three years, despite numerous statements from the Government that the employment position is improving. In the "temporary loans" field (loans made under a temporary arrangement between builder and client), previously it was necessary to have temporary finance for more than 12 months whereas now six to seven months is sufficient. A further point is that persons who have money available to assist in the purchase of existing houses were mostly demanding 10 per cent flat whereas now, with more money available, the rate has dropped to 7 per cent on a reducing balance. This still imposes a hardship on the persons who require to obtain this finance, but there seems to be a reluctance by people with savings to invest them in the "get rich quick" schemes which were offered by such organizations as the Reid Murray group, and I consider that the Government must put its house in order, not only to set the example but to anticipate reducing the rate of interest where State Government activities are concerned. I shall have more to say on this matter a little later.

These Loan Estimates are merely a continuation of Government policy introduced in February last when this State was allocated an additional £691,000 for State works and housing for the four months to June this year. This would represent an increase of £2,073,000 for a full 12 months' period. Therefore, I believe the Government is not introducing an expanding Loan programme, even though a hard core of unemployed still remains with us. I indicated in the Address in Reply debate that about 6,500 persons in South Australia were unemployed. Before concluding my remarks in relation to 1962-63, I wish to refer briefly to what was promised last year by way of a programme, what eventually happened with the programme, and some of the Peter and Paul book entries that the Government made when it failed to achieve the programme. The following is what the Treasurer said when he introduced the Loan Estimates last year:

The Government has therefore decided to implement a programme of £30,647,000, which it is expected will increase the deficit in the Loan Fund from £422,000 at June 30, 1962, to approximately £1,000,000 at June 30, 1963. Having regard to the recent level of activity and to the genuine requirements for urgent works, even this higher programme is much less than the Government would wish to approve,

but I believe that it means stretching the State's finances as far as it is practicable to do so.

That was last year. In February this year, a further £200,000 that was allocated to State works by the special Loan Council meeting made a total State works programme of £30,847,000, whereas the Government spent £29,841,000—near enough to an under-spending of £1,000,000. In addition, the figure for a loan to the Electricity Trust of South Australia was £3,000,000, instead of the £2,300,000 passed on the Loan Estimates of last year, and I strongly believe that this is just a subterfuge by the Government to show expenditure. Advances to the State Bank show an expenditure during 1962-63 of £200,000, whereas nothing was shown on the Estimates last year and I believe this to be the same sort of expenditure as I have just mentioned regarding the Electricity Trust. Thus these two lines in total account for a further expenditure of £900,000. I have yet to see the final accounts for the year, but I firmly believe that much of that £900,000 was still unexpended by the semi-government departments of the Electricity Trust and the State Bank at the end of June. I am just as firmly convinced that the Government is attempting to show expenditure which did not occur, and that the funds are still held and will be shown as proposed expenditure for 1963-64, out of the internal funds and reserves of the semi-government organizations. I have said before (and I say it just as strongly today) that this type of activity eventually leads to the destruction of business confidence, because business leaders cannot be sure that Government expenditure is not exaggerated. I have no need to remind the Treasurer that once business confidence is shattered, it takes much encouragement and boosting of consumer demand before business activity is restored within the community. Therefore, in future I request the Treasurer not to show expenditure in order to give an overall balance between the estimate and the expenditure, but rather to show the true position.

I now turn my attention to some of the specific lines in the Loan Estimates for this year. An amount of £250,000 is provided by way of advances to the State Bank. Just recently, I explained how I was dissatisfied with this item when £200,000 was shown as expenditure for last year, and I would appreciate further information from the Treasurer on how that amount was spent, whether the State Bank retained any balance at the end

of June, and how it is intended to spend a further £250,000 this year on that line. Speaking of the State Bank, when is the Government likely to consider carrying out the provisions of the Credit Foncier Department of the State Bank to make money available to people to purchase existing houses, particularly those from deceased estates? This would not necessarily be for the purpose of trafficking in the exchange of houses, for it might also assist the economy of this State further if some provision were made to assist the sale of some of the larger type houses that are now occupied by persons whose children have become married and the houses have become too big or too much for the couple to care for properly. These houses are in well developed areas, close to many facilities such as shopping, schools, churches and hospitals, and are admirably suited to house large young families. I believe that if the State Bank were granted permission by the Government to advance money on the purchase of these existing houses, they would be put to much better use than is the case at the present time. The Treasurer indicated yesterday, in reply to a question, that the Savings Bank advances money to people to purchase existing houses, and I commend the bank on its broad outlook in this regard.

The amount of £1,100,000 is provided for afforestation and timber milling. Last year we authorized the expenditure of £1,150,000, but the Government spent only £979,000. No explanation was given for the greatly reduced expenditure last year, even though output was greater than expected and, in addition, the Treasurer has not mentioned whether greater use could be made of the log output by the building industry. I have often asked, while the Loan Estimates were being debated, what proportion of the proposed South-Eastern timber from the mills could be guaranteed as suitable for house construction. Apparently it is Government policy not to use the local timber in house construction. The mills should be able to guarantee the local product as scantling timber, in which form it could be used in frame construction in brick veneer houses. There appears to me to be more scope for the use of local timber in this industry, and I would appreciate the Government's having a further look at this matter to see whether some improvement can be made. This afternoon the member for Victoria (Mr. Harding) in a question referred to Kalangadoo. The Government has never cancelled any of its supply to the Kalangadoo mill. I am

positive it has not done so. I am concerned whether this is an alteration in the company's policy and it does not wish to continue the present type of production or whether supplies are being curtailed in anticipation of the setting up of the paper pulp mill at Mount Gambier. I seldom become suspicious, but some investigation should be made. There are 75 employees at this mill with houses in Kalangadoo, and their position should be seriously considered. If Kalangadoo loses the mill it will become worse than a ghost town and I should not like to see that happen. Does the Government know whether this is really the result of a re-organization by the company, or are the supplies being held back, not from Government forests, but—

Mr. Jenkins: Have you inquired of the people who supplied the timber?

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I have enough to do here without going down to Kalangadoo. I am asking questions in this House.

Mr. Jenkins: You are making statements about it.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: The honourable member has the opportunity to correct them if he wishes. I am positive that the Government has not reduced supplies to this mill. The honourable member did not say anything about that.

Mr. Jenkins: I was referring to the other suppliers.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: This matter should be fully investigated. The mill should be retained if there are 75 employees, but I should not have to go down and investigate.

Mr. Millhouse: You don't think you should go down?

Mr. FRANK WALSH: If that is a personal question, I assure the honourable member that the temperature there would be too low for me.

The sum of £2,800,000 is provided for railway accommodation. The Government has a huge sum invested in the railway system; at the end of June, 1962, the total was £61,000,000, and we should not allow an enterprise of this size to deteriorate. The population of this State is expected to double in the next 25 or 30 years, and we are all aware of the great work done by the Railways Department in developing this State. Indeed, our continued development still depends on an efficient railway system. It is disappointing that the Railways Department is continuing its policy of curtailing services. The lack of use of the Willunga line requires immediate attention. In the next few years, rapid development

will occur from Darlington to Sellick Beach, and it is a great disappointment to me that no provision is made for a rail service throughout this area. If the gradients were too steep on the old line, it would have been preferable to regrade or re-survey the track, because of the future potential in that area.

The Railways Department with its large workshops at Islington, for maintenance as well as manufacture of rolling stock, offers great potential for employment-producing works. Last year the Government was authorized to spend £2,330,000 on railway works but it spent only £2,046,000. I believe that if the Government were genuine in its approach to full employment, it would have provided more opportunities in the Railways Department by spending its Loan funds in accordance with the estimate presented to Parliament. The Treasurer referred to railway standardization when he said:

The Commonwealth Government has now agreed to provide the funds to enable the conversion to 4ft. 8½in. gauge of the existing narrow gauge railway from Port Pirie to the New South Wales border at Cockburn, and also the extension of the 5ft. 3in. gauge from Terowie to Peterborough. A total of 235 miles of track is involved and the cost of the work is estimated at £18,000,000.

The Treasurer has now indicated that the standardization of the line from Broken Hill to Port Pirie and the rolling stock project associated therewith, will not be a charge against the State Loan funds. This work, whether preliminary or otherwise, is associated with the project of standardization between Port Pirie and Cockburn and should have been mentioned in the Loan programme. I understood that agreement was reached on these matters in 1949; therefore the Government is tardy in its approach to this problem. The Treasurer supplied us with general information regarding various expected preliminary works. He said that track-laying was not expected to commence until 1964-65, but how much is intended to be spent on this project this year, and how long is the full standardization programme expected to take? It is interesting to refer to an article in today's *News*, particularly having regard to a question asked by the member for Port Pirie this afternoon. The article, under the heading, "Start on Two Big S.A. Works" states:

A start on two major South Australian works involving the spending of more than £2,000,000 is provided for in last night's Federal Budget. They are: Rail standardization, £1,680,000 and Chowilla dam, £350,000. Most of the Commonwealth funds set aside for railway

standardization would be spent on sleepers and railway lines, the Railways Minister, Mr. Jude, said. Tenders were expected to be called soon for the supply of the rails and sleepers. The money allocated by the Federal Treasurer, Mr. Holt, last night was expected to be spent over a period of 18 months. Mr. Jude said work would probably start on portions of the Broken Hill-Port Pirie line where detailed survey work had been done and any new land acquisitions had been completed. There were a number of deviations on the line which had involved new survey work, he said.

Apparently this information was available early this afternoon, yet my colleague, the member for Port Pirie, could not get a satisfactory reply to the question he asked.

Mr. McKee: I should have telephoned the *News*.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Members often can get more information from the newspapers than they can get in this House.

Mr. McKee: And we shall get more from the television programme tonight.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I won't be looking at that.

Mr. Millhouse: Don't you always look at that programme?

Mr. McKee: We have to, if we want to know what is going on in the State.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I shall have to consider looking at it. Concerning the administration of the Railways Department, and particularly the Islington workshops, can the Treasurer inform me what is the cost of administration or supervision—and primarily supervision—at Islington, compared with the cost during the 1940 to 1948 period when about 5,600 employees were engaged as compared with about 2,000 today? I think that three men were employed as supervisors during the early period and that Mr. Frank Harrison was in charge. Further, is it correct to assume that the average cost that is taken into consideration—particularly when applied to tender work or in obtaining prices at Islington compared with outside—is 23s. an hour? If this is so, how can the daily staff engaged on production ever expect to compete with outside prices? The Government should investigate this.

It is interesting to refer to some of the details of the Loan Estimates. The sum of £45,000 is provided for five steel brakevans. Some time ago I introduced to the Minister a deputation which suggested that many suburban coaches that were lying idle could be converted to brakevans similar to those in use prior to these suburban coaches being

no longer required. They could probably provide luggage space in addition to the compartments at either end of the brakevan where about 40 people could be accommodated. However the proposed brakevans will accommodate very few people. It is also proposed to spend £130,000 on workmen's sleeping vans. Another deputation to the Minister suggested that some of the suburban coaches could be converted to provide comfortable sleeping quarters and, if necessary, workmen's benches, thus obviating considerable expenditure. The tradesmen at Islington in their own time had prepared a plan to enable this work to be done and had estimated the costs involved, but the Railways Commissioner rejected the scheme. He has now authorized the use of these underframes, rebuilding them with new steel tops at a much greater cost. Will the use of steel mean that the existing materials will be scrapped or burned?

The sum of £80,000 is allocated for the construction of nine air-conditioned passenger cars for use on the service between Adelaide and Port Pirie. It is obvious that at some stage it will be necessary to standardize the line to Port Pirie. Can these proposed passenger cars be converted for use on the standard gauge? Will standardization involve the laying of a third rail? We should know where we are going. A speeding up in the service is long overdue. It is a slow trip from Port Pirie to Adelaide for people who have travelled by the East-West express, and good accommodation is needed, but what consideration has been given by the Railways Commissioner to constructing a cafeteria car to cater for the travelling public? These things should be contained in these Estimates. Instead of constructing just nine sleeping cars, a cafeteria car should be constructed as well, and I hope something will be done about this important feature.

Another railway matter I wish to mention is associated with the district represented by the Minister of Agriculture who, like all members, desires to have more opportunities for further employment in this area. If the State's population doubles before the end of this century (which is expected), an improvement in railway services will be necessary. I am not an authority on railway matters, but one would think that the Railways Commissioner, who was appointed because of his outstanding knowledge of railway matters, would have considered constructing a new railway system to by-pass the Port Stanvac refinery and serve the housing development

from Port Stanvac to Sellick Beach when the spur line from Hallett Cove to the oil refinery was built. No matter how wide the South Road is made or how many freeways are built, roads will never cater for the increased population that will be in this area unless there is a proper public transport system. If people travel from these areas to the city by car, far greater parking facilities will be needed, so surely the Government should ask the Railways Commissioner to do something about providing a better service to meet the future demands of that area. How long is the Commissioner going to tell the Government what he intends to do? I ask members to consider whose views are in the interests of the State; I know who will be judged right when the matter is fully analysed.

I do not like going into other people's business, but I have received a letter from a person at Ceduna relating to the Port Thevenard channel, and perhaps other members have received a similar letter. This letter states:

At a recent quarterly meeting of the Far Western Methodist Circuit, the matter of deepening the channel to Port Thevenard was discussed at length. As we see it, Thevenard, the surrounding wheat districts, and Penong must remain in some jeopardy until the ready availability of large cargo vessels becomes possible.

Perhaps the Minister of Marine can say whether the Harbors Board considers the deepening of the channel to Port Thevenard is desirable and essential. I do not think these people would have written if this work were not essential. However, I have not found anything in the Loan Estimates to help them.

Mr. Shannon: Have Edithburgh people been in touch with you? That is a deep sea port. You have the port business tied up, so I am wondering if they have written to you.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: If they had written I would have inquired. The honourable member knows what is happening with the Public Works Committee; it is his committee. I am pleased to see that expenditure is being continued on the extension of our sewers and water supplies, because these are vital to the advancement of our community. Probably the most surprising thing of all is that the Treasurer did not take the opportunity to explain what has happened with the Chowilla project on the Murray River. I obtained some information as the result of a question asked today by the member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell). I

also get much information about the Chowilla dam from newspaper reports of television statements made on Wednesday nights. We should be reasonable in this matter. Much publicity has been given in the press to the Chowilla dam. We have been told how much water it will hold and when it will be constructed. We know that it is an important and essential project. I have said previously that, whilst this dam was being constructed, we should think about starting another. Today I have some information about the dam that should have been given in the Loan Estimates. The member for Semaphore (Mr. Tapping) referred to an £8,000,000 project at Semaphore South, but if that project were to be of any value there should have been information about it in the Loan Estimates, or was it one of those fantastic projects that missed the limelight on the television programme by coming out earlier than was expected? It makes the whole business look stupid. Much publicity has been given to the matter, but no expenditure for it is provided in the Loan Estimates. The member for West Torrens (Mr. Fred Walsh) is undoubtedly concerned about the proposed expenditure, because money should be spent in his area on services for people who have built houses there. Any move for such expenditure would have my support.

The sum of £9,000,000 is to be spent on Government buildings and land, and of it £1,100,000 is to be spent on hospital buildings. Members will recall that in opening my remarks I said that the Loan Estimates contained considerable Government propaganda, and that is particularly apparent in the line for the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Briefly, it is that the rebuilding scheme is to be in two stages, to cost £2,046,000 and £6,398,000 respectively. After considerable searching I eventually came to the item, which stated:

In 1962-63, £53,000 was spent on design and preliminary work for Stage I. In 1963-64, it will not be possible to spend more than £100,000 and £5,000 on Stages I and II respectively.

We authorized the expenditure of £100,000 for this project last year, but the Government saw fit to spend only £53,000, as is stated in the Loan Estimates. After being given the details, and having a grand build-up about the magnificence of the scheme, I was disappointed to find how tardy the Government had been in proceeding with this necessary project. It intends to spend only £100,000 and £5,000 respectively on the two stages of this major work.

All members are aware of the antiquated conditions under which mentally sick people are cared for in Government institutions, but instead of being informed of the actual programme for this year we are given the following rather evasive statement:

The proposals I have reviewed for the mental health services are relatively small. A major building plan is now in course of preparation for submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.

Surely it is about time the Government got down to the task of rebuilding some of the antiquated structures that we call mental hospitals, because the need for such rebuilding has been apparent for years. During the debate on the Loan Estimates last year we were told that the Government would hurry on with the plans for improvements at mental hospitals, particularly the Parkside institution, but we are still awaiting the plans. How much longer will the unfortunate patients have to suffer the present inconveniences? What about the staff that is doing a magnificent job under terrible conditions?

Mr. Hutchens: I think they must be trying to convert the staff into patients.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I am not reflecting on members of the staff in any way because I think they are doing a grand job under difficult circumstances. I should have expected some money to be spent in effecting improvements. During the Address in Reply debate I referred to the Magill wards, which are administered by the Royal Adelaide Hospital. I pointed out that cancer sufferers were being accommodated in those wards, and undoubtedly other patients are also accommodated there. I intended during that debate to refer to press comments about conditions in the Magill wards. I am supported in my remarks because there will be no shortage of money this year. I have already indicated that, although the Loan Estimates provide for the expenditure of a huge sum, all of it will not be spent, so money will be available to ease the position in the Magill wards. A letter that appeared in the *News* of August 12 states:

"One Who Knows" suggests that young nurses haven't the understanding and experience to look after old people in the Royal Adelaide Hospital Magill wards. They are a fine bunch of young women. If conditions are poor, it is not their fault.

The letter went on to say that some patients were very difficult to lift. Another letter in the same newspaper states:

The poverty of the ward in which my sister died on July 6 reminded me of something out

of the Dickens period. One bitter night when I visited her it was as cold in the ward as outside. Blinds flapped and the wind whistled through open doors. My sister's teeth chattered with the cold.

I have the greatest admiration for these young trainee nurses, and we should never make the mistake of under-estimating their capabilities. On Sunday evening I attended a public meeting, at which the Minister of Education was also present, in the Adelaide Town Hall. The hall was almost completely filled with young people. Admittedly, there were a couple of skits, but the addresses I heard and the knowledge I gained of what those young people were doing gave me the greatest confidence in the future of the younger generation.

The Hon. Sir Baden Pattinson: The speakers would do credit to this Parliament, or to any Parliament.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Yes. I know the Minister would have a similar confidence in these young people. I think the same thing applies with these young nurses. Every section has a minority of people who do not know how to spend their leisure time and consequently become a nuisance occasionally, but the great majority of the people who are doing the things that count are not afraid to spend a few pounds on furthering their training. I did not notice any press report of what was said by these young people; probably the press was not invited.

I repeat what I said during the Address in Reply debate about the need for the nursing staff to give a little added attention to certain patients. I was impressed with an article that appeared in yesterday's *News*, part of which is as follows:

One nurse pointed out that many patients were difficult to look after. "Some people put their elderly relatives in Magill to get them out of the way for this very reason," she said.

That may be true. The article continues:

Another nurse said ward furniture at Magill was standard, and the same as that in other older hospitals. "Meals are adequate, but patients often have to eat them cold because there is not enough staff to feed them at one time," another said. "What impressed us most was the way all the nurses were so happy at Magill, despite the heavy and, at many times, depressing work."

The nurses whose comments were printed in that article considered that there was a need for more nurses so that patients could be given more individual attention. Surely we would not deny that individual attention to very sick patients. The nurses also asked for

more air-conditioning, more sterilizers, dressings, and other medical equipment, re-decoration of the wards to make them brighter, and television sets for those patients who were able to enjoy watching television. All those things are worthy of the greatest consideration by this Government.

Let me return to the reason why I mentioned these matters. I had stated that £1,100,000 was provided for hospital buildings, but that the Government would spend this year only £100,000 and £5,000 on certain stages of the Royal Adelaide Hospital re-building. I am not asking any more than what I think is reasonable for those people who are doing such a grand job in most difficult circumstances. An immediate rally should be made by the Government representatives to see whether any further equipment can be installed in these places that will assist the nurses in lifting heavy patients. The Home for Incurables has some very modern equipment, and the care and attention given in that home is outstanding. Goodness only knows, these people are there for the rest of their lives. The same can be said of Magill, but it is run by the Government and the Government should spend money to reorganize it, for the expenditure of some thousands of pounds today would at least carry it on until the additions to the Royal Adelaide Hospital are completed. The Government should spend this money at Magill now to make the lives of patients a little more pleasant.

The sum of £5,400,000 is provided for school buildings. Earlier this session members were informed that last year the Government spent just over £7,000,000 on buildings for educational purposes. With education, as with most other endeavours by the Government, we have had plenty of boasting over the years of what has been accomplished. A recent example was recorded in the press on July 13, when the Minister was reported as saying that more than 60 new schools and buildings were scheduled for South Australia. Similar statements have been made by the Minister in recent years, but we are still waiting for permanent school buildings to be erected. The Treasurer stated in explaining the Loan Estimates:

The school building programme in recent years has more than kept abreast of current enrolments and there has been a marked improvement in the ratio of pupils to classrooms. The proposals for 1963-64 envisage further improvement in that ratio.

All I can say in reply to that is that five of the scheduled major works to be commenced this year were promised last year, and I do not call this keeping abreast of the building

programme. We still have acres of temporary classrooms with very little hope of any alteration under the present administration, for I notice that the expenditure on temporary classrooms is to be increased this year. Why? I will leave it to the Minister to explain that matter. Two very important primary schools in my district, namely, Forbes and South Road, have more than their share of temporary structures, and I am sure that I am voicing the view of many of the parents associated with the parents and friends committees of these schools when I say that it appears to be the policy of the present Government to insist upon a certain number of temporary school buildings. I know that the Minister has investigated the possibility of acquiring certain land with the idea of relieving some of the congestion at Forbes. I hasten to assure the Minister that I will never rest until I can obtain a better deal for this school. Permanent buildings are badly needed at the South Road school.

I come now to "Other Government buildings—£1,400,000". Under the line "Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department" I wish to refer in particular to the junior boys' training school at Lochiel Park, estimated to cost £310,000, and the senior boys' training school to be erected at Magill, to cost £459,000, on which £100,000 and £80,000 respectively is to be spent this year. I do not know whether much value attaches to this from my point of view but, since I have been informed by the member for Burnside (Mrs. Steele) that she is perturbed about it, either she could cross to this side or I could cross to the other side of the Committee to take up the matter again. Another organization interested in the old Magill building wants it preserved for use as a museum. I have the greatest respect for architects and their work, but the essential needs of a particular project must be paramount. Can we afford to retain these old buildings for an artistic purpose if we can use the area that they occupy to provide accommodation for work people? I have made my position known about Magill, and I will not alter it.

I turn now to the item "Major office block—£3,000". In regard to an office block in Victoria Square to cost approximately £2,600,000, the Treasurer stated in the press on April 18 this year that Cabinet had decided "to proceed immediately to get Parliamentary approval for the erection of the building".

This was certainly Government propaganda carried to the extreme for in the Loan Estimates we find that only £3,000 is provided

for design work on this project. We on this side of the Committee have advocated consistently the erection of improved Government office accommodation. As a matter of fact, I can say without fear of contradiction that we on this side have almost every year for many years argued in favour of improved office accommodation but the Government has not acceded to our request. As a compromise, it acquired or leased various unsuitable and antiquated buildings around Adelaide such as Foy's building in Pulteney Street and Simpsons building in Gawler Place. Then there is the building in Pulteney Street that was to be reserved for nurses at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. The following is a comment that Mr. Mitchell, Secretary of the Public Service Association, made regarding Foy's building, as reported in the press of July 10:

We consider this building to be a potential death-trap because of its fire hazard. The building was originally designed to hold 500 to 600 people . . . but it was housing something like 800 public servants.

I say to the Minister of Works that, as regards the Treasurer's saying he was going to seek the approval of Parliament, I said in the Address in Reply that we would not be hesitant. If it is to be held up in any way, the Minister can probably find the answer.

I turn now to the South Australian Housing Trust, which in my view has done a very good job in providing housing accommodation over the years. I have no doubt that the officers of the trust desire to continue with this good service. In recent years, however, at the behest of the Government, the trust has adopted what I consider to be an unsatisfactory method of contracting, which threatens the wages and apprenticeship structure of the building industry. Therefore, the question arises: is it the Government's intention that the Housing Trust should curtail its building activities?

I have here a schedule showing that the Government is losing ground with the housing problem in this State. It gives a comparison of houses completed by the Housing Trust in recent years compared with 1956-57, and these completions converted to a per capita basis for the same period:

HOUSES COMPLETED BY THE HOUSING TRUST.		
Year.	Actual.	Completions Index per capita.
1956-57	3,140	100
1960-61	3,314	95
1961-62	3,258	91
1962-63	2,884	79

The Treasurer has stated that the lower number of completions this year is only a temporary phase but from the foregoing table members will see that the general trend is for a reduction in completions. When these completions are converted to a per capita basis, the trend is even more pronounced, for it can be seen that over the past three years there were 5 per cent, 9 per cent, and 21 per cent fewer houses completed respectively in those years by the Housing Trust than were completed in 1956-57. When there is a trend of reduction like this, I am afraid I cannot agree with the Treasurer that the lower completions last year were a temporary phase. I should like an assurance from the Treasurer that the present type of contracting that this Government has forced on the Housing Trust is not the main cause of the reductions in completions of houses, as ample finance was available last year to carry out more work in this essential field. I draw attention to this article appearing in today's *News* under the heading "Parkside site for new flats". It states:

Unley Council is to ask the Premier, Sir Thomas Playford, for explanation why the Government should offer to build Housing Trust flats in the city while it had held vacant land at Parkside for this purpose for about six years.

I recollect where this site is. I assumed that the Highways Department wished to widen George Street, Parkside, so that Municipal Tramways Trust buses could proceed with reasonable safety. Not all the cottages in that street were demolished, because the Housing Trust, the owners of the property, out of sympathy for some of the elderly tenants, left some standing.

Recently, I read an article by Mr. McLeay, ex-Mayor of Unley. I understand that he, with the Treasurer, was in a campaign that recently opened in Parkside for the next State elections. He has had long experience in the Unley City Council but, having served two years as mayor, had to retire because of a council ruling. Some exceptions are made occasionally. Mr. McLeay said—I think it was at this public meeting or shortly afterwards—that an approach should be made to the Commonwealth Government for the council to receive a subsidy to erect flats for the aged on this area at Parkside. I wonder whether he has ever taken an interest in the dump next to this area that the Housing Trust has repeatedly asked the Unley Council to remove before the trust commences the flat-building programme on its property.

I am not defending anyone in this matter, but I agree that if the trust intends erecting flats on East Terrace, Adelaide, on land that has been purchased, it will be capable of doing so. However, I suggest that when it lets contracts, not only the contractor but the subcontractors should carry out the responsibility of engaging labour and paying it the appropriate award rates, as this would enable tradesmen to continue in the building industry. This is most desirable, because if the buildings are to be satisfactory, skilled tradesmen must be employed. This could not be done effectively under the system operating today—labour only. I call it piecework.

The sum of £2,750,000 has been provided for the Electricity Trust. With the presentation of the Loan Estimates last year, the Treasurer stated in regard to this line:

During the current year the trust proposes to spend £8,962,000 on capital works—£2,300,000 to be made available from State Loan funds; £2,750,000 to be raised by the trust from financial institutions and the public, and the balance of £3,912,000 to be met from the trust's internal funds, including the £375,000 remainder of the special grant.

This is one line of Government expenditure that is continually exaggerated, and I have referred to it earlier today. However, what was the actual expenditure for 1962-63? On page 16 of the Loan Estimates for this year is the statement:

For the financial year 1962-63 the trust spent £7,520,000 on the capital works programme for the electricity undertaking.

What happened to the capital works programme of £8,962,000 promised last year, especially when the Government increased its loan from £2,300,000, which was authorized last year, to £3,000,000? On these figures, the trust should have accomplished a public works programme costing about £9,700,000, and this glaring example of the Government grossly exaggerating its programme has many undesirable effects on the business community when the schemes are not forthcoming as promised.

The same criticism applies to the Torrens Island project. On page 17 of the Loan Estimates it is stated that £930,000 is to be spent on this project this year. As the Treasurer has said repeatedly, this is a £150,000,000 project, and, therefore, a little simple arithmetic strongly emphasizes that this is certainly a scheme for the future. This would have been an admirable opportunity for the Treasurer to inform us in regard to the potentiality of nuclear power in this State, and whether the Torrens Island project will ever be completed in its present form.

I shall not discuss the south-western suburbs drainage scheme this afternoon, but I accept that the Government intends clearing the Sturt River from the Patawalonga reaches to near the Anzac Highway; straightening the creek from the Anzac Highway to the South Road at Darlington; impounding the water in the hills area; and constructing the major drain from Goodwood Road, via Daws Road to the Sturt River. These major works should be completed together as soon as possible in the interests of the people who are being subjected to much flooding in that area. Some people have advocated that portion of these works should be reorganized and preference given to other works associated with the south-western suburbs drainage scheme, but the Mitcham and Marion Councils agree with me that the works I have mentioned should be the major works to be completed together. Having in mind the need for continued development and for the creation of employment opportunities, I am disappointed that these Loan Estimates do not indicate that the Government is planning the implementation of a policy of full employment. We still have about 6,500 unemployed, but I cannot see anything in these Loan Estimates that is designed to relieve the situation. The Government should have a definite policy to overcome the unemployment problem. I have sought much information this afternoon, and I promise the Government that when we discuss the lines I will seek much more information.

Mr. NANKIVELL (Albert): I support the first line. I appreciate being the first speaker from the Government side, but I regret that I have not been able to follow some of the Leader's arguments and so cannot reply to them. However, I shall refer to certain lines that affect my district and perhaps the Government's policy. Although the line "Advances to State Bank Act, Part VIA—For Loans to Primary Producers" appears under the heading "State Bank", no money is allocated. However, reference to the State Bank Act reveals that £250,000 a year can be allocated. The appropriate section needs attention. The Advances to Settlers Act was revised in about 1942, but since then the cost structure of agriculture has changed tremendously. The section provided that £2,400 could be borrowed on first mortgage security, but it was amended to allow for borrowing for housing on a second mortgage. The maximum loan available under this section is about £5,900, and so this is a restrictive provision. The Advances to Settlers Act contains provisions that could be applied in

establishing more liberal credit terms for people already engaged in agriculture. Section 7 (1) states:

Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Bank may, in its discretion, make advances to any settler on the prescribed security for . . . (c) discharging any mortgage already existing on his holding.

The press recently contained an article about the Treasurer's suggested programme for a land settlement scheme which, incidentally, I support. Initially, I did not think that the scheme could work, but I now believe it can.

Mr. Lawn: Because the Treasurer told you it could, you changed your mind.

Mr. NANKIVELL: No, I take convincing on subjects that are dear to my heart. Many people misunderstood the scheme because the press report referred to the size of family farms in America of about 40 to 160 acres. The Treasurer was reported as saying that he had decided that this was a development that might well be studied in South Australia. Many people gained the wrong impression. Members of the South Australian Dairymen's Association said that this could mean the introduction of more people into dairying—a field of production already over-supplied—thus leading to an uneconomic form of settlement that would have to be dependent on taxpayers' money. In reply to a question that I asked, the position was clarified. My question was:

Will the Premier say whether this type of finance is to be made available to purchase any farm irrespective of its locality—for instance, a farm in the Murray Mallee—provided that, in the opinion of the Agriculture Department, the proposition put forward by the applicant is a practical one with some prospect of success?

The Treasurer's reply was that the Bill relating to the proposal was to be of a general nature and was not to be confined to any particular area. A prerequisite was that it be an economic unit and one that would be approved by the Agriculture Department. Such a Bill will have a tremendous potential for people who have little money but who have the knowledge to embark upon a farming project.

Mr. Ryan: Who would decide whether it would be an economic proposition?

Mr. NANKIVELL: I have not seen the proposed legislation, but from the press report and replies I have received to questions, I assume it will be determined by officers of the Agriculture Department. The final decision will rest with the Land Settlement Committee

after it considers the recommendations of the Land Board and of officers of the Agriculture Department. Obviously the scheme will have to start from the State Bank because the Treasurer is reported as having said that the State Bank initially will be the institution most likely to be prepared to take up the Government's guarantee plan. He said that this, however, would not exclude other financial institutions from taking part. This scheme will probably require some amendment of the State Bank Act. If that Act is reviewed, consideration should be given to following the policy outlined in the Rural Reconstruction Commission's report on rural credit, wherein it was suggested that a rural bank be established with two functions. The first, and the one in which I am particularly interested, relates to providing overdrafts to primary producers or persons carrying on industries primarily associated with agriculture; to carrying on fixed deposit current account banking business; and to borrowing money on behalf of those people; this section of the bank to be operated by officers, who are competent field officers, capable of giving sound agricultural advice both to the organization and its clients.

This is somewhat akin to what has happened in relation to the Development Bank, but it has not taken it as far as I would like to see it taken. That is my point. Some people engaged in agriculture have bought land at a price that was probably uneconomic, but it is no good saying that that is their misfortune. It probably is, but some people in my district have three mortgages, all with different terms of capital and interest repayments, on their properties. The provisions of the Advances to Settlers Act could be extended to enable the State Bank to take over the debt (not just have a debt adjustment fund) and allow these people to work their properties under terms and conditions that would give them some prospect of success (terms somewhat similar to those being applied by the State Bank under its credit foncier system). They could then make principal and interest payments over a period of 40 years or any term that might be acceptable to the bank, having regard to the size of the loan involved. This would mean that these people would not be committed to a big annual repayment of principal and interest. They would know what their principal and interest repayments would be and have a reasonable chance to budget accordingly. If they could not budget on those terms, probably their places would be best not

operated, and this is set out in the introduction to the report I have mentioned. The introduction to the Rural Reconstruction Commission's report on rural credit, which was published in 1945, is as follows:

The lesson to be learned by farmers and suppliers of credit alike is that the productive capacity of any farm sets the limit of its capacity to meet credit commitments, notwithstanding its current market value or the value of any other assets used in operating it, and that abundant credit is not a remedy for a condition which is due to low prices, unsatisfactory farming or an uneconomic farm.

The two points "unsatisfactory farming" and "an uneconomic farm" must be borne in mind in considering this matter.

Mr. Shannon: Would you advise that the financial assistance given by the bank should be based on that premise: that the productivity of the land should be taken into account in assessing the advance to be made?

Mr. NANKIVELL: I think this type of loan would apply only to a farm considered to be an economic unit. We have to assess its productivity and determine whether it is an economic unit. Last February I had the pleasure of attending the annual general meeting of the Australian Agricultural Economic Society in Sydney, and an interesting paper was given by Professor J. M. Lewis on what constitutes a living area or a productive unit. His summing up was simple. He said that too frequently this unit had been taken as the upper limit and no latitude had been given. This could well have been applied to some soldier settlement blocks. Some people have taken blocks said to be living areas, and these have been the maximum areas allocated. Professor Lewis said that that should be the minimum size and that blocks should be increased beyond that size as far as could be economically justified as living areas; and that is far more logical. On August 6 a party of journalists visited my property, and I am grateful to Mr. Don Barker, of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, for providing me with a report of what I said. I am reported to have said that many farmers could not afford to borrow money for development at an interest rate of above 6 per cent. I say that advisedly, as I find that few farmers can earn 6 per cent on their money. They do not often earn 6 per cent and, unless they have a margin on borrowed money, they cannot afford to borrow money at 6 per cent.

Mr. Lawn: I cannot afford to borrow money, and I cannot afford to pay 6 per cent. You don't have to be a farmer to be in that position.

Mr. NANKIVELL: That may be true. This matter should be reviewed. Some people on the land have commitments which are far beyond the ability of their farms to meet. Existing legislation contains provisions for something to be done about this and, when the matter of providing finance to purchase farms comes up, I hope that simultaneously full consideration will be given to providing more reasonable terms of credit for people already engaged in farming who are having difficulty because of the nature of their present holdings.

This year £560,000 is being made available for South-Eastern drainage, including the extension of drain M from Legges Lane to the Bakers Range drain. I am intruding into the district represented by the member for Victoria (Mr. Harding), but I have his concurrence in doing so, and I also have the support of the member for Millicent (Mr. Corcoran) in raising this matter. As I understand it, drain M is to be an artificial outlet for Mosquito Creek. Mosquito Creek rises in Victoria, floods into Bool Lagoon and eventually overflows northward along what is known as the Bakers Range drain, which is one of the oldest drains in the South-East. Although the water that has its origin in the lower South-East is mostly Victorian water and is now being diverted to the sea, the point that concerns me is that it is being diverted to the sea. The agricultural point of view is completely divorced from the engineering point of view. Most of this country is reasonably flat. If there is any fall, it is from west to east and from south to north. To take a drain from east to west means going across the natural gradients of the country, and to get enough fall to get drainage it is necessary to cut through into the limestone, which is the underground water table. Without question, the Kingston drain is providing an artificial outlet to the artesian basin at that point.

Further north, in the area that I represent, the artesian basin is salt. The only fresh water available for stock through a big area of the south-western portion of my district comes northward through the Bakers Range drain. It moves slowly forward into an area known as Alf Flat, where it more or less comes to a dead halt because of the topography of the ground. The Bakers Range drain water, which moves into Alf Flat, provides a certain amount of seepage fresh water for adjacent country, and I fear that drain M will cut the Bakers Range drain, prevent any movement of water into Alf Flat, and short-circuit the present supply of fresh stock water in this area.

It will not achieve its primary objective, at this juncture, of providing an artificial outlet for Mosquito Creek because considerable expansion is needed beyond that point. I am concerned because, although we have been talking about the Taillem Bend to Keith water supply for 10 years, only now is a start being made. The Loan Estimates provide £50,000 as a commencement figure. This scheme will provide a water supply for the people through this area who are now to a large extent dependent upon the water that would seep in from Bakers Range drain together with a little catchment from the local high land.

I am afraid that we are moving the drainage ahead of the water supply and that the area now being cleared, settled and developed, will be even more embarrassed by lack of water before it can be provided from the Taillem Bend to Keith water scheme. I bring this matter to the attention of the Government and ask it first, to allow the Land Settlement Committee to have another look at the drainage in the Eastern Division before we rush headlong into this project. Secondly, I ask the Government to do everything possible to consider it in the light of the problem that will undoubtedly be created in the country south of Meningie and east of Tintinara, which is good country with a high productivity potential but which is now lying more or less idle because of the inadequacy of the water supply. While referring to this area, I point out that about 36,000 acres of unalienated Crown land is good country. Some is excellent for settlement and merely awaiting an adequate water supply before it can be opened for settlement. I should like it to be considered as a possible area to be incorporated in any settlement scheme (such as the one I mentioned previously) that is being considered.

Regarding education, I want to say how happy the people of Keith were, and how happy I was, that His Excellency the Governor saw fit, on April 30, to open the magnificent new Keith Area School, which is shown in the Loan Estimates as costing £280,000. I can well imagine that cost as it is a school the people can well be proud of. It is having a few teething problems, however, and I draw the attention of the Minister of Works to the air circulating system that has been installed in this and other schools. I believe this matter should be investigated. The system installed in the Keith Area School was the same as was used at Kangaroo Inn school, and I understand that neither is functioning satisfactorily at present.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: That matter is receiving attention.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I am assured by the Minister that there is hope as the matter is being considered. I am surprised at the time it takes to clear up the principal contract on these schools. One is never too old to learn and I have not been here long enough to learn all the complications the Government faces in these matters. A problem in this school that has caused embarrassment to the committee this year has been the drainage of the grounds, but I am assured that this defect will be remedied. I am told that nothing can be done at this juncture, although the work is recognized as necessary, because the principal contractor has not been discharged from his contract. For my information I ask the Minister whether at some other time he would say if it is the normal procedure to allow contractors for building and site preparation to carry on 18 months after the school is completed. I also refer to the proposed area school at Geranium, which is referred to in these Estimates.

Mr. Heaslip: You're getting the lot.

Mr. NANKIVELL: When one has an area as worthy of consideration as is mine, I do not think we are getting near enough. I am hoping that tenders for this school will be called very soon. The project has been in the course of planning and preparation for what seems untold years to those awaiting its completion, and it alarms me somewhat that it has been delayed so long. We are losing many secondary scholars elsewhere and it is a pity that the school is not ready to meet the peak student intake so that we could have the advantage of a much bigger enrolment of secondary students than will probably be the case when it is opened, I hope, in 1965.

I am very pleased that the Meningie school has been provided with a full complement of craft facilities. I say that because this is a very interesting school that is also catering for the children of Point McLeay. The aboriginal children integrate very well. In fact, integration is accepted without any difficulties whatever. Until now, I had been alarmed that provision had not been made for all crafts. Last year a woodwork centre for boys was established. I requested that consideration be given to providing a domestic arts centre for girls and I was pleased to see recently that this building had arrived. There was some discussion whether it was in the right position and I was able to persuade the Minister that it should be shifted to the satisfaction of the

school committee. I am pleased that the centre is now nearly completed. Also attending the school at present are 11 or 12 boys from Campbell House Farm School. I arrived at Campbell House, unheralded, last Friday. I was greeted by the Superintendent.

Mr. Bywaters: Did he know who you were?

Mr. NANKIVELL: He knew who I was because I promised him I would appear, as I did, when the school bus returned from Meningie. Mr. Cotterill has done a fine job at this establishment and I was impressed by the general standard, but I was alarmed to hear that the place is to be closed. I can well understand that the farm school is not proving successful. At present this school is catering for boys between the ages of nine and 13 years who are orphaned. Only one full-blood aboriginal attends. The boys are in a happy environment and the way they run in and address Mr. and Mrs. Cotterill as Mum and Dad has to be seen to be understood. I believe Campbell House has provided a wonderful home and, even if the farm is not proving successful, some other arrangement could be made for its continued working. For the time being, at least, consideration could be given to allowing it to operate as a hostel for these boys.

About two years ago, after having made many requests to the Railways Commissioner through the Minister of Railways for action to be taken to improve the Pinnaroo passenger service, I suggested as a last resort a feeder bus service. Pinnaroo is a good district, but the people there feel isolated, and justly so, because of the lack of a proper public transport service.

Mr. Bywaters: Don't they call themselves the forgotten people?

Mr. NANKIVELL: Yes, and I am sympathetically disposed toward them in this matter. I suggested that there should be faster transport service, and proposed a Bluebird service, but I was told that one was not available. In September, 1961, I suggested this feeder bus service. In the following October I received a letter saying that the matter was being considered, but it did not seem to me to be a hopeful case. I heard no more about the matter until August last year when I had presented to me a time table and proposals. I was asked what I thought of them. The department wanted to know quickly so that they could go ahead with the plan. At the time it seemed all right, and it was accepted, but only because there was no objection to it.

Having given the matter press publicity locally, and not knowing of any objection to the plan, I thought the people had agreed to it. Since then I have had a busy time trying to straighten out the position.

I was not told that this would mean a complete revision of the railway service to Pinnaroo, but this resulted in the removal of six families from Pinnaroo. Possibly Labor members will say that that will be a help to me, but I am concerned about what it all means to my district. There seemed to be no alternative to the plan because it was the price we had to pay for progress, but now I am wondering whether it was progress. We had a train service that left Pinnaroo at 7 a.m. and arrived at Adelaide at 2.17 p.m. That was a long time for people to travel to Adelaide. Next morning the train left Adelaide at 7 a.m. and arrived at Pinnaroo at 3 p.m. If a person from Pinnaroo wanted to spend a day in Adelaide it meant being away from Pinnaroo for three days. That was the position then under the time table. I asked for a day return service, and it looked good when it started. The bus left Pinnaroo at 5.30 a.m., and, after changing at Tailem Bend, the passengers arrived at Adelaide at 11.20 a.m. The return service left at 4.20 p.m. and was supposed to reach Pinnaroo at 10.26 p.m. It seemed a long day, but it gave people a reasonable time in Adelaide.

Mr. Hughes: What is the distance from Pinnaroo to Adelaide?

Mr. NANKIVELL: It is 165 miles. The bus schedule looked all right but now we seem to be no better off from the change in the service. The time taken on the journey is still the same.

Mr. Hughes: You can't have everything. Think of the new schools you have.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I am interested in all matters affecting my district. Transport is an important but neglected matter.

Mr. Loveday: What caused those families to leave Pinnaroo?

Mr. NANKIVELL: There was a change-over for train crews on that line. The freight service used to go half-way from Tailem Bend, and the passenger service half-way from Pinnaroo, and there the crews changed over. We had two train crews living in Pinnaroo.

Mr. Loveday: The jobs were wiped out.

Mr. NANKIVELL: No. The families moved to Tailem Bend, which is no doubt a benefit for the member for Murray. There are no complaints about the freight service because of the changeover, as there has been

a vast improvement. There has been no improvement in the passenger service, which is a matter I want considered. Instead of making the break at Murray Bridge where the changeover could take place, and where people could have refreshments, only 12 minutes is spent at Murray Bridge and then the train goes on to Tailem Bend where about 45 minutes to 60 minutes is spent in the dark whilst the transshipping takes place. The Railways Commissioner told me that it would cost £1,000 a year to transfer the transshipping point from Tailem Bend to Murray Bridge, and that therefore it was not an economic proposition. He did not consider the patronage by passengers, which patronage justifies the claims made earlier.

Mr. Law: You have a supporter behind you. You should have heard what the member for Bolivar said this afternoon.

Mr. NANKIVELL: He is worried about fares, but I am worried about the service for passengers. Of course, £1,000 is £1,000, but it is not much to add to what is already being spent in meeting the requirements of the people who use the service. It is being patronized to an extent far exceeding the expectations of the Railways Commissioner. If some of the troubles could be ironed out the service would be better patronized. I ask that the matter be reviewed so that some improvement can be provided for the passengers.

Mr. Bywaters: Why is it necessary to change the transshipping point?

Mr. NANKIVELL: My point is that some goods are now being double-handled. Now ice-cream goes through Murray Bridge to Tailem Bend and is then transhipped again at Tailem Bend. Many of the goods being transhipped could arrive earlier and be put on the bus before the passengers arrived. There would not then be the delay that occurs at Tailem Bend whilst the transshipping takes place.

I should like to mention other railway developments that have taken place in my district. After much agitation on my part, I managed to persuade the Railways Commissioner that something should be done about the Bordertown railway yards. Those yards, which are very busy, are antiquated and difficult to operate. The curves there are extremely difficult, and until now it has been necessary to use a little motor cycle for the purpose of relaying messages from the back of the train to the driver because it was impossible to signal. I was pleased to hear that the yard is to be rebuilt in two sections. The first move, which is to redesign and reconstruct the northern

or Adelaide end of the yards, is being made this year. A crane has been provided in a spot where it can now be used. Previously, there was great difficulty in transshipping machinery and heavy materials from railway carriages on to trucks; much unnecessary delay occurred in the yards because the crane was on the platform and only one truck could be unloaded at a time and therefore people had to wait on the shunting operations. In order to make this a first-class yard and to try out something new, the Railways Department has made available a new truck mover; it weighs 130 tons, and is the first of its kind. It can run either on the lines or on the ground, for it has both rubber tyres and steel wheels. This will greatly facilitate the movement of shunting in this yard. I consider that this innovation is something that will be a great asset to many terminal railway sidings in our railways system. Such a truck mover would be invaluable, for instance, at Pinnaroo. I know that an on-line mover that was borrowed from Victoria and tried there speeded up the shunting and assisted greatly in the marshalling of the yards.

I now wish to refer to the Coonalpyn yards, which are the one set of yards along the main line that have not been re-aligned and re-adjusted to conform with present requirements. The sheep trucking yards and the grain sidings are situated on the main road side of the station yards. The Highways Department has requested the Railways Commissioner to make available 33ft. of the present railway yard in order to provide for a through highway. A similar thing has been done at Tintinara. In fact, the yards at Tintinara have been rebuilt and reconstructed, and Tintinara now has a magnificent marshalling yard and station. The problem at Coonalpyn is that it is now intended to erect a silo there. As planned, this silo will go on the road side or town side of the station yards, and once that silo is placed there I can see no hope of the yards ever being redesigned or re-aligned, and what is more I can see that an impediment to through traffic will result if we are to have grain trucks for a period of the year queueing up on the highway to get into the silo and at other times trucks queueing up along the highway or moving along the highway to the trucking yards and saleyards situated on the town side of the yard.

Plans were drawn up for the redesign of these yards in Coonalpyn, and they were shown to the local progress association which was extremely interested. Those plans showed

the whole of the yards relaid and the main track on the town side, which would mean that the station would be on the town side instead of the other side. It would also mean that the trucking yards, the stacking yards and the silo would be out of the way and off the main highway. I tried to find out whether something would be done about this, and I was advised that such a scheme would cost £75,000 and that therefore nothing could be done about it. I have already suggested to the Minister of Roads that it would be £75,000 well spent if it removed the congestion on the highway that I am quite certain will result if this yard is left in its present state.

Mr. Hughes: They would not even put a light at Paskeville to assist those engaged in shunting operations.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I wish to revert to education to deal with one point that I overlooked. I consider that there is a grave omission in many of our schools at present. When I travelled through Nuriootpa the other day I noticed a school assembly hall, and on making inquiries I was advised that the people had raised the money for this assembly hall as a local venture. By some strange streak of luck—or perhaps because it was not a Government-planned job—the area school at Keith has a secondary school shelter shed which has a stage and which can be used as an assembly hall and gymnasium. I consider that an ability to assemble all pupils under a roof and not out on the parade ground in all sorts of weather is something that is vital to the *esprit de corps* of any school. This is a matter about which I am most concerned. Private schools have always taken advantage of the ability to assemble their pupils. There is something about the mass psychology of getting pupils together, especially, if they can be mustered together in an assembly hall. I consider that in these days when we want to do everything possible to try to encourage a feeling of community interest, and when we want people to work together and get used to being together, this togetherness can be contributed to by the provision of halls where children can get used to mustering together as a group in a school. I suggest that this is something the Government should consider. I know that officers of the department, too, are concerned about this matter. Headmasters of schools have told me that they consider the provision of an assembly hall where they could gather even only portion of their school or sections

of their school together at a time would be a tremendous advantage to them in the administration of the school and in maintaining school spirit.

Mr. Hughes: That is a strong point with practically every headmaster.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Another thing that is important to many towns is drainage. Provision is made under section 521 of the Local Government Act for local government authorities to undertake drainage of townships, and Pinnaroo is a town that has taken full advantage of this. With the advent of dieselization, the railway dam in the town has become surplus to requirements. Representation was made to the Railways Department, which agreed to lease this dam to the council for the purpose of providing an effluent drain for the part of the town where the greatest effluent disposal would occur—the shopping and trading centre. The provision of a common effluent drain to link up the septic tanks, which in many towns are compulsory, has worked successfully. The residential side of the town has been surveyed by the Department of Public Health and the people there wish to go ahead with providing a common effluent disposal drain for that part of the town. But the question is how to finance it. There seems to be no provision for them to borrow money except on overdraft for a project of this kind, because section 435 of the Local Government Act, the section under which a council can borrow for local government undertakings, specifies in subsection (4):

The Minister may authorize the scheme if he is of opinion that the proposed work or undertaking stated therein, as submitted or as amended (as the case may be), will (a) be of a permanent character; (b) substantially benefit the area; and (c) prove to be reproductive or revenue earning.

The prohibitive clause in this case is (c): there is no question about its being beneficial or permanent, but it is not a revenue-earning venture. Therefore, I have written to the Minister and have also been in touch with the Treasurer to see whether some provision cannot be made under this Act to enable councils to borrow money for this purpose. In this way, people in many country towns, where at present septic systems are compulsory, who have been involved in that expense will find it will not be wasted if and when they get deep drainage. The disposal of surplus effluent and its possible utilization in some town project are things that this scheme would cater for. I suggest that consideration be given to local government in these matters, for towns

now awaiting deep drainage, with completed septic systems, would benefit from some communal disposal of effluent.

Under "Government buildings and land" I should like to refer to three matters. First, I was heartened to hear from the Minister of Works that the Housing Trust was considering tenders for the provision of a police station at Coonalpyn. This has concerned me for some time. We have police stations at Tailem Bend and Keith. The Tailem Bend police have two hotels to look after and the Keith police one. Each place is 40 miles from Coonalpyn. The Meningie police have a hotel to look after and 30 miles to travel. Some embarrassment has been caused to the manager of the Coonalpyn Hotel because of his difficulty in obtaining assistance to close, as demanded by the law, at 6 o'clock. I am pleased to know that this matter is well advanced and that in seven or eight months' time an officer may be established permanently in this town.

At Bordertown the new police headquarters is nearly completed. The courthouse has gone ahead despite the suggestion that it might be shifted to allow the old police station to be retained as a museum. It was not possible to shift the site of the courthouse, and the people in Bordertown are now happy that the courthouse has been put in the right position; but they are still anxious, as I understand it, to get some assistance to maintain what is virtually an historic building with an association with the old gold escort days. Although the Public Buildings Department calls the building decrepit and antiquated, it has a strongroom and gaol built into the middle of the house and historic items like handcuffs and steelyards are kept there. The proposal put up by the people, that something be done to assist them in maintaining this as a museum, would not unduly embarrass anybody such as the National Trust if money were available to support this scheme. The people were prepared to do something about maintaining it, but somebody has to be responsible for this building after it has been transferred.

Mr. Lawn: What is it intended to put into the community museum?

Mr. NANKIVELL: There are certain things of local interest.

Mr. Lawn: I was thinking you might be like little Lord Fauntleroy and want to put some of your Ministers into it!

Mr. Bywaters: Would it not be possible for a branch of the National Trust to be formed at Bordertown to look after it?

Mr. NANKIVELL: That has been suggested to them, and the local council and chamber of commerce have had this matter in hand. I have suggested to them that that idea could be considered. Another pleasing point under Government buildings is the mention of £100,000 for research buildings at Northfield for the Agriculture Department. For some eight years we have been talking about building a research centre for that department. As most members are probably aware, I have been associated with the Wheat Industry Improvement Committee and on the Advisory Committee and I know that some £45,000 will be available as a growers' contribution towards the building of a research centre at Northfield to provide the necessary facilities for wheat research being undertaken by the department on behalf of the Wheat Industry Research Committee. It is a little like the water scheme from Tailem Bend to Keith: at last we are starting to see some forward movement. I regret that the Minister is not present at the moment but the other day at Bordertown at the opening of a cheese factory he said it was the intention of the department to set up a 90-cow herd at Northfield for research purposes. Many plans are afoot for the utilization of the area at Northfield from the department's point of view, but when will they come to fruition?

In this matter, when I referred at the beginning of my speech to the farm purchase scheme, it was said that the Agriculture Department officers would be responsible for determining whether or not a farm would be a practical proposition. Where are these officers to be obtained to do this particular work? In Dr. Dawson we lost probably one of the best agricultural economists in Australia. He must have been recognized as that because the Australian Primary Producers Union first offered the job, I understand, to Sir John Crawford, and subsequently to Dr. Dawson. That is one aspect of the problem. When are we going to do something for this department so that it can do the type of applied research it has been planning to do, so that farmers can benefit from that work? This is only the first step to be taken in the redesigning and re-organizing of this important department which is still operating in many respects as it did perhaps 50 years ago.

In the Loan Estimates an amount of £755,000 has been provided for the Electricity Trust for additional rural extensions, and £800,000 for transmission lines and transformers in the

country where rural extensions have been undertaken. The extension of electricity into the country areas is apparent in my district. The northern part of the State has been covered with the single wire earth return system, and now this system is penetrating into the southern portion. Without doubt, it is one of the most cost-saving and beneficial moves that have taken place in country areas for many years. The changeover from my lighting plant to trust power meant that it cost me no more a quarter than it did to provide my own power for a month.

Mr. Hughes: Most country members are aware of what has been done in that regard.

Mr. NANKIVELL: The member for Wallaroo is correct, and everyone in the country is aware of it. In a district with sparse settlement, it is a difficult problem to supply many people with power. Some of the single wire earth return systems cost about £100,000, with 400 miles of line, to connect 160 to 170 consumers. Naturally, when people become aware of the benefits of it they want to be connected. Consideration should be given to speeding up the supply of power throughout country areas. To those who live on farms there is a tremendous saving when connected to power, and last year's reduction in tariffs was appreciated, particularly by those connected to the Pinnaroo extension, a high tariff line. Electricity is still expensive for people in the towns. Despite what many people say, it is not cheaper to live in the country.

Mr. Ryan: That is different from what we heard a couple of years ago.

Mr. NANKIVELL: A Housing Trust house built at Bordertown would cost 7s. 6d. a week extra for rental purchase, plus 2s. a week extra on lighting tariff, so that it costs more to live in a country area.

Mr. Ryan: You did not agree with us when we wanted the tariff reduced to the same as that in the metropolitan area.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I should like it reduced, but with the Opposition's scheme there would be no more extension of supplies. I suggest that as speedily as possible the trust reduce the tariffs to a common denominator.

Mr. Ryan: You had the opportunity last year to do that.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Perhaps, by equalizing tariffs, but that would not be acceptable to city members. If we leave city tariffs as they are, more benefit could be obtained by reducing country tariffs to the present city level. Bordertown will soon be connected to the high tension

grid, as the power line being extended from Coonalpyn to Bordertown should be completed ahead of schedule. It is obvious that in the last three years tremendous advances have been made in the electrification of the district of Albert, which I represent. The Pinnaroo line and Meningie have been connected to trust power; Bordertown will be connected soon, and the high tension line to Narrung is being constructed. These connections have benefited many people, who were operating diesel plants on farms, by the saving in costs. I support the first line.

Mr. HUTCHENS (Hindmarsh): I support the first line and congratulate the member for Albert, who spoke about a number of interesting matters. I consider that his remarks about the financing of the development of rural areas—particularly for those people starting off with limited capital—were sound. He also excelled himself as a campaigner during his remarks. He reminded me of a person moving a vote of thanks for the first time, who, wanting to do a good job, named everyone present at the function. However, I noticed that the member for Albert made the tragic error of not mentioning two towns, Ki Ki and Mundalla. He should now make a special mention of these towns, because people living in them will be upset unless something is said about them. I know how sensitive they are.

It seemed that the only good people he referred to were Labor supporters, and that may get him into hot water. I was interested in his comment about Bakers Range drain, as was the member for Rocky River, because we had the pleasure, with other members of the Land Settlement Committee, of making extensive inquiries about the proposed South-East drains. I assure the member for Albert that this committee was patient, and gave every person interested an opportunity to tender evidence, but we did not receive any evidence along the lines as suggested by him. Nevertheless, I would not oppose any reinvestigation if there were sufficient reason for it. The most common request the committee received was how soon could the job be done. I notice the member for Stirling is nodding assent to my remarks.

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

Mr. HUTCHENS: The member for Albert expressed entire satisfaction with the Treasurer's proposal, announced over television, to assist rural areas, but the member for Frome (Mr. Casey) has long advocated such a scheme. Obviously he has convinced the Government of its value. The Opposition is

proud that once more the Government has shown wisdom in the Opposition's suggestions. My only regret is that the Labor Party is not in power to implement the scheme; nevertheless, when the Government accepts Labor policy it can be assured of our support. I believe that the Loan Estimates can best be dealt with when we discuss the individual lines, but I speak now because of the Treasurer's final comment when introducing these Loan Estimates: "If there are any pessimists in any honourable member's district I should be pleased to supply the honourable member with a copy of the Loan Estimates so that he may give it to the pessimists."

Mr. Jennings: He departed from the script there.

Mr. HUTCHENS: Yes, but I think he did so deliberately. This is the constant theme song of the Liberal Party. Last evening we were able to listen to the Commonwealth Treasurer's Budget speech. For weeks we have seen Mr. Holt portrayed as the benefactor of Australia. He has been likened to a protective bird flying above its young. However, when he introduced his Budget he appeared in his true form—like a slag ready to devour all. To even the most hearty supporters of the Liberal Party his Budget must have been a grave disappointment.

Mr. Freebairn: When you began speaking of birds I thought we were to have another treatise on the egg industry.

Mr. HUTCHENS: Only fowls and the member for Light are egg producers, and I do not intend to become involved in such a foul topic. When the Commonwealth Treasurer rose, like one who had been sitting on a thistle, he revealed himself as a dead-end kid on matters of finance. A letter to the editor in the *Australian Financial Review* of August 13 reads as follows:

Quoting from a Victorian newspaper, August 6, 1963: "The Premier, Mr. Bolte, today forecast a boost to State works and housing programmes because of heavy over-subscription of the recent Commonwealth Loan. Mr. Bolte said the loan market was the healthiest he had known."

I would suggest the loan market is the sickest aspect of Australia's economy today—excepting perhaps the vast hoardings in the various savings banks. "Mr. Bolte said already the State Electricity Commission's loan of £4,250,000 which opened yesterday was filling rapidly. Mr. Bolte said the Board of Works, the Harbour Trust, and all other employment-making authorities could now plan, knowing the year's programme was guaranteed. Mr. Bolte said some company crashes had shaken public confidence and gilt-edged investments were now being sought," the article said.

What use are these instrumentalities if the "customer" (the biggest user of Australia's work force in all categories) cannot buy—the customer of course being rural producers, manufacturers, trade and commerce and so on. Where would the so-called gilt instruments be then? The shaken investor is being led to a final economic "bust" by such unthinking, ill-chosen opinion as he was gulled into supporting a thoughtless (perhaps the best word to use) few company finance promoters.

Under Government company law they were able to get away with "money murder" to the detriment of good and wise investment in the true and proven source of Australia's growth in economy, that is, rural producers, manufacturers, trade and commerce. Not only "shaken" but "appalled".

That letter refers to the theme that all is in order. Our Treasurer's attitude is "Why worry? There is no reason for concern." As the member for Adelaide would say to Liberal members, "You are invited to follow blindly with confidence the master." We have every reason for concern. We are spending considerable sums from Loan funds, but where are we heading? In the 1962 Auditor-General's report, at page 25, we read:

Over the past five years the interest-bearing indebtedness has increased by 45.2 per cent, whereas the cost of interest increased by 69.9 per cent, due to the higher rate of interest payable on new borrowings and conversion loans.

In recent years we have been led to believe that our economy has been sound and that our financial position has been improving, but the real facts are that we have been continuing under the Liberal Party's theme song "Another day older and deeper in debt". During the last five years our public debt has increased tremendously. According to *The Statesman's Pocket Year Book* our public debt liability in 1958 was £321,856,342; in 1959, £346,984,972; in 1960, £373,785,713; in 1961, £402,145,431; and in 1962, £431,119,658. When one appreciates that the rapid increase in population has probably warranted additional expenditure, this may not sound much, but surely one could expect that, with the financial position improving and with the increase in population, the per capita debt would decrease. However, in 1958 our public debt per capita was £359 14s.; in 1959 it was £377 17s.; in 1960 it was £396 12s.; and in 1961 it was £416 1s. That is a steep increase.

Mr. Jennings: That relates to men, women and children?

Mr. HUTCHENS: Yes, everybody who breathes has a public debt of £416 1s.

Mr. Heaslip: You have given us the liabilities, but what about the assets? You have given only one side of the picture.

Mr. HUTCHENS: I will do so in due course, as I have some interesting figures on this aspect. We are led to believe that this State is far better than any other State. I do not decry the State; I think it has a wonderful future and that it is necessary for us to have money to carry out our public works, but the people should know that there is a big public debt so that each and every one will give the maximum effort.

Mr. Heaslip: I think you should give the other side of the picture.

Mr. HUTCHENS: When I look at the honourable member's face I always want to see the other side. From the June, 1962, publication *Facts and Figures* I took figures showing the public debt per capita in other States: New South Wales has a public debt of £258 1s. 7d. per capita; Victoria, £232 15s.; Queensland, £248 4s. 1d.; South Australia, £394 10s. 2d.; and Western Australia, £383 11s. 6d. These figures show that South Australia has the biggest public debt per capita of all the mainland States. The *Commonwealth Year Book* shows the following figures relating to gross loan expenditure per capita for 1960-61: New South Wales, £16 16s. 4d.; Victoria, £17 17s. 5d.; Queensland, £19 14s. 10d.; South Australia, £32 15s. 10d.; and Western Australia, £26 10s. 5d. Net loan expenditure for 1961-62 was: New South Wales, £15 15s.; Victoria, £17 1s.; Queensland, £16 5s.; South Australia, £26 16s.; and Western Australia, £25 6s. I know that in a growing State there is a great need for expenditure on works, and I admit that we have much to be proud of in the development of our State, which is suffering from natural disabilities. The area of this State is about 380,000 square miles, 83 per cent of which has less than a 10-inch rainfall. This means that we must spend a tremendous sum to supply water to dry areas. However, it is wrong not to make known our colossal responsibilities in relation to the huge public debt.

We have substantial unemployment, and a person who is unemployed cannot be optimistic about the future. However, I shall leave this matter to my friends, who have had greater experience in the industrial world than I. Although figures may be contradictory, bankruptcy statistics tell a story. Strangely enough, this State has a higher percentage of bankruptcies than any other State of the Commonwealth. Last week's *Financial Review* pointed

out that many of the people who became insolvent in recent years had been greatly experienced in business and had proved themselves to be successful businessmen. I am convinced that the "stop and go" policy of the Commonwealth Government in relation to import licences was to some extent responsible for bankruptcies, but it is strange that there should be a higher percentage in this State, where there has been a disturbing increase in the last five years. It is interesting to note that only a small percentage of the bankruptcies were of primary producers, and that is gratifying. In 1957 a total of 244 people became bankrupt in South Australia; their liabilities were £635,535 and their assets £374,831. The total in 1958 increased only slightly to 278, with liabilities of £683,865 and assets of £338,581. In 1959 there was rather an alarming jump to 366, with liabilities of £830,428 and assets of £444,966. In 1960, 366 people went bankrupt and it is strange to note that this is the same number as the year before. Their liabilities amounted to £673,561, £200,000 less than the previous year, their assets were £392,042. The latest figures available to me are for 1961 and in that year, when (so we are told) there was no need for pessimism or concern, 560 persons went bankrupt with liabilities of £1,903,141 and assets of £991,889. I claim that these figures are disturbing and provide a reason for pessimism. I will not try to obtain the names and addresses of these bankrupts from the Bankruptcy Court and supply them to the Treasurer. I know that he would send a copy of the Loan Estimates to each of them, and I do not want to put the State to that expense.

Mr. Jennings: The people who lent money to the bankrupts would be pessimists as well. They would be interested in getting a copy.

Mr. HUTCHENS: Yes, and they would think something was wrong with the general economy. I believe it is wrong to continue with the cry that all is well and that there is no reason for concern as everything is flowing along beautifully. There must be a day of reckoning and if debts continue to build up with no warning to the people, that sad day will come soon.

I shall deal briefly with a matter raised at length by my Leader this afternoon. The Treasurer said that the decline in the number of houses built in South Australia was only temporary. The Leader quoted some figures which I shall repeat. The decline in the number of houses built for the three years to 1961 has been 5 per cent, 9 per cent and 21

per cent. I support the Leader wholeheartedly when he says that it is time we checked some of our expenditure. This is one of the few States without a public accounts committee to check expenditure.

Before long town planning will be discussed. I have studied the development plan and in some respects I believe it is a credit to those who produced it, but I have one grave concern about it regarding the economic position. This community is growing up and the cost of building blocks is ever increasing. I have no compunction in saying that the Government erred and is largely responsible for the terrific cost of houses.

Mr. Hall: How do you think they compare with costs in other States?

Mr. HUTCHENS: Comparisons are odious.

Mr. Heaslip: Haven't you made comparisons?

Mr. HUTCHENS: Yes, I have.

Mr. Heaslip: But it doesn't suit you to do so this time.

Mr. HUTCHENS: If honourable members will stop singing as a choir in different keys, I shall answer them, but I can only distinguish one voice at a time. The cost of building blocks in the metropolitan area is absolutely ridiculous. It would be hard to purchase a worthwhile building block for only £1,000 yet, after all, a block is only a piece of land on which to build a house to live in. Frankly, in this respect, I feel we have erred badly. It has been said that price control could not operate in this State because of section 92, but I have yet to see how a block of land can be transferred from one State to another.

Mr. Heaslip: The Housing Trust does not charge £1,000.

Mr. HUTCHENS: I have not mentioned the Housing Trust. The fact remains that the cost of land to the Housing Trust is considerably more than it should be.

Mr. Corcoran: The Housing Trust pays £1,100 for a block in the city.

Mr. Heaslip: It doesn't.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HUTCHENS: The cost of land is included in the price of a trust-house. The control on land prices was lifted and now the price of a house is almost prohibitive to many people who wish to buy one. A house is also a home, and home life is something fundamental to the moral standards of the community. This afternoon the honourable member for Albert referred to rural production.

The capital cost of farming, including the cost of land, will cripple our rural community before long, if it has not crippled it already. Although I have only a limited knowledge of this subject, I venture to say that farmers are having an uphill fight because of other capital costs added to the cost of land. Reserving certain remarks for other subjects later, at this stage I content myself with supporting the first line.

Mr. CUMBE (Torrens): I, too, support the first line of the Loan Estimates. If all items in the Estimates are considered, a record sum of about £60,000,000 will be spent on capital works. That is quite a sum. Of this total, £47,800,000 represents Loan moneys, semi-governmental borrowings and use of internal sources. This is a considerable increase of about £3,250,000 over last year's figure. The departmental estimates total £32,914,000, an increase of over £2,000,000 on the 1962 figure. I believe all members are agreed that this is a contrast to last year's Loan Estimates and there is certainly a much brighter sense of optimism and expansion in the programme before us. If some of the capital works in the Government's programme are examined it will be found that some large projects will be started this financial year, apart from the carry-over from work started last year. My point is illustrated by the mention of some major projects. They include Jervois bridge, Kangaroo Creek reservoir, Royal Adelaide Hospital rebuilding, Public Library, Port Paterson salt-loading facilities, Happy Valley reservoir additions, and Government office blocks. These are not small projects, and all members must be delighted that they are to start, for they will be wonderful assets. Not all will be revenue-producing, but in the years to come they will be valuable assets. All the money cannot be spent on the projects in one year, but the significant point is that they will be commenced this year. I doubt whether for many years we have had such an array of major projects presented to us. The projects mentioned are representative of the major projects, and it all indicates a great expansion programme. They will mean the employment of many men, and in turn many subcontractors and their employees will be involved. It is a real contribution to the employment position. I pay a tribute to the efficacy of the Government's plan last year to undertake work with a large labour content.

The Government allocated the special Commonwealth non-repayable grant of £691,000 in its entirety to the Engineering and Water

Supply Department for employment-producing work. The money was granted in February this year, but to the end of the financial period not all of it had been spent. However, it is committed for expenditure, and it will have a real effect. If we peruse the Loan borrowing programme we ascertain the total sum involved. The increase of £17,000,000 on the 1962-63 programme for the whole of the Commonwealth is significant. It represents the largest increase we have had for many years. Our Treasurer, with his usual knowledge of the position, praised the consistent efforts of State Treasurers to get increased allocations from the Loan Council. He spoke about it with his usual modesty. I think he was the leader in the move because he is regarded in Canberra at Loan Council meetings as an extremely shrewd bargainer and an old campaigner. I have little doubt that he was responsible for the increased allocation.

Although the sum in our Loan Estimates this year is an increase on last year's total, we can always argue that it is not enough, but I think that a fair allocation of the money available has been made. Although the total is given as £32,900,000, it is really more than that, because the major part of last year's Loan borrowing was at the rate of 5 per cent., whereas the present rate, which came into operation later than the last financial year, is 4½ per cent, and the money is issued at a discount. That is why the money we have available is cheaper than last year's money. If in the 1963-64 financial year this rate applies, the money will be cheaper, unless, of course, the Commonwealth public loan rate increases late in the year. I think that is extremely unlikely because of the over-subscription of the last two Commonwealth loans. Perhaps I am not assessing the position properly, but seldom have loans been over-filled to such an extent. Perhaps the most surprised person was the Commonwealth Treasurer, but it all indicates a confidence that the public have in this type of borrowing. It does not appear that we shall have to pay more for our money than we are paying at present.

Mr. McKee: What security is there for unemployed people?

Mr. CUMBE: Perhaps the honourable member was not listening, but I was saying that our Government has a definite programme for producing work. It is deliberately creating jobs for people who want work. I thought the honourable member would support such a programme. Last year the Government used the money from the Commonwealth, together with

money from its own resources, to create much employment, especially of unskilled and semi-skilled men. It is unfortunate that some work has been held up in this financial year because of the wet weather, but now that we are having finer weather the jobs will go ahead.

Mr. Ryan: Has the unemployment position in this State improved?

Mr. CUMBE: Definitely, and I think the honourable member will agree.

Mr. Ryan: How has it improved?

Mr. CUMBE: Because more men are in work. For years past the main Loan funds were directed to developing the State, and we will all agree that that is the correct approach to the matter. Most money went to departments providing services. For example, much went to the Engineering and Water Supply Department. This is the correct way to develop the State with the limited sum available, but if we analyse the Loan Estimates closely we find that there is a swing away from devoting money to development work. If we examine the figures closely we find that larger sums are now being provided for those departments which, for want of a better term, I shall call social service departments. These amounts have been provided at the same time as we are still providing adequate funds for those departments dealing with developmental and essential works.

In this respect, I instance the Public Works Committee's reports that have been brought down in the last year. Members will realize that in past years the great majority of reports dealt with such things as water supply, schools, sewerage and other essential services, but last year many of the projects that were dealt with (and which are now coming before us) were in a different category. For instance, a list that I have here, although it is not complete by any means, gives some idea of the position. The list includes such projects as the large Public Library wing, the group laundry at Islington, the herbarium at the Botanic Garden, the Government Office block, two boys reformatories, the complete rebuilding of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the Highways and Local Government Department's building at Walkerville, new gaols at Port Lincoln and Port Augusta, and the Police headquarters block. These are examples of this swing to work which, although extremely essential, does not necessarily come within the scope of what was previously recognized as something contributing to the development of this State.

To give a more specific example, I will quote figures that I have extracted from the Loan Estimates documents before the Committee today under the heading of the Public Buildings Department programme. In 1962-63, the total for hospital buildings was £850,000 and this year it has risen to £1,100,000. The figure for police buildings and courthouses has risen from £800,000 to £1,100,000; for sundries it has risen from £950,000 to £1,400,000; and for rebuilding at the Royal Adelaide Hospital the figure has risen from £100,000 last year to £125,800 this year. A welcome and long overdue large increase has been made for mental hospital buildings, for whereas last year the provision was £98,000, in this year it is £237,000. That last item on its own indicates clearly the swing to this type of work which I emphasize is long overdue and extremely welcome; it is certainly essential. I for one am very pleased to see this type of work being undertaken, and I feel certain all members are just as pleased.

Under Police Buildings, £202,000 was provided for the headquarters building last year, whereas this year £600,000 is provided. An extremely significant increase has occurred in the amount allocated for buildings for the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department; for 1962-63 the provision was £120,000, and this year it has risen to £431,000. In the new total there is provision for preliminary work on the two reformatories, as well as for other work at the Glandore institution and on other similar buildings. The amount allocated for gaols this year is £133,000, compared with £89,000 last year, and for Agriculture Department buildings the allocation this year is £153,000 compared with £56,000 last year. I mention these items to emphasize this very desirable swing to those departments which need help at this time. I repeat that large amounts of money are concurrently being devoted to those departments which I classify as service departments and which are necessary in the development of this State. I point out that in years past some of the non-service departments have had to forgo expenditure on certain sections of their activities, and I am extremely pleased to see in these Estimates that provision is now being made for expansion work within those departments.

Much has been said today and tonight on the question of railway working, and under this heading we see an interesting comparison. The Railways Department vote last year for accommodation was £2,330,000, and this year it is £2,800,000. I am very pleased to see this

increase. The Islington railway workshops touch my district in the same way as they touch the district of the member for Enfield (Mr. Jennings), and we both have a large number of railway workmen from those workshops residing in our constituencies. I am extremely pleased—as I know the member for Enfield is—to see the large increase in the vote for rolling stock work, the great majority of which will be undertaken at Islington. The figure of £1,660,000 allocated last year has been increased this year to £2,020,000, and this indicates that there will be a marked increase in the volume of work undertaken at Islington by railway employees. I pay a tribute to the efficiency of the employees at those important and essential railway workshops. I know that the member for Port Pirie (Mr. McKee) and the member for Frome (Mr. Casey) are extremely pleased at the number of waggons being turned out there for the standardization work between Port Pirie and Cockburn.

One matter that I have mentioned year after year—and I hope this will be the last time I mention it—concerns the North Adelaide railway crossing. For years I have advocated some improvement at the crossing, and the Committee will be pleased to know that at last this work has been undertaken. I am very pleased to report that the crossing is now working extremely efficiently, and that traffic is being cleared in a remarkable way. The roadworks and railway works that have been undertaken there have far exceeded my hopes and expectations, and today we see an extremely efficient rail crossing at North Adelaide. A real traffic hazard has now been avoided, and I am extremely pleased that this is so.

I was also pleased to see, in the allocation for Highways Department bridges, an increase from £550,000 last year to £670,000 this year. I should like to say a word or two about the funds we are being asked to vote for the Electricity Trust, and in this respect it is interesting to make a comparison. The total programme for the trust in 1962-63 amounted to £8,962,000, and this year it has risen to a record sum of £10,325,000. That is a great deal of money, and it is most interesting to see the way in which this large sum is being raised. Some of the money is to come from internal funds and some from institutional and semi-governmental borrowings. The balance, of course, will come from these Loan Estimates.

Last year the trust provided £3,912,000 from internal funds, and this year it will provide £4,325,000 from that source. Looking at

that figure, I find it interesting to observe that the trust from its own internal sources of revenue will this year produce towards its capital expansion programme £4,325,000, which is a fair sum of money to produce from those sources by anybody's reckoning. In addition, the trust under semi-governmental and institutional borrowings last year raised £2,750,000; this year it will raise £3,250,000. So, the balance voted under the Loan Estimates last year was £2,300,000, and this year the net figure will be £2,750,000. I suggest that this internal raising of these large funds, amounting to some £7,575,000, shows the internal strength of the Electricity Trust and indicates that it is favoured with good management, good planning—and certainly good financial direction.

The important thing to realize is that this relieves the general taxpayer of the burden of providing much of this money and that the large funds drawn upon will be provided by the consumer, who of course pays as he uses the current. The power charges in this State are, generally speaking, competitive and reasonable. In fact, compared with the charges in some other States ours are reasonable. Our charges and tariffs have not risen for many years, and that cannot be said of some other States. The large amount to be raised by the trust this year is a tribute to its good workmanship and housekeeping. All members here will agree with me that the Electricity Trust is doing a real job in this regard.

Like most honourable members, I am pleased to note that a start is to be made in the planning of the Government office block to be erected in Victoria Square and that there is a sum of money in the Loan Estimates to take care of that. I listened with some interest this afternoon to the Leader of the Opposition elaborating on this question. Not a word of praise, welcome or pleasure did I hear that the Government was to undertake this work. I would have expected it. What I did hear was a rehash of comments on existing office accommodation in the city. I am the first to admit that some of our accommodation is substandard, but at least a word of welcome would not be out of place here that at last the Government is to go ahead with this large project of a Government office block of several storeys in Victoria Square. I do not expect it to be built overnight, nor does anyone else; but at least this Government is doing something positive, and there is an item before us this evening designed to get this project going.

Unless members opposite support it, it will not be built.

Mr. Ryan: After how many years?

Mr. CUMBE: If a thing is worth waiting for, it must be good. The Leader of the Opposition this afternoon did not express pleasure that at last this block was to be built. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of public servants in this State who will express pleasure that it is to be built; **certainly they** will welcome it. I am the first to say it is overdue. My point is that I am pleased that this block is now to be built and the least I expected was that the Leader of the Opposition would say something about it.

Mr. Dunstan: Would the honourable member expect him to say, "Hooray for Rip Van Winkle"?

Mr. Loveday: The Government must have heard my plea for it last year.

Mr. CUMBE: It will not be built overnight. If the Committee takes the trouble to read that erudite document produced under the auspices of the Public Works Committee on this matter—

Mr. Dunstan: I thought the honourable member was reading it to us.

Mr. Clark: It is a summary of the reports.

Mr. CUMBE: It could be. The Commonwealth Government is to build a large building on the corner of Victoria Square next to the State Government's proposed new office block. I was pleased to read in last Saturday's press that tenders were now being called for that project to be undertaken by the Commonwealth Department of Works. The planning will now proceed on our building, and the assumption is that, when the Commonwealth Bank building is up, many public servants will be placed temporarily in that building and our own State Government office block will then be commenced and I hope it will proceed with gusto. So at last one of our cherished dreams is about to come true. This only adds emphasis to my earlier comment about work which I consider essential but for which in the past it has not been possible to make funds available because other development works, mainly in the country, have had to be proceeded with; so some of these works have had to be overlooked.

Much has been said today about the Housing Trust. My only comment there is that in my district, which is peculiar in this respect, there is not one Housing Trust house. I suppose it may be said, too, that it is a district peculiarly represented.

Mr. Jennings: Appropriately represented.

Mr. COURCEL: I thank the honourable member. My district has not one Housing Trust house, but there is a very fine block of flats, built in the last year or two, and the trust is about to build some more. I welcome this type of construction because, as I have said *ad nauseam*, parts of my district near the park lands lend themselves to flat building for those types of people for whom flat dwelling is suitable. I am pleased that the trust is progressing with this work. It is interesting to note that the trust has now completed some 50,000 houses in this State, which accommodate some 200,000 people—men, women and children. That brings us to the startling conclusion that one-fifth of the whole State's population is housed in Housing Trust houses of one type or another, which is a fair proportion. In other words, one-fifth of all the people living in South Australia live in State houses. Therefore, the Government is certainly the largest landlord in South Australia and perhaps it would have one of the largest percentages of people of any State living in houses owned by the State. I trust that this will continue and that the trust will persevere with its programme.

The newspapers announced the other day a programme for the Grange and Semaphore Park area. Attractive maps are available but the position does not seem quite correct to me from maps I have seen of the Harbors Board plan—the member for West Torrens (Mr. Fred Walsh) would know about that. I suggest, however, that some of the ground work will be done possibly by the Harbors Board but certainly it will be the Housing Trust's job to develop the area and build houses, and either sell or rent them. I say that in answer to a question raised this afternoon by the Leader of the Opposition in this regard. It is a compliment to our Housing Trust that it has the organization (the engineers, architects and planners) capable of planning such a large and imaginative scheme and putting it into operation. I admit it has had plenty of practice at Elizabeth, which has been hailed by many as an outstanding example of town planning. The trust is to undertake this scheme in the future, and it is interesting to read the comments of one of the local councils concerned as published in a recent newspaper. I hope the council will not delay this project, because I believe the scheme is an imaginative one that will turn what is waste swamp-land, infested with mosquitoes and completely useless, into a desirable section of the metropolitan area with better-type Housing Trust houses.

Recent Commonwealth loans have been oversubscribed; the loan market is buoyant even at the reduced rates offering. Last night the Commonwealth Budget, if it did nothing else, stressed expansion and development. Next year, when considering the Loan Estimates, we should expect an increased allocation of funds to provide for a continued programme of development and the carrying out of necessary works. In any case, with the expiration of time, we should get an incremental increase, but I hope this can be accelerated. The Treasurer has taken a broad view in these Loan Estimates, and has presented an excellent programme of Loan works. On the whole it would be extremely difficult to argue against the allocation to the various departments. Some departments could argue that they do not receive enough, but this Loan programme would be difficult to improve.

Mr. LAWN: Are you competing against the member for Albert for the new Minister's job?

Mr. COURCEL: I am not a preacher.

Mr. LAWN: You should take care, because he has the Premier's ear already.

Mr. COURCEL: I hope he gives it back to him. This is a realistic approach to the problem of allocating Loan moneys to various departments, because it provides money for all departments requiring it; provides for expansion and, most importantly, provides a swing to social provisions in certain departments that will be welcomed by the public. This is only the beginning, and the full effect will be obvious in succeeding years. I am pleased to note that, where enough money was not provided in past years for projects which had to wait, they are now receiving their fair share. I support the first line.

Mr. TAPPING (Semaphore): I will refer briefly to two items on the Loan Estimates, but before doing so I commend the member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell) for his speech. I have heard him before, but today he was outstanding and I congratulate him. He fully covered his district, not missing a person or town. An amount of £334,000 is provided for inner and outer harbours. For many years members have heard me say that many ships coming to Australia by-pass the Outer Harbour. We must analyse the deficiencies of the harbour to find out if we can attract the larger ships to it. Of the ships that do not visit the Outer Harbour, the *Canberra* is 45,000 tons gross register and the *Oriana* 42,000 tons. I have obtained information from experts that the Outer Harbour has 35ft. of water at low water. That appears to be a safe margin for

these vessels. Shipowners, however, are concerned that the swinging basin is unable to handle these large ships because the *Canberra* is 880ft. long and the *Oriana* is 808ft., whereas the swinging basin is 1,250ft. wide. That appears to be a safe margin, but ships coming into or going out of the harbour are sometimes faced with a south-west or west wind with a boisterous sea, and the margin is then considered by experts to be insufficient. Many of the ships do not call at the Outer Harbour because of these adverse conditions.

The Minister for Marine has said on several occasions he has been in touch with the shipping companies to arrange a scheme for their support if improvements were made at the harbour. Last week he said that some of the companies had satisfactorily replied, but he was awaiting further answers before determining the matter. The Minister said that plans had been drawn for a new kiosk and service station, and to provide other amenities necessary for the area. The Outer Harbour is an important terminal in South Australia. About five steamers can berth at the wharves; the water is deep enough for the larger ships, and it has many tourist advantages. Frequent visitors to the harbour realize the development that has taken place, particularly with trees, gardens and lawns, and each year the position is improving. If the Outer Harbour could be improved as a tourist resort, the railways would benefit because of the additional travellers going there. Yacht squadron members have about 100 boats, and the Trailer-Boat Dinghy Club has about 400 members who take their boats to the harbour for fishing.

A hotel or a motel is needed at the Outer Harbour. The position there is different from other parts of the State, because about three or four square miles of land is owned by the South Australian Harbors Board and the Port Adelaide council has no jurisdiction over it. In the plan for an improved kiosk and petrol station, the Government should consider incorporating the building of a motel or hotel to attract people to South Australia. This amenity would also appeal to many tourists wanting to spend a week or so fishing.

Mr. Dunstan: Something better than what is there now is needed.

Mr. TAPPING: Yes, but I understand that at the end of the year the kiosk is to be demolished and replaced by a modern kiosk and petrol station. I hope that if I keep urging for these improvements, ultimately Outer Harbour will become a valuable tourist

resort. The sum of £670,000 is proposed for roads and bridges, of which £10,000 is for initial work in connection with the new Jervois bridge, the total cost of which will be £800,000. Since 1955 the Public Works Committee has considered various proposals for a bridge to replace the existing Jervois bridge. In 1957 the committee recommended a new fixed bridge, but the Harbors Board refused to agree to that and the project was re-investigated. Another scheme submitted to the committee provided for an opening bridge. I commend the committee for its progressive attitude in determining that a swinging bridge over a main road was a retrograde step. I confess that I originally regarded the Jervois bridge as of paramount importance. However, the volume of traffic proceeding around the Black Diamond corner at Port Adelaide has convinced me that the proposed causeway, which is to cost £331,000, should be proceeded with first. I expect that it will be completed next year and that 40 per cent of the traffic proceeding around the Black Diamond corner will use it, thus relieving the burdens on the Jervois and Birkenhead bridges. It will probably take about five to six years before the new Jervois bridge is constructed. Mr. Richmond, a former Highways Commissioner, in 1955 predicted that the Birkenhead bridge would reach the end of its serviceable life in 1960. That bridge is overcrowded. It has two traffic lanes and frequently traffic is hindered because maintenance work becomes necessary. In fact, that bridge could almost be condemned. Because of the industrial expansion on LeFevre Peninsula the duplication of the Birkenhead bridge could be regarded as a future project.

An earlier speaker commended the Housing Trust, but the member for Hindmarsh said that the Housing Trust was dealing in land at £1,100 a block. That is my experience. The trust is asking £1,100 and £1,200 a block in the Semaphore Park area, and this concerns some of my constituents who live in Hart Street and whose houses will have to be demolished when that street is widened to provide an adequate approach to the new bridge. Those people will probably receive about £2,500 as compensation, and if they are expected to pay £1,100 for a block of land it will impose a heavy financial burden on them, particularly those who are getting on in years. I appeal to the Government that when these people are dispossessed they should receive some special consideration from the Housing Trust for the fact that they are losing their houses.

One of the problems at the Birkenhead bridge arises from its frequent openings. Until a recent regulation was introduced the bridge was opened whenever water traffic required it, but now the bridge cannot be opened at peak periods in the morning and evening. However, at any other time of the day it must be opened for any boat, whether it is only 18 or 20ft. long. In other parts of the world where similar bridges are provided, small boats are required to have masts that can be dismantled. I appeal to the Highways Department to introduce a similar requirement. It would not cost more than £10 to £14 to fit a small boat with a mast capable of being dismantled. At present buses on the Semaphore, Largs and Osborne routes are delayed because of the interference caused by the frequent openings of the bridge.

Mr. BOCKELBERG (Eyre): I support the first line. The member for Torrens eulogized the Government for the work it intended to proceed with in the metropolitan area, and the member for Semaphore spoke of matters vitally concerning his area, but I intend to refer to the most western part of our South Australian railways system. I congratulate the Government on its far-sightedness in proposing to spend £300,000 to construct a railway line from Ceduna to Kevin. This line will be about 38 miles long compared with the 64-mile length of the old line it is to replace. The old line needs renewing and most of the stations would have to be rebuilt, and the total cost of the work would be about the same as the cost of the new line. The old line is seldom used by farmers. Most of them transport their wheat to Thevenard to the bulk handling silo. The new line is designed primarily to transport gypsum from the Kevin deposits. Gypsum is now being delivered at Thevenard at the rate of 35,000 tons a year, and I have been informed that the two companies—Waratah Gypsum Pty. Ltd. and Colonial Sugar Refining Company Ltd.—expect to increase this in the future to about 500,000 tons a year. The gypsum from the field at Penong is considered to be the best procurable anywhere in the world; I believe it is about 99.5 per cent pure gypsum. This is now being bulked in to the ships.

Mr. Ryan: By automation, isn't it?

Mr. BOCKELBERG: Yes, but many men are needed to run the plant at the field.

Mr. Ryan: How many—about four?

Mr. BOCKELBERG: No matter how many it is, it is still decentralization. Members

opposite want industry in the country, yet when something is established they ridicule it. Probably between 25 and 50 men are employed on the project. Apart from these men, probably between 80 and 100 men will be needed to construct the railway line.

Mr. Ryan: How long will that take?

Mr. BOCKELBERG: This year £300,000 is provided, and the total for the project is about £800,000. This work will take three or four years to complete. On Upper Eyre Peninsula, water is a matter of great concern. Indeed, it is a "hot potato". The Public Works Committee found on investigation that the cost of providing Murray water to Kimba was too high. The Polda scheme has been linked to the main supply—the Tod scheme, which supplies most of the peninsula. However, I do not think there is sufficient underground water for the whole peninsula, and eventually water will have to be piped from the Murray. More development is taking place on Eyre Peninsula than anywhere else in the Commonwealth and, when this country is cleared, the sheep population will grow to such an extent that underground water will not be sufficient. I cannot see any way to water Eyre Peninsula eventually than a pipeline from Iron Knob to Kimba, eventually linking up with the Tod River system.

When it was discovered in September or October last year that the water position on the peninsula would be acute, the Minister of Works, assisted by officers of the Engineering and Water Supply Department and the men using the picks and shovels, did a commendable job in linking up with the Polda basin before Christmas. The men who worked on the job are to be commended, and I as member for the district appreciate the fine job they did. I am pleased that the Government has provided in these Estimates for the building of a courthouse at Ceduna, which is long overdue. Probably more court cases take place in that court than anywhere else in South Australia, yet the room will hold only about six people. When justices of the peace, police, and witnesses are in the court, there is no room for members of the public.

I understand that some years ago the Public Works Committee investigated a proposal to have a boat haven at Thevenard and was prepared to approve it, but the boat owners would not pay the rent to put their boats in the haven, so the whole matter was dropped. Since then I have forwarded a petition to the Minister of Agriculture, and I hope that before long the matter will be referred back to the

Public Works Committee so that it can investigate the matter again. This is an open port and during storms some boats have been lost; the boat owners can ill-afford to lose them.

I commend the Minister of Marine for the reply he gave me in relation to Thevenard harbour. I am pleased that the matter is being discussed by Cabinet, that berthing facilities will be lengthened, and that the port will probably be deepened so that ships will be able to come in at night on a rising tide. Bigger ships will be necessary for the gypsum trade, and if they are to get into the harbour something must be done.

Mr. Ryan: What is the biggest ship it will take now?

Mr. BOCKELBERG: It will take ships of about 9,000 tons. The channel is awkward, as ships must negotiate a bend. I commend the Government on a forthright and healthy Loan programme that will assist many parts of the State. I support the first line.

Mr. LOVEDAY (Whyalla): In supporting the first line, I shall refer first to the remarks of the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe), who eulogized the Government for the increase in Loan money over that provided last year. He said that the £60,000,000 programme was an increase of £3,250,000 over last year's programme. Before one eulogizes the Government, however, I think the full picture should be presented. Since last year there has been a considerable increase in population, and obviously there is a great need to stimulate the economy and to endeavour to reduce existing unemployment as far as possible. Apart from this, many projects are long overdue. When these factors are considered £3,250,000 is by no means a great increase on the amount provided last year. In fact, one could say that there should have been a much greater increase. The matter of long overdue projects was emphasized by the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) when dealing with new offices for the Public Service. He made this a major feature of his remarks, and indicated that there should be a decent building for the Public Service and that after all these years the Government is dealing with the matter.

Mr. Bywaters: Our Leader raised that several years ago.

Mr. LOVEDAY: That is true. Members will not argue against the increased expenditure in these Estimates, because it is necessary. I feel that the matter of reducing unemployment is not merely one of providing more Loan money. It would appear that the number of unemployed people in this State

(6,500) is static. It leads one to think that we have a hard core of unemployed people, consisting in the main of unskilled men for whom it is difficult to create work. Putting it in another way, it is becoming increasingly difficult for these people to find suitable employment. Not only an increase in the amount of Loan money available will overcome the problem, for there is a great need to survey the future prospects of providing a training scheme to fit these people for other avenues of employment.

Many factors are responsible for our unemployment position. Some are the aftermath of the "Horror" Budget and the degree of automation. Those who are unemployed because of this should not have to bear the burden of the readjustment. The member for Port Pirie (Mr. McKee) recently spoke on this matter and pointed out that it was wrong for the social readjustment to be borne by the individual. Many people have built their houses in particular districts, but automation in those districts may have resulted in their becoming unemployed. They find it impossible to move elsewhere to work, particularly if in the unskilled category, and at the same time maintain their family in their original place of residence. I understand that in some cases it does not pay people in this category to follow work, because they are much better off staying in their district and collecting social service payments. It is a matter that needs attention. There should be some examination of the possibilities of training the men in new avocations. Instead of blaming them for not getting work, their problem should be reviewed in a humane manner, and in the way that is best for the social structure.

I now want to refer to some remarks made in the explanation of the Loan Estimates. Recently I drew attention to the matter of housing and said that the Housing Trust had embarked upon a scheme for the building of 550 houses of from 11½ to 17½ squares and that contracts had been let for building the houses in the metropolitan area. They are obviously for people in the middle and upper brackets of income. I said that the trust had been constituted for the purpose of building houses for people most in need of them. There has been a considerable departure from the purpose for which the trust was created. The contracts for these 550 houses cover the metropolitan area, and not the country. Does that suggest that the state of the country is so bad, from the point of view of capacity to pay for the houses, that few can afford to

pay? I think that that is probably the case. In Whyalla the trust is doubtful about building houses of the rental-purchase type on a low deposit of £50. The trust doubts whether people in industry can afford to pay for them. This is indicative of the so-called prosperity that we find in places that are developing quickly, and it shows that the people in industry there are not able to pay for fairly good houses. I said earlier that this is a question of great importance to society.

Unfortunately one of the drawbacks in housing is the cost of the money borrowed. I am pleased that the Government's present arrangement with the trust is to provide the greater part of its new money from funds borrowed under the provisions of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement at a concessional interest rate of 1 per cent below the current long-term governmental borrowing rate. This is a good feature, but it is unfortunate that the rest of the trust's money is not found in the same way. I think the rate could be still lower. The importance of the interest rate on Loan money is not sufficiently appreciated. A 1 per cent reduction means, on a house costing £3,000, a difference in rental of 12s. a week, which is of tremendous importance. Labor Party policy is the provision by the Commonwealth Bank of Loan money at a low rate of interest, specifically for housing, because we regard housing as an important feature in the community. I regret that the matter has not been dealt with more specifically and firmly than it has. Year after year the matter has been emphasized in this place. Getting money at a low rate of interest is the key to providing good standard houses for the community. All the time we have had the trust there has been a reduction in the size of rooms to the absolute minimum and the building down to a standard that only just comes within the Building Act. No housing organization should have to do this in order to build houses for the community. We should be looking ahead, particularly when we are building towns, and in that regard the member for Torrens pointed out that one-fifth of our people are now occupying Housing Trust houses.

There has been a tendency to concentrate on the building of double-unit houses. They are unsatisfactory unless carefully maintained, not only by the trust but by the tenants themselves. Had we proceeded on the lines that Loan money was necessary at a low rate of interest we would have had a good standard of house of which

we could be proud, and we would have been able to build towns that would have been attractive in every sense. The housing organization itself has been hampered in its operations by the absence of sufficiently cheap money. Every time we have asked for improvements in the standard of housing, the Treasurer has said that we cannot do this because if we spend more money in improving the standards we will have less houses. That has always been the stock answer, and it is just not good enough. It is not a positive approach to the matter at all, and it simply means that we continue to build low standard houses when in reality there would have been no necessity for it if the States had all stood together and said, "This matter has such a priority in the community that we are going to have cheaper money."

It is not impossible financially to do this, for it is merely a question of the determination of everybody to see that this money is available. It can be made available at lower rates of interest if we as a community are determined to ask for it and see that we get it. I do not know whether one really gets anywhere on these lines, but I feel impelled to keep repeating what is an obvious truth. Yet year after year we see nothing done in emphasizing this most important problem. Imagine the Housing Trust being in doubt as to whether it can build in Whyalla the rental-purchase house because it considers there is a grave doubt whether the people in industry can afford to pay for that type of house with a £50 deposit! The trust is still pursuing its policy of building double units in Whyalla, the city which is expanding fastest in South Australia outside the metropolitan area, the place where there is the greatest prospect of decentralization, and the place where the population is likely to grow to a point where it will exceed any other place in this State outside of Adelaide. The State housing organization is afraid that there are not sufficient people with sufficient income to pay for that type of house. It is a terrific reflection on the whole housing programme in this State, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. McKee: But it is a low-wage town, isn't it?

Mr. LOVEDAY: It is a city in which people are on award rates with a very small bonus; that is the exact description of it, and I will say no more than that.

Mr. Shannon: Are there many people working in industry in Whyalla that are not housed? For instance, does the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited want more houses for its employees?

Mr. LOVEDAY: No, I am not suggesting that. In fact, the B.H.P. Company has been unable to get from overseas the number of tradesmen that it expected, and the Housing Trust has had to go more slowly on its building programme as a consequence. I have said nothing this evening that would indicate that the trust was not doing what was required to satisfy accommodation needs. Actually, accommodation in Whyalla has probably been easier than anywhere else in this State, and a migrant from overseas can generally go into a house within a few days.

Mr. Shannon: I must have misunderstood the honourable member; I thought he meant there was a shortage there.

Mr. LOVEDAY: No, I have never indicated that there has been a shortage. What I am pointing out is that this £50-deposit rental-purchase type of house has been introduced with a flourish of trumpets as being a great improvement, but that the trust has grave doubts about building such houses in Whyalla because it thinks that employees will not be able to pay for them, and consequently it is still pursuing the policy of building double units. I am concerned, Mr. Chairman, that the trust built far fewer houses last year than it did in the previous year. I notice from the Loan Estimates that in 1961-62 the trust built 56 fewer houses than in the previous year, and in 1962-63 it built 374 fewer houses than it did in 1961-62. The reasons given for that include the changeover to the rental-purchase type of house and the fact that some long contracts have finished. However, the latter excuse seems to me to be an extremely weak one. In view of the tremendous need for speeding up house construction, particularly in the metropolitan area, it would seem to me that, in view of what is obviously the very sound financial position of the trust, more houses could have been built in the metropolitan area to try to make up something of the terrific back lag. I understand that many applicants still have a four to five-year wait for houses.

On the question of building generally, I think it is high time that we had competition among architects for the designs of the many public buildings mentioned in the Loan Estimates. For far too long has the designing of these buildings been placed with what I will call the old established and conservative firms. I recently examined some overseas journals issued by architects' associations, and I noticed that all over the world now it is the custom to call for competitive designs for

public buildings. If this were done, young architects with initiative would have a chance to display their skill, and we would get out of the rut of the many old ideas that are apparent in the designs that come from what I term the older and more conservative channels of architecture.

Mr. Jennings: You have to keep the Lord Mayor in a job!

Mr. LOVEDAY: I was not aware that my suggestion would deprive the Lord Mayor of a job. Does the honourable member think it would? Anyway, I think the suggestion is well worth considering, because for far too long has this State earned the description of the conservative State in every sense of the term, and architecture is one avenue in which we have been very conservative indeed. It is time we moved with the times in this direction and sought the ideas of the younger architects. Let us have their initiative displayed, let us have their designs, and let us have some different things to look upon in this city.

I was disappointed to find no provision in the Loan Estimates for a new technical high school at Whyalla and no mention of a technical college or trade school. I am mindful of what has been done regarding the establishment of primary schools and the fact that on the Estimates there is another primary and infants school mentioned as being due for construction this year. However, as I emphasized earlier, a special expansion is going on in Whyalla and it seems most unfortunate that where we have such tremendous opportunities for expansion the most important and urgent needs cannot be fully met. This again, of course, emphasizes the lag throughout the State in completing these very urgent projects. At present the Whyalla Technical High School has 830 students in the secondary section and an expected enrolment next year of 950, far too many for one secondary school. I believe that the optimum number for a secondary school is usually regarded as about 600 students. When a school reaches the size I have mentioned, it then becomes unwieldy and the administration difficult.

On the adult education side, the school at present (in the second term) has 174 people enrolled, which, as I have mentioned previously this session, is a decrease from the 348 enrolled in the first term, the reason being, of course, the steep increase in fees. In addition to that, 249 apprentices are now attending this school and in 1964 their number is expected to increase to 280. It is worth mentioning the

apprenticeship courses carried on there to show the wide range of work done, particularly as this matter of apprenticeship was stressed earlier this session by the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe).

The Whyalla Technical High School is catering for the apprenticeship requirements of boilermakers, carpenters, electrical fitters, electrical mechanics, coppersmiths, fitters and turners, motor mechanics, moulders, painters, patternmakers, plumbers, sheetmetal workers, ship's carpenters and joiners, shipwrights and panel beaters—quite an exhaustive list. I suggest that proper education and continuing better facilities for these apprentices are most important and should be catered for in the new trade school associated, I understand, with the technical college to be built.

There is nothing in the Loan Estimates relating to the technical college and trade school or the new technical high school urgently required. As the population is increasing in Whyalla at the rate of about 2,000 persons per annum, the urgency of this will be readily appreciated. Obviously, when these colleges and schools are started, it will still take some time to get them completed and into action. By then, there will be tremendous congestion at the existing school. I intend to deal with many other matters on the individual lines, but for the moment I content myself by supporting the first line.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 9.24 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, August 15, at 2 p.m.