

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, October 8, 1963.

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

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2).

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

QUESTIONS.**STUDENT ALLOWANCES.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH: My question concerns living and boarding allowances for teachers college students. I understand that student teachers are paid a living allowance ranging from £305 to £350 per annum depending on their year of service, plus a living-away-from-home allowance of £100 per annum to cover boarding expenses. I am particularly concerned with two phases: the student who is able to live at home but whose parents are unable to provide board free, or almost free; and the student who is obliged to live away from home because his normal residence is in the country. Can the Minister of Education indicate whether the Government intends to have this matter referred to the Teachers Salaries Board or whether it intends to retain the present administration?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The allowances payable to students in training in our teachers colleges are as provided in the regulations made pursuant to the provisions of the Education Act. They can be varied only by an amendment of the regulations made in Executive Council and approved by Parliament. The recommendation for any such variation amounts, of course, to a decision of Cabinet, and as the question involves Government policy, I shall be obliged to refer it to Cabinet for a decision. However, whatever may be Cabinet's view on the subject, in order to comply with the honourable member's suggestion it would be necessary for Parliament to amend the Education Act, because the Teachers Salaries Board's jurisdiction, constituted under that Act, extends only to making awards fixing salaries for teachers employed under the Act. However, I shall be pleased to refer the matter to Cabinet for consideration and later a decision.

SOUTH PARA RESERVOIR.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: The South Para reservoir has become a popular resort for sightseers and tourists, particularly during the summer months, and I understand that thousands of sightseers visit the reservoir each week. I was there on Sunday afternoon, and a comment that I heard on several occasions from sightseers was that they would appreciate further improvements being made, particularly near the spillway, by planting trees to provide shade, which is now lacking, and also by providing barbecue facilities. Recently, I inspected the Maroondah dam in Victoria, and was greatly impressed with the lawns and trees under which tourists were able to enjoy a family picnic. Can the Minister of Works say whether it is planned to provide these facilities at the South Para reservoir soon?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Government and the department appreciate that the reservoirs particularly, and other public undertakings, are of interest to tourists, and I am aware that many people regularly visit the South Para, Myponga and Mount Bold reservoirs. Plans are being considered to provide the amenities mentioned by the honourable member, more particularly at this stage at Myponga, but also at South Para reservoir. The honourable member will appreciate that, unfortunately, the soil at South Para is stony and gravelly and does not lend itself easily to beautification. However, I assure the honourable member that the matter is under consideration, and that as soon as a firm proposal has been determined I will advise him further.

OIL CONTRACTS.

Mr. HUTCHENS: I have been reliably informed that oil companies are securing contracts with primary producers, particularly in the South-East, to supply them with oil at a reduced cost for, I believe, a period of five years, subject to their buying from the same company at all times. I ask the Premier whether those contracts are in the nature of a gentleman's agreement or are a legally enforceable document, which would tie down the producers to buying from the same company at a fixed price as stated in the agreement, irrespective of the opportunity to buy at a more favourable rate elsewhere. Will the Premier ask the Prices Department to examine the nature of the contracts between oil companies and primary producers? Will he also examine, in his restrictive trade practices legislation, whether it is desirable that

the terms of such agreements should be shortened, or even disallowed—assuming, of course, that it is found that the contracts are not in the best interests of the primary producers?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have not seen any of these contracts: in fact, until the honourable member asked this question I had no knowledge of their contents. However, I can supply an affirmative answer to the second of his questions—I will have the Prices Commissioner conduct an investigation and supply me with a complete report on the matter.

CAPE TULIP.

Mr. HEASLIP: Last weekend I visited Wirrabara forest and was most upset to see cape tulip on the Crown lands there. Although it may have been there five or 10 years ago it was not visible; but now it is. The Wirrabara forest is in the watershed of the Rocky River, which flows into the River Broughton. If this weed, which is of no value, is permitted to persist in the Crown lands of the Wirrabara forest, the people at Laura, Gladstone, Narridy and Wandearah will have their properties overgrown with it, despite efforts they may put into controlling it. At present notices are being served on private landholders informing them that they must eradicate noxious weeds, including variegated thistle which, at least, has some stock food value. In the Crown lands of the Wirrabara forest nothing has been done. Under section 13 of the Weeds Act the authorities are not compelled to take action to control the weed. Can the Minister of Forests say whether he will now take action to control or eradicate cape tulip on the Crown lands of the Wirrabara forest, because if he does not the Weeds Act will be useless?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will get a report from the Conservator of Forests on the position and give the honourable member a considered reply as soon as possible.

Mr. HARDING: My question is somewhat similar to that asked by the member for Rocky River. It is reported from the South-East that an officer of the Agriculture Department estimates that approximately 15,000 acres of land in the South-East is infested by cape tulip. We all know that this noxious weed is spreading, and the officer concerned estimates that it is spreading at the rate of about 1,000 acres a year. It is a serious matter for the South-East, because it has half the 20-inch rainfall area in South Australia. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether this is a

matter for district councils or the State Government to attend to, and will he obtain a report about the serious spread of cape tulip in the South-East?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The honourable member's question is different from that of the member for Rocky River. The previous question referred to the occurrence of cape tulip on Woods and Forests Department land, which is a subject on which I want to make some investigation. The question of the member for Victoria refers to the occurrence of cape tulip on farm land in South-East districts. Cape tulip is spreading very rapidly in certain districts, and it is a particularly serious weed. Many landholders are dealing with it energetically, and I know of some who have had great success in its control. Broadly speaking, the responsibility for the control of the weed rests with the holder of the land, whether he be a public or private landholder. The Weeds Act is administered through local government bodies. The district councils in the area referred to by the honourable member are responsible for seeing that these weeds are dealt with. On the other hand, I want to add that assistance is given by the Agriculture Department through its Weeds Branch. Officers of that branch are constantly interviewing local government organizations and giving technical information and advice to enable them to carry out their responsibilities as much as they possibly can. If the honourable member lets me know of a council that is in difficulties about the weed and requires technical assistance through the Agriculture Department I will arrange for the assistance to be given.

FREEWAYS.

Mr. FRED WALSH: Last week the Minister of Roads announced the Highways Department's proposal to construct 35 miles of freeways within the next 10 years. The scheme envisages that stretches of the old Glenelg railway route will be used. Following requests from people residing along that route, I ask the Minister of Works what stretch of that railway route will be utilized in the construction of a freeway envisaged in the plans of the Highways Department published last week.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member was kind enough to give prior notice of his intention to ask this question and I have received from my colleague, the Minister of Roads, the following report from the Commissioner of Highways:

A comprehensive survey of road needs throughout the State revealed that probably 35 miles of freeway system would be required in metropolitan Adelaide by 1974, in order to provide for the anticipated road traffic. As indicated in the press release, the detailed planning and design of the freeway system are not yet finalized. The Town Planning Committee's report indicates that the old Glenelg railway line may ultimately form part of the freeway system. However, a much more detailed investigation will be required before this can be confirmed. The Government has approved of the formation of a committee consisting of representatives of the Highways Department, Town Planner, Railways Department, Municipal Tramways Trust and the Adelaide City Council to consider traffic and transport aspects of the Town Planner's report. This committee is currently considering the problem and it appears that a comprehensive traffic and transport survey will be required before details of any specific freeway route can be fixed. This survey, which will probably require the services of consultants working in conjunction with the staff of traffic and transport authorities, would probably not be completed before the end of 1965, even if put in hand immediately.

RAILWAY CROSSINGS.

Mr. CASEY: On Highway 32 from Adelaide to Broken Hill there is a railway crossing situated half-way between Peterborough and Ucolta. Actually, there are several railway crossings in that section, but this one is the only one crossed by Highway 32. Some years ago a local council took up with the Highways Department the advisability of improving the warning notices to traffic using that crossing. However, that crossing is probably responsible for more accidents than is any other crossing in South Australia. To my knowledge at least one fatality has occurred over the past few years, and scores of cars have hit the railway cattle pits. Only a fortnight ago a semi-trailer load of sheep crashed into this crossing. Hardly a week goes by without at least one or two accidents occurring there. Will the Minister of Works confer with his colleague, the Minister of Roads, to see whether the Highways Department could send an officer to the district to carry out a complete survey at this crossing? I understand that the department is reluctant to do anything about the matter at present because of the impending railway gauge standardization. However, that may not eventuate for two or three years, and in view of the accidents occurring there something should be done immediately to make this crossing safer for traffic. Will the Minister of Works take this matter up with his colleague?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. HUGHES: During the Loan Estimates debate I drew the attention of the Minister of Works to the condition of the Cross Roads crossing at Moonta. I understand he has obtained a report on this matter.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Railways, has informed me that he took this matter up with the Railways Commissioner, who has advised him that the wig-wag is easily seen by road users approaching the crossing who exercise due care. In this connection, advance warning signs erected by the council at the roadside provide an additional safeguard. The wig-wag is equipped with a red lens, which is illuminated when the equipment is operating. Experience has demonstrated that such equipment must be erected clear of the carriage-way, to avoid being damaged by passing vehicles. A recent count of road movements over the crossing discloses that road traffic is light. Rail traffic is also light, and in these circumstances priority in provision of flashing light units is accorded crossings where the hazards are greater than at Cross Roads, Moonta. It is desired to emphasize the obligation of road users, prescribed in the Road Traffic Act, to exercise due care when approaching level crossings. Past experience has demonstrated that accidents have taken place at crossings where the most elaborate equipment has been installed.

PINNAROO SCHOOL.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Some months ago the Minister of Works was good enough to tell me that he had approved of certain expenditure for the paving of the Pinnaroo schoolyard, but to the best of my knowledge this work has not yet been commenced. Will the Minister ascertain when this work is expected to be undertaken?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The usual practice in these matters is for tenders to be sought and a contract let for a group of schools and other public buildings, such as police buildings, and for the successful tenderer to do a series of jobs in the locality under the terms of the contract. Although perhaps I was able to inform the honourable member some time ago that a contract had been let, the contractor may not have yet got to that locality to carry out that part of his contract. I will obtain a report regarding the position at the school the honourable member referred to and inform him.

FIREWORKS.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Has the Premier yet obtained a report from the Commissioner of Police regarding the fireworks nuisance?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes; the Commissioner reports:

The dangers resulting from the misuse of fireworks are constantly brought to the attention of members of the public through warnings issued in the "Police News" broadcasts and the daily newspapers. The provisions of both the Criminal Law Consolidation Act and the Police Offences Act have also been publicized. Police are instructed to give immediate attention to any such complaint received. Section 254 of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act provides that it is an offence if any person throws or fires any fireworks in or into any public street, house, shop, highway, road or passage, and any such offender shall be guilty of a misdemeanour punishable summarily, and liable to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding six months. Under section 52 of the Police Offences Act, any person who throws, sets fire to, or explodes any firework or explosive material so as to injure, annoy, or frighten persons in any public place, shall be guilty of an offence for which the penalty is up to £25. The police have been active in the past in reporting offences, and 10 persons were charged and convicted of throwing fireworks during the months of October and November, 1962. It is interesting to note in this morning's newspaper that a person was fined £7 10s. for exploding a firework in the street. The control of the sale of fireworks does not come within the jurisdiction of the Police Department.

Mr. LOVEDAY: I have noticed, and appreciate, the vigilance of the police, particularly at Whyalla, but the fact remains that the police frequently find it impossible to apprehend people who misuse fireworks. For instance, police in the audience at a picture theatre at Whyalla were unable to apprehend people throwing fireworks at random there. I am satisfied that much of the trouble arises from fireworks being available for sale to anybody for at least three months of the year. Will the Premier have this matter fully investigated so that consideration can be given to legislating to restrict the sale of fireworks in the interests of public safety and convenience?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This topic arises in many forms, and is not easily met by legislation. I point out that, if fireworks are to be entirely restricted, that is a simple matter, but to try to control the sale of fireworks creates all manner of problems, including probably the licensing of those selling them. Much rigmarole would be necessary to enforce legislative provisions of that type. I will examine the question, and

in the meantime will ask the Police Commissioner to pay particular attention to any unseemly conduct that may take place in the honourable member's district.

THEVENARD-KEVIN RAILWAY.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: Has the Minister of Works obtained from the Minister of Railways a reply to a question I asked earlier this session regarding the Thevenard-Kevin railway line?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Railways, informs me that, provided that the Act authorizing the construction of the Thevenard-Kevin railway is assented to shortly, tenders are expected to be called for the earthworks before the end of the current calendar year.

PORT PIRIE DEVELOPMENT.

Mr. McKEE: In reply to a question I asked last week about a proposal placed before the Commonwealth Government that would directly result in development at Port Pirie, the Premier said that he was expecting a letter last weekend from the Prime Minister and that he would probably be able to report to the House this week. Has the Premier received that letter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have not yet received a reply, although I have some knowledge that it is being prepared.

SCHOOL PICNICS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: As a result of representations made to me by a group of parents at a primary school in my district during the last few months, I have been in touch with the Minister of Education several times about his department's policy on the holding of school picnics on Sundays. Can the Minister now explain the department's policy?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The policy of the Education Department, and indeed of the Government, is that school grounds must not be used on Sundays for the purpose of sport or recreation but, as far as I am aware, no ruling has ever been given on the holding of school picnics on Sundays at places other than departmental property. However, several school picnics have been held on Sundays with the approval of the local school committees and teachers, but without obtaining or even seeking departmental approval. As the honourable member recently raised this matter with me officially in correspondence, and asked if I had any policy or views on the subject, I referred his question to Cabinet because it involved Government policy. Cabinet took the view that

it was entirely a matter for the parents to decide whether or not they should hold a picnic on a Sunday, provided that it was not held on any school grounds and that the Education Department was not involved in any way whatsoever with the arrangement thereof.

VETERINARY SURGEONS ACT.

Mr. BYWATERS: Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether any amendment to the Veterinary Surgeons Act will be introduced this session?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: No amendment has been prepared, and I cannot say whether an amending Bill will be introduced this session.

LAND SETTLEMENT.

Mr. CURREN: My question relates to the proposals recently announced to provide financial assistance to young people wishing to purchase farm properties. Can the Premier say what stage these proposals have reached, as I have had numerous inquiries from young people wishing to avail themselves of this finance?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: A Bill to give effect to these proposals is ready for submission to Parliament as soon as this House can consider it. However, it is necessary to complete consideration of the Estimates before any other legislation can be proceeded with because the Government has only a limited amount of Supply at present, about £6,000,000 having been made available by Parliament last week. Several important Bills are ready to be submitted to Parliament for consideration as soon as the Appropriation Bill has been passed.

PUBLIC RELIEF.

Mr. LAWN: Has the Premier a reply to a question I asked recently regarding a wage paid to a widow for a part-time cleaner's job being deducted from her relief payments?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Acting Chairman of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board reports:

The complaint of the minister of religion indicates a complete misunderstanding of the way in which relief entitlement is assessed by this department. In a letter dated July 19, 1963, the minister was informed that when the lady concerned was interviewed by an officer of this department on July 16, 1963, it was explained to her that the department pays relief to eligible applicants up to an amount which varies with the number of dependants and other circumstances. The amount actually paid is the difference between the maximum amount and the actual income received by the applicant from other sources.

In this particular case the lady is employed by the Church as a part-time cleaner; she also does some ironing. Her income from the church has been stated by the minister to be approximately £2 a week. This income is taken into account by the department in determining the amount of any relief to be granted. In a letter dated July 18, 1963 (which was received after the department's letter of July 19 had been posted) the minister indicated that the trustees of his Church had decided "to place under separate cover the amount she is earning for cleaning purposes so that when she requires some article necessary for her sparsely furnished home, we shall procure it for her. In this way she will not receive any actual cash and we shall retain our cleaner." On July 22, 1963, the minister was informed in a further letter that in assessing the amount it may pay to the lady for relief, the department will need to take into account all her earnings, whether these are in cash or otherwise. He was advised by the Chairman that if he wished to discuss the matter further an interview could be arranged.

It is understood that the lady has applied to the Commonwealth Department of Social Services for a widow's pension because she is a deserted wife. If the Commonwealth authorities accept her application she will receive the normal pension. In the meantime this department will pay her relief on the above basis whilst she remains eligible.

DREDGING OPERATIONS.

Mr. HUGHES: During the Loan Estimates debate I was pleased to hear the Treasurer say that £166,000 was to be allocated for deepening berths and channel at Wallaroo. Can the Minister of Marine say when that work is likely to begin?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The General Manager of the Harbors Board told me this morning that the work at Wallaroo is to be carried out in two parts. As the honourable member knows there are two aspects involved, namely, the deepening of the harbour berth alongside the jetty and the deepening of the approach channel. It is intended to send the grab dredger to Wallaroo shortly to commence the deepening at the wharf. I think the dredger will be placed on the slip early next week in preparation for its going to Wallaroo. The dredger is expected to arrive at Wallaroo, depending on weather conditions, in about three weeks' time when the work will commence immediately. The General Manager says he hopes to have the deepening of the berths completed in time for use during the coming grain season, which will enable ships to load to full depth at normal tide, thus avoiding the major problem of having to move a vessel out of the berth before the tide falls to prevent it from settling on the bottom. Because of weed on the bottom there is some problem in

deepening the channel about determining the yardage to be removed. The General Manager is making urgent arrangements for that aspect to be further examined and determined so that tenders can be called for that work.

WHEAT PREMIUM PAYMENTS.

Mr. HALL: Has the Minister of Agriculture information regarding the question I asked recently on wheat premiums?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The report from the Australian Wheat Board states:

Prior to No. 26 pool (season 1962-63), under an arrangement with the board, millers paid premiums on certain wheats direct to growers. From the commencement of No. 26 pool, South Australian flour millers have paid the Australian Wheat Board a premium at the rate of 4d. a bushel on all semi-hard wheat purchased by them. When sales of semi-hard wheat have been completed, the amount of the premiums received from mills and overseas buyers will be distributed amongst those growers who delivered semi-hard wheat to the current pool in proportion to the quantity which they delivered. Cheques for the amount due to each grower will be forwarded to his nominated banker and it is anticipated that payment will be made before the end of the year.

KILLING FEE.

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my recent question concerning advance payments for killings at the Gepps Cross abattoirs and can he say whether the board will revert to its former policy of refunding money after six months instead of holding the advance payment?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have received from the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board the following letter dated September 17, 1963:

With reference to the question asked in the House of Assembly on September 4, 1963, by Mr. Langley, M.P., of the Minister of Agriculture in connection with butchers' deposits, you are informed that the matter was considered by the board at its meeting held on Monday, September 16, 1963, and I am now directed to inform you that the board is not prepared to alter its existing policy with regard to the retention of deposits on account of butchers.

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP COUNSELLING SERVICE.

Mr. HUTCHENS: In last Monday's *Advertiser* appeared the following article:

Advice to Students.—Two retired S.A. teaching authorities have begun work in a new field—as counsellors for holders of Commonwealth scholarships going to the University of Adelaide. Mr. C. M. Griggs, former Deputy-Director of Education, and Mr. W. M. C. Symonds, former principal of the Adelaide

Boys High School, are interviewing winners, now doing Leaving Honours, to help them decide which university courses they should take up next year and to advise them on all aspects of university life. The new counselling service, which began on October 1, is being offered to students with the approval of the Minister of Education.

In view of those last few lines, can the Minister of Education say from what source these gentlemen will be paid?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: First, the appointments were approved by me on the recommendation of the State Director of Education, but they were made at the request of the Commonwealth Education Department through the Commonwealth Director of Education. The whole cost of the salaries of these estimable gentlemen will be paid by the Commonwealth. I was delighted to have the opportunity to approve of these recommendations. It was a splendid idea on the part of the Commonwealth to make the suggestion because I am sure it will do an inestimable amount of good in curing the wastage in the first years of university, particularly of these young men and women who have done so well at secondary schools as to justify receiving Commonwealth scholarships. I cannot think of two more outstanding persons to accept these very responsible positions.

SERVICE STATIONS.

Mr. TAPPING: I preface my question by reading the following letter I received today from a constituent at Largs Bay:

Re destruction of houses: In order to arrest the destruction of good-type houses, which are an asset to the districts in which they are situated, for the siting of redundant petrol stations, would it be possible to introduce legislation by State Parliament to prevent by law this practice of ruthless destruction on the part of the big oil companies?

I am bound to agree with my constituent. Every day we see the acquisition and destruction of houses by oil companies in South Australia. Some years ago the Premier told the House that he had an undertaking by the oil companies not to increase to any extent the destruction of houses and the building of petrol stations. In the last two years two major oil companies have commenced in South Australia, and for that reason more houses are being destroyed, particularly good-type houses. Will the Premier, if he can, ascertain whether the companies are going beyond their agreement or the word they gave some years ago?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The agreement mentioned was made between the oil companies at that time. It provided that

they would not increase the total number of outlets they had in the metropolitan area. They had the right to change an outlet from one location to another, but they had agreed among themselves—it was not an agreement with me, although I welcomed it—that they would not increase the number of outlets in the metropolitan area. One provision stated that the agreement was for a period of time but that it would not apply if any new company from outside decided to operate in this State.

As a matter of fact, the honourable member is correct: two new companies have, I think, been operating in the State since that time and I believe a third company is proposing to operate here. So, the agreement between the companies was automatically at an end some 18 months ago. However, I will get for the honourable member some information on the total number of service stations at present licensed in the metropolitan area and also the figure over a period of time so that the honourable member can see the trend in the official number of petrol stations licensed in the metropolitan area. He can then consider whether he wants to make a supplementary approach to the Government in the matter.

CHITON LIFESAVING CLUB.

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on October 2 about the Chiton Lifesaving Club?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have made some inquiry in this matter and have a report on it that I should like to discuss with the honourable member in the next two days.

COLLECTION OF BETS.

Mr. FRED WALSH: I understand the Premier has a reply to a question I asked on October 3 about the collection of bets.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: A report from the Secretary of the Betting Control Board (Mr. Alexander) states that the provisions of paragraph 4 (d) of Rule 73—not 2 (d) as referred to by Mr. Fred Walsh—do not interfere with the practice of collecting winnings (from the bookmaker) on the Saturday after the bets were made. The purpose of this paragraph is to lessen the time which a bettor previously had to wait to collect from the board money due to him in respect of a bet made at a mid-week meeting.

Previously, a bookmaker who had money remaining unpaid from a mid-week meeting was not required to lodge same with the board until the Thursday—12 days after the Saturday of the week during which the bet was made.

This meant, for example, that a bettor having made a bet on Monday, October 7, and who did not present his ticket to the bookmaker for collection by Saturday, October 19, could not be assured of obtaining payment from the board until Friday, October 25.

There were many occasions when a bettor, believing that he could obtain such payment from the board on the Friday of the week next following the date on which he made his bet, was inconvenienced (and sometimes voiced his displeasure) when he found that he had to wait a further week for settlement.

Using the same example for the purpose of explaining paragraph 4 (d), the bettor could now obtain settlement from the bookmaker any time up to and including Saturday, October 12, or failing his doing so, from the office of the board on or after Friday, October 18. I will obtain supplementary information if asked to do so by the honourable member.

PYRETHRUM.

Mr. HARDING: Recently, talks have been given in the Lower South-East by a Mr. Bannister, Chairman of Directors of Australian Pyrethrum Company Ltd., who said that it was hoped to plant at least 25,000 acres in the Lower South-East. He also said that the Agriculture Department and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization had a limited knowledge, and that he had developed pyrethrum as it is today. Mr. Bannister will visit Mount Gambier again later this month and will attend a meeting at Penola if it is arranged. Has the Minister of Agriculture information on the growing of pyrethrum, and can he state whether, in his opinion and that of his officers, the growing, harvesting and processing of pyrethrum could become a profitable proposition in the Lower South-East?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The honourable member informed me that he was going to ask a question about pyrethrum and in consultation with departmental officers I have compiled the following statement:

Pyrethrum (*Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium*) is a close relative of the garden chrysanthemum. The flowers of the crop are dried and yield the insecticide pyrethrin. Production has chiefly been from East Africa and Japan. The price is high and successful crops could yield a high monetary return per acre. The general requirements of pyrethrum as to soil and climate are exacting. Within Australia, the C.S.I.R.O. has done much testing, which included some experimental work in South Australia during the war years. Results in South Australia were not encouraging on account of the low pyrethrin content of the

flowers. There is no authenticated information of successful pyrethrum culture in South Australia since that time. On August 5, 1952, the C.S.I.R.O. made a press statement, which commenced with the following:

Attempts to grow pyrethrum on a commercial scale in Australia over the past 20 years have failed primarily because production costs were too high to allow the product to compete with imported material. C.S.I.R.O. considers that there is no reason for believing that a further attempt at the present time has any greater prospect of success.

Recent correspondence with the C.S.I.R.O. indicates that their view remains unchanged. The Director of Agriculture advises, therefore, that it would be most unwise for any farmer to undertake commercial plantings of the crop at this stage. The department would be very willing to examine any experimental plantings by farmers in a further endeavour to assess the potential. At the present time there is a promotion campaign for the commercial growing of pyrethrum in South Australia. In the course of this campaign misleading statements have been published. In one of these, the promoter was reported to have said that he worked in conjunction with the Agriculture Department. This statement is not true. In summary, farmers are warned against large-scale growing of a crop about which there is so little information as to its performance under local conditions.

BELTANA SCHOOL.

Mr. CASEY: I understand that the Minister of Education has a favourable reply to my recent question about appointing a married teacher to the Beltana school.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I referred the honourable member's statement and question to the Deputy Director of Education for investigation and report by the Superintendent of Rural Schools. As a result of the information I have now received I think it will be possible to appoint a married man as head teacher of the Beltana school as from January 1 next, and also to appoint an assistant teacher if increasing numbers justify such an appointment. However, at this stage, I cannot give any definite assurance on either matter, but will do so later in the year.

BLACKWOOD EAST WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: From time to time I have referred to the Minister of Works the extension of the water supply in my district, and now I have been handed what I could term an informal petition from residents at Blackwood East desiring water reticulation as soon as possible. I advised those who handed me the petition that it should have been directed to the Minister, and I was requested to hand it to him. Will he consider this petition

with a view to providing a water supply as soon as possible?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I shall certainly consider the request and have the matter investigated and let the honourable member have a report as soon as I can.

CORNELL LIMITED.

Mr. McKEE: I understand that the Minister of Education has a reply to the question I asked last week regarding maintenance liabilities on products sold by Cornell Limited.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The Attorney-General has supplied me with a report from the Registrar of Companies as follows:

On July 15, 1963, the Supreme Court made an order sanctioning a scheme of arrangement between Cornell Limited and its unsecured creditors which was resolved at a meeting on June 28 by a majority in number representing three-fourths in value of such creditors. Under the scheme there is a moratorium of all unsecured debts owing on May 9, 1963.

Purchasers of goods prior to that date would only be contingent creditors as regards liability of the company for repairs and replacements under guarantees in respect of such goods, and would not have been taken into account in ascertaining the majority in number and value of the creditors, but it is not clear if they are bound by the scheme. If the company refused to repair or replace goods which were covered by a guarantee, the purchaser could have the repairs or replacements effected elsewhere and lodge a claim on the company for the cost thereof, but it would be advisable to get legal advice first.

DISTRICT COUNCIL ACCOUNTS.

Mr. LAWN: Has the Premier a reply to my question of October 3 about the Auditor-General's comments on the irregular book-keeping methods of some councils?

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

In my report on the accounts of local government authorities I have not stated nor inferred that the type of irregularities listed involve fraudulent intent or misappropriation. Through the operations of local government auditors and an increased number of inspections by my officers, I am satisfied that the matters can eventually be rectified. I have stated that it is most desirable that a basic uniform system in accounting procedures and systems of councils generally should be devised for all local government authorities, and have suggested the appointment of a special committee to examine this.

COWIRRA TANK.

Mr. BYWATERS: Recently a new pump was installed in the Cowirra pumping station to increase the supply of domestic water to the dairy settlement. That supply at present comes from a tank which was built, I think,

when the settlement was first formed. The tank springs leaks constantly and it is not adequate to supply the needs. The settlers and I have drawn the department's attention to this and we have been promised a large tank to supply Cowirra and the neighbouring settlement of Ponde, which also draws water from the existing tank. However, summer is rapidly approaching and the last few warm days taxed the capacity of the tank. Settlers are concerned that they may be without water again this summer because of the inadequacy and poor condition of the tank. Will the Minister of Lands ascertain whether the provision of a larger and better tank can be expedited?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: I have no knowledge of the situation outlined by the honourable member, but apparently there is some urgency in the matter and I will regard it as urgent in obtaining a report.

FOSTER CLARK (S.A.) LTD.

Mr. CURREN: On August 20 and September 3 I asked for information about Foster Clark (S.A.) Ltd., and on September 3 the Premier said:

I understand that a representative of the interested firm may come to South Australia this week, but I have not yet had any confirmation of this.

Can the Premier say whether further negotiations have taken place? Can he indicate the present position?

The Hon. Sir. THOMAS PLAYFORD: I regret that I cannot give the honourable member full information on this matter, but frequently firms conducting negotiations for taking over or starting businesses do not want their affairs publicly canvassed until all necessary arrangements concerning their transactions are completed. I cannot take this question much further, except to say that a representative of a firm from outside this State did come here and inspected the plant, and he is, no doubt, reporting back to his fellow directors.

BOOK SALESMEN.

Mr. LAWN: On October 2, in reply to a question about book salesmen asked by the member for Bolivar, the Premier, among other things, said:

I do not know the legal position, but I would favour providing a very harsh penalty to stop this sort of practice.

Earlier this year the Attorney-General successfully prosecuted a book salesman at Nuriootpa. During those proceedings it was elicited that

the book salesman had 20 prior convictions, including convictions for larceny. Will the Premier have Cabinet consider licensing book salesmen? The salesman in the Nuriootpa prosecution would never have received a licence from the Police Commissioner.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: After Mr. Hall asked his question he made a formal request for the Government to introduce legislation in connection with it, but Cabinet has not yet made a decision. I believe that the solution mentioned by the honourable member for Adelaide is not a good one, because I have not the slightest doubt that if we brought in a licensing system of that sort salesmen would immediately quote the fact that they were licensed as proof of their *bona fides*. It would be used as a further sales trick. They would say that they were licensed by the Government to sell those books. I believe that it comes down to this: either we shall have to make it punishable by law to hawk any books whatsoever and provide for a severe penalty, or educate the public not to purchase books from people of doubtful antecedents. I promised Mr. Hall that I would take the matter to Cabinet to see whether we could go that far. The Government is loath to try to prevent what might be a proper transaction from being undertaken, merely because somebody is undertaking an improper transaction. We have to be careful with restrictive legislation. As I have said, the practice is rife and it has gone on to such an extent that in many instances it is completely fraudulent. This morning I received a letter from a migrant and I have no reason at all, from the tone of the letter, to disbelieve the statement made. If it is correct, the transaction it mentioned was completely fraudulent. It was conducted from Sydney and to the detriment of the person, who was induced to make the purchase on the ground that if she did not do so the education of her children would be prejudiced. That sort of action requires repressive measures. The only measure I can personally devise is to make it an offence to hawk books from door to door. That matter will be considered by Cabinet.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ROLL.

Mr. LAWN (on notice): What has been the total cost for each of the last 10 years of keeping the Legislative Council roll separately from that of the House of Assembly, and what are the various items which comprise these totals?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Assistant Returning Officer for the State has reported that it is impossible to make a correct dissection of costs for keeping a separate Legislative Council roll.

PULPWOOD.

Mr. CORCORAN (on notice):

1. Has an approach been made to the Government by Australian Paper Manufacturers Limited in connection with an increase in the supply of pulpwood for its Apcel plant near Millicent?

2. If so, what was the outcome of this approach?

3. If no approach has yet been made, what is the Government's policy in this matter?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The replies are:

1. Yes.

2. and 3. The matter is being considered in connection with the general development of State and private forests.

THE BUDGET.

The Estimates—Grand total, £103,306,000.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from October 3. Page 952.)

THE LEGISLATURE.

Legislative Council, £13,900.

Mrs. STEELE (Burnside): I rise with pleasure to support the adoption of the first line, and in doing so I point out that the Budget, which is the Treasurer's twenty-fifth consecutive Budget, reflects the continued prosperity and development of the State. I want to speak briefly on one or two items in the Budget that interest me particularly, and then to mount one of my hobby horses for a few moments, and give members some information on the subject.

I was pleased to see, among the grants to be made by the Government to suburban hospitals, a grant of £17,600 to the Burnside War Memorial Hospital. This is a very fine hospital of 45 beds and it not only serves the district of Burnside but has a fine reputation throughout the State, so much so that people come as patients from many country areas. One day last week when I visited the hospital I saw an ambulance maintained by Morgan and other river areas. It had brought a patient from that part of the State. The idea behind the grant is to increase the number of beds by five, bringing the total to 50, and to provide laundry accommodation that will

handle two-thirds of the laundry requirements of the hospital, thus saving about £1,000 a year, because at present the laundry work is sent out. One of the interesting points about the hospital is the great popularity of the maternity section. In the seven years of its existence the number of births has exceeded 2,000, and I was told the other day that it works out at almost one birth a day over the period of the existence of the section. I think that this is a fine record for a hospital of this kind. I was pleased, as the member for the district, to see that the hospital will benefit to this extent this year.

The next item that interests me is the provision of £105,000 for a school to be built at Athelstone, which is in the extreme northern portion of my electorate and in an area that is growing tremendously. I was able to see the position for myself on Sunday when I attended the interesting ceremony of a native flora sanctuary being handed over by the previous private owner to the Campbelltown City Council, which has purchased it for the purpose of providing a site and a sanctuary for use by all people in South Australia. I hope that it will be much availed of, because it is at present a going concern and quite an attraction. I hope the Tourist Bureau will list it as one of the attractions in the metropolitan area. I am digressing a little because I mentioned the Athelstone school, for which I understand plans are at present being prepared, and that probably early next year a commencement of the work will be made. I wonder whether provision was made in the £105,000 for the particular kind of foundation that will be necessary for a school in this area. It is to be built on a site where, I ascertained on Sunday, there is notoriously unstable soil. From our experience in recent months in connection with housebuilding in that area it seems inevitable that particular care must be paid to the foundations for the school.

Last Friday the Minister of Education opened the new Magill Primary School, which I consider is typical of the many very good schools now being erected all over the State. However, I think that the attention of the authorities and the people concerned with the preparation of plans and the consideration of such schools could be drawn to the floors of corridors. From a safety point of view I am wondering whether notice can be taken of the fact that in most schools that follow the pattern of the Magill Primary School there are concrete corridors, and that these are finished in a smooth surface. I understand

that even during the few months that the school has operated some very near accidents have occurred. I suggest that these floors could be rough-treated in some way, if finance has to be considered, or, alternatively, that they could be treated with some kind of linoleum tile or rubber flooring to make them safe. I find difficulty in walking on this type of floor, and I noticed on Friday that other people had the same difficulty. I do not think that the high heels worn by the feminine sex are entirely to blame, because the acting headmaster pointed out that children were rather prone to slip and possibly have a fall as a result of this kind of floor treatment. As this is a possible cause of accidents to children, perhaps this matter could be considered in future school planning.

I should now like to refer in passing to the initiative of the Education Department in setting up various types of class to meet the needs of various types of children to be educated. In particular, a recent innovation of the department which I think is worthy of commendation is the decision of the Government, on the recommendation of the Minister (who was advised by the Advisory Panel for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children, of which I am a member), to provide education for handicapped children, in this instance deaf-blind children. Over a period of years the members of this committee have been making a survey and conducting correspondence with the various Education Departments of the other States, and we have ascertained that some have experience of this type of handicapped child whereas others have no experience on a very large scale. In South Australia we have at present, as our records show, six children suffering from this devastating dual handicap of deafness and blindness, and the Government is to be congratulated on the move to send overseas an experienced teacher not only of normal children but of deaf children. I refer to Miss Payne, who has been sent to the Perkins Institute in America, the only institution of its kind in the world that trains for this type of teaching. The idea is that Miss Payne will return here and train other people in this highly skilled form of education, and that her experience and knowledge will be of use to the State for a considerable number of years, even though she is not far off the retiring age. The other matter to which I wish to refer concerns brain-injured children. Here again I consider that South Australia has pioneered—as it has in many specialized types

of education—the setting up of this kind of class, and we are now to have another class, which will operate at the new Marryatville Infants School, which, as it is now occupying the fine new school building across Kensington Road, has thus passed out of my district into the district of the member for Norwood.

Mr. Chairman, I now wish to speak at some little length on a question which I have raised before and which I consider is important: the hospital services of this State. The Estimates this year show an increase in the Minister of Health's vote under two headings. For the Hospitals Department there is an increase of £545,201 over last year, and in the Miscellaneous section the vote for medical and health services has been increased by £569,657, making a total in these two sections alone of well over £1,100,000. It can be seen that expenditure on our social services is certainly on the increase. Regarding occupational therapy, however, we lag behind other States that have had long experience of the advisability and of the advantages of having occupational therapists working in the various hospitals. Members will see, if they refer to my question on notice on August 20, particulars relating to the number of occupational therapists employed in South Australia. It is interesting that the information provided on that occasion showed that, whereas in October of last year we had in all six occupational therapists engaged in all kinds of hospitals and institutions in South Australia, we now have only five. Victoria, where the population is over 3,000,000, has 132 occupational therapists employed in hospitals and allied institutions, whereas South Australia, with a population of 1,004,000, has only six; and if my arithmetic is correct, it shows that on a population basis South Australia should have at least 44.

The point I want to make is that experience in the Eastern States in all the major hospitals has shown that where rehabilitation units (of which occupational therapists are an integral part) are attached to the hospitals there has been a much quicker recovery rate from people who have been admitted suffering from industrial accidents and road accidents. This is the result of the efforts of a team of people dedicated and devoted to getting these people back on their feet and back to their jobs as quickly as possible, thereby not giving the opportunity to people to feel hospitalized and to develop this kind of psychology towards institutionalism. At present, Mr. Chairman, in every instance in the Hospitals Department occupational

therapists are referred to in the singular where provision is made, and this applies only to certain of our hospitals. At the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, there is not even a reference regarding whether or not an occupational therapist is employed.

Western Australia is the State that has most recently set up its own occupational therapy school. This has been going for two years, and it has just passed through its first eight graduates. They have 28 to 39 training in their first year and about the same number in the second year. Western Australia has seen that it cannot rely on training schools in the Eastern States to meet the requirements of its hospitals and institutions, so it has set up its own training school. South Australia has an arrangement whereby the Government is able to send cadets to an occupational training school in Victoria which is, I understand, prepared to keep some places available for South Australian cadets. However, many parents of 17-year old girls (the age at which these cadets undertake their training) are reluctant to allow their daughters to go away from home because no accommodation is provided at the moment and trainees must find their own accommodation. Also, it costs almost £2,000 to put each of these girls through the three-year course and, even though the Victorian school has offered to take as many cadets from South Australia as it can, naturally the interests of Victoria must be served first, and the Victorian authorities like to secure for their own hospitals and institutions as many as possible of the girls who graduate.

The Association of Occupational Therapists of South Australia has set up an education subcommittee to plan the course and syllabus for a school similar to schools in other States to meet the requirements of South Australian hospitals. This association hopes later to present this plan to the Minister of Education, because naturally it would need Government support to establish one of these schools and would need to work in close co-operation with the university and the Hospitals Department. Much interest has grown in this profession (which was almost unknown in South Australia) since the careers exhibition was held some months ago, and several girls are at present interested in undertaking training in Victoria; many are prepared to go at their own or their parents' expense.

I said that Victoria was willing to take some of our possible candidates; Western Australia has also indicated that it will do this, so it can be seen that generous offers have been

made by both these comparatively new training schools in our neighbouring States. Although paying the expenses of cadets to go from South Australia to Western Australia or Victoria is a limited acceptance of the problem, if our thinking follows the same lines as thinking in the Eastern States, where from experience it has been found that the occupational therapist is an essential member of any team attached to a hospital to rehabilitate people who meet with accidents, we must visualize that shortly it will be necessary to set up our own school, as this would overcome many difficulties we now face. The larger hospitals in South Australia (mental hospitals, Northfield Ward, Morris Hospital, and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital) are greatly under-staffed for this type of professional member of a rehabilitation team, and if we are to benefit from the experience of other States the time cannot be far off when, instead of paying out £2,000 for every cadet who goes through a three-year course in another State, we should be able to establish our own school and be certain of keeping within this State girls prepared to undertake this training. Cadets who now go to the other States as a result of a Government scholarship are bound to come back here and undertake certain service in Government hospitals or Government institutions of one kind or another, and I think we would have a much better chance to fill the posts that became available if we had our own schools.

I did some research into the salaries paid to occupational therapists in South Australia to see how they compared with those paid in other States. In this State, only women graduates are employed, so only the female rate applies; the salary range is between £953 and £1,138. The salary range paid by Commonwealth Government departments is from £999 to £1,426, which highlights how difficult it is to get the appointments in our own hospitals filled, as the Commonwealth Government, which has its own institutions in South Australia, is prepared to pay a salary above that paid by the State Government. In Western Australia the salary is much higher again, allowing, of course, for the fact that it is more difficult to entice people to serve in Western Australia until that State gets its own graduates through its school. The salary range in that State is from £1,099 to £1,526, and a position at the Fremantle Hospital is now being advertised at a salary range of £1,164 to £1,504. At the Austin Hospital in Victoria, a position for a charge occupational therapist, with a salary range of from £1,233 to £1,337, is being

advertised. Even allowing for the fact that we need these people here, it is difficult to entice them to leave their own homes in other States and come here for any length of time at salaries so much less than those offered in other States.

This raises the point that this position is typical of that applying to so many professional people in this State. We have a great shortage of trained people, and one reason for this is that we are paying much less to our trained personnel than other States are paying. On another occasion I have spoken at length about the difficulty of keeping librarians in this State after they are trained because they are offered salaries in other States far in excess of those paid here. I shall not say any more about this matter except that it is an ever-recurring problem to find trained personnel to carry on our library services. The complaint is that we do all the training and then lose librarians because we do not pay sufficiently high salaries, and this applies to the salaries of so many public servants.

Mr. Shannon: We have the same problem with the salaries paid to the therapeutic officers here.

Mrs. STEELE: That is what I was suggesting. It would not be so difficult if we trained people here because they would be content to stay in their home State.

Mr. Shannon: There is a tendency for them to leave South Australia to work in other States.

Mrs. STEELE: The Government should be attempting to meet this problem by setting up these schools so that it will be able to have trained people here who will not want to go to other States. This position also applies to radiographers. A three-year course, both theoretical and practical, is available to men and women at the South Australian Institute of Technology. The demand for radiographers is greater than the institution can meet: young people are not attracted to the profession because of the inadequate salaries offered. About 12 months ago I was approached by the Radiographers Association to ask the Public Service Commissioner to review salary rates and, after a considerable time and many discussions, the salaries were increased, but it was a case of giving with one hand and taking away with the other because, although the salaries were increased, so were the hours, and this led to some discontent.

I believe these difficulties will continue as young people interested in a profession (even though they may have a vocation for a

particular field) look at the prospects available after graduation from the course undertaken. The same applies to psychologists. I investigated this field, too, and found that, generally speaking, the salaries paid in South Australia were much lower than those paid in some other States. For instance, in Victoria and New South Wales the salary scale is much higher than the South Australian scale and, in addition, the duties in those States are not as extensive as those undertaken by psychologists in our various Government Departments. I found out, too, that trained teachers who major in psychology tend, because of the higher salaries offered, to remain in the teaching profession rather than seek positions in hospitals where their major subject could be of special use. As this problem concerns so many of our professions, into which we wish to attract young people, I believe it should be carefully examined with a view to avoiding the expense of educating these people only to lose them to another State that pays a better salary.

I conclude my remarks by once again referring to occupational therapists and expressing the hope that the Government will favourably consider the representations made to it from time to time. As I intimated, the South Australian Association of Occupational Therapists will present a case to the Minister of Education for his consideration and support to see whether South Australia can adopt the policy of other States and have its own school of occupational therapy, thus overcoming the great dearth of people in this profession. I am convinced that until this is done our hospitals, in this respect, will be understaffed and will be unable to function as well as they otherwise could. I know that, in this respect, I would be supported by the Director of Mental Health (Dr. Cramond), who came here from overseas about two years ago and who knows the contribution occupational therapists can make as members of the team to rehabilitate people not only in public hospitals, but also in mental hospitals. I support the first line.

Mr. LOVEDAY (Whyalla): The Budget debates I have heard since entering Parliament have been mainly devoted to members speaking on subjects particularly close to their hearts. Of course, some Government members use their speech to eulogize the Government and I suppose that is only natural. I believe that some aspects of the Budget do not receive sufficient attention. From year to year the

public debt rises rapidly, yet so far I have not heard a proper debate on how large this debt can become without its seriously embarrassing the State. On page 1 of his annual report the Auditor-General states:

In certain departments I consider that there is insufficient control exercised to ensure that capital works are carried out at the lowest possible cost necessary to provide adequate facilities. The necessity for interest payments over many years requires that the cost of capital works should be kept at a minimum. I am sure honourable members will agree with that, but when one reads what the Auditor-General says on page 2 of the report one cannot help wondering whether we are trying to fit the cost of our buildings to what I shall term conventional financial standards or whether we are going to go ahead and have the best buildings that can be built. On page 2 of the report the Auditor-General states:

In determining the standard of projects, full consideration should be given to the burden of interest and sinking fund payments which will be payable yearly over a long period of time. Examples of the approximate annual costs for these items on some school projects—which are not directly productive—are as follows:—He then quotes the cost of the Adelaide Teachers College, a number of high schools, and the South Australian School of Art and gives the approximate annual interest and sinking fund payments. The cost of the Adelaide Teachers College is £1,500,000 and the annual interest and sinking fund payment is £75,000. Although it is desirable to keep the cost of these buildings within careful limits and to examine the estimates carefully (I do not think any member would disagree with that), on the other hand second-rate building standards should not be accepted in order to fit in with what I have already termed conventional ideas on finance.

This matter has been dealt with by one or two members over the years since I became a member of Parliament, and attention has been drawn to the mounting public debt and the difficulty of providing very costly buildings from which virtually no direct financial return is obtained. The community obtains a return from these buildings through education. There is not the slightest doubt that many of our organizations that receive great benefits through the education their employees have received do not contribute much towards its cost. The other day I commented on the need for industry to pay far more towards the cost of education than it had paid previously and I think you, Mr. Acting Chairman, said that evidently I thought it was rather a good thing that the Broken Hill

Proprietary Company Limited contributed largely to the cost of education at Whyalla. I agree that industry should contribute in this way and that it should contribute far more than it has contributed in the past, because it receives many direct and indirect benefits from education for which the community pays a high fee.

Mr. Casey: We had such an example at Leigh Creek, where the Electricity Trust paid for the building of several classrooms.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Exactly. The Auditor-General points out that these educational projects are some of the most costly projects undertaken and that the charges have to be borne by the taxpayer in addition to the other costs of running the establishment. I am unable to pursue this matter very far but I emphasize that it would be most unwise to sacrifice standards in our educational and other public buildings merely for the sake of trying to fit them into a conventional idea of finance. It is all right to say that only so much money is available and therefore we must fit the cost to what is available, but we should be examining ways and means of lowering some of these costs so as to maintain our standards.

I notice a list in the Treasurer's Financial Statement, under Appendix 12 on page 38, showing the public debt return and the securities in circulation on June 30, 1963. This list gives the nominal rates of interest on the various outstanding securities and it is interesting to see that there is about £15,000,000 in special bonds that apparently bears no interest, if this table is to be believed. Then some securities carry from 1 per cent to 3¼ per cent and others up to 6 per cent. Most of this public debt—seven-eighths of it in fact—is repayable in Australia, but a considerable amount of it has been incurred at a very low rate of interest. I should like to hear a good debate on the question of why much more of the Loan money that is used for public buildings cannot be obtained at a lower rate of interest than is the case at present: a lower rate of interest is the key to the problem of maintaining the standards that should be maintained. I do not think it is good economics to erect buildings of second-rate materials that are not so lasting, will require more maintenance, and will not give the service in education that the best type of building will give. This important question deserves far more attention than it has been receiving in our Budget debates.

Let me remind members that we cannot afford to lag behind other countries in regard to education: the provision of adequate buildings and proper equipment is one of the first essentials so I certainly do not think anyone could advance a case for lowering standards. This increasing burden of interest is referred to again by the Auditor-General when he points out that interest charges alone now absorb 30 per cent of the total earnings of the South Australian Harbors Board and that in the case of the South Australian waterworks the interest absorbs 65 per cent of total earnings compared with 59 per cent the previous year. Of course, it is only a matter of time at that rate before the South Australian waterworks has all its available finance almost entirely absorbed by interest. Surely this problem should be receiving far more attention than it is at present.

The public debt has increased by another £24 a head. The Auditor-General draws attention to the fact that the public debt, comprising bonds, bills, stock, debentures and other interest-bearing indebtedness to the State, at June 30, 1963, was almost £464,000,000, equivalent to £460 a head of population and an increase of £24 a head during the year under review. He says that interest-bearing indebtedness has increased over the past 30 years by 135 per cent but the amount a head has risen by only 81 per cent due to the gain in population. Although we may be coasting along fairly satisfactorily at the moment I do not think this sort of report encourages any sense of satisfaction or comfort, as these amounts when compared with past years show a steady increase. In the table on page 27 of the Auditor-General's Report dealing with payments from Loan funds for Government buildings and land for the past 10 years it is noticeable that, whereas in 1954 less than £1,000,000 was spent on school buildings, in 1963 the amount was £6,000,000. That story is relieved to some extent only by the fact that expenditure on hospital buildings has declined over recent years. Nevertheless, the whole table shows a greatly increased expenditure on various Government buildings over the years and I think, Mr. Acting Chairman, that the problem of maintaining the standard of these buildings, without running our necks into the noose of these heavily increasing interest payments, is important.

I turn now to a table in the Auditor-General's Report which, I think, has been inserted for the purpose of justifying the Government's action earlier this year in so

steeply raising the rents paid by Government employees who occupy departmental houses. On page 5 the Auditor-General briefly outlines the situation and describes how these rents are fixed and the circumstances preceding the increases. On page 6 he sets out a table showing the cost of houses in six departments, the rents payable, deficits prior to the increases, and anticipated deficits on rents payable as at July 1, 1965. It will be recalled that following the announcement of these increases a deputation waited on the Premier, who, I understand, agreed to spread the increases over three years, and consequently the Auditor-General has assumed that that will be done and refers to anticipated deficits on rents payable at July 1, 1965.

In regard to each of these six departments the number of houses is given, their total capital cost, the rates and maintenance for 1962-63, interest and depreciation for 1962-63, the total expenses for that year, the rent prior to July 1, 1963, the deficit based on that rent, and the deficit on the rent as at July 1, 1965. Then the Auditor-General concludes by saying:

Although it is not possible to give information for all houses let by the Government to its employees, it is apparent from the above table that the rents which will apply from July 1, 1965, will still not meet the annual cost to the Government of the houses let to its employees.

I draw attention to the fact that this is an assumption not only that the costs for 1962-63, as stated in the report in respect of these houses, will be the same in 1965 but that these costs for 1962-63 are, in fact, average costs. Otherwise the statement simply could not take that form. I think this is an entirely wrong assumption because the average cost of rates and maintenance for these houses is not shown, and consequently I am certain that the figures given for rates and maintenance and for interest and depreciation in regard to these houses are not averages at all. Unless one is prepared to quote averages, how can one say what the position will be in 1965? I consider that this table is suspect and does not convey to honourable members the fullest information on this subject.

Mr. Jennings: They might be an average but not an average average.

Mr. LOVEDAY: I think not. Let us examine this table. Rates and maintenance for 1962-63 for the Harbors Board houses average out at £203 a house for that year; for the Engineering and Water Supply Department £82; for the Lands Department £74; for

the Railways Department £85; for the Woods and Forests Department £86; and for the Highways Department £85. Although the Public Buildings Department is not responsible for the maintenance of the houses owned by these six departments (and I understand that these departments do their own maintenance), the figures for the last five departments are within remarkably close limits. It is remarkable that with five departments their rates and maintenance for 1962-63 vary so little. There is not likely to be any great variation from year to year in the rates on these houses.

For the Railways Department houses, which number 2,355 out of the total of 3,455 given in the table, it is unlikely that the average of the rates payable on each house would be as much as £20, covering local government and water rates. In fact, some railway houses are on railway land and not subject to local government rates. I believe there are some special arrangements with some of them whereby a tenant gets an allowance for water. So, in the argument being put forward that rents in 1965 will still not meet the annual cost to the Government, we are being asked to believe that the annual maintenance of a railway house, for example, will be about £85, less £20 for rates, making it £65; and, in the case of the Harbors Board, we are being asked to believe that the annual maintenance cost will be about £203, less £20—£183. No-one, of course, would believe that the Harbors Board spent an average of £183 per annum on maintenance of each house owned by it.

Mr. Bywaters: Over £3 a week.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Nobody would say that that was the average maintenance on a Harbors Board house. Yet it is here and it is used in that manner in the statement. Let us examine whether the other departments are showing realistic figures. The average cost of maintenance of double-unit Housing Trust houses, including both old and new, is about 8s. a week, or £20 16s. per annum. These houses have their first exterior maintenance painting three years after construction, and are painted thereafter every four or five years, with a complete interior painting every 10 years. The departmental houses mentioned in this table have certainly not received that treatment.

Mr. Bywaters: That is obvious.

Mr. LOVEDAY: It is highly improbable that they will receive it in the future. With a change of tenancy, interior painting is usually carried out by the trust, and the trust has many houses subject to very frequent changes of tenancy. The tenancies of the

departmental houses under discussion would probably be subject to change also, but it is questionable whether redecoration is carried out with every change of tenancy, as is the case with the Housing Trust. Although the Housing Trust can maintain its double units for £21 per annum, we are being asked to believe that the Railways Department is spending an average of £65 on each house it owns. Yet, when the debate on the Supplementary Estimates took place earlier this year and this matter was raised, we had plenty of information to show that the Railways Department houses had been sadly neglected in the past. The member for Gawler (Mr. Clark), for example, said:

I have been informed by responsible officials of the unions for the men concerned that for many years it has been almost impossible to get any maintenance done on railway houses, and the general reply to requests for maintenance has been that neither money nor manpower has been available.

Instances were given by other members to show that where any additional amenities, such as power points and other fixtures, were added, the rent was raised: those things did not come within maintenance. We had instances of old stone houses 40 years and up to 80 years old with no wash basins or kitchen sinks; of substandard houses at Cockburn that had been condemned, with the rent increased from 16s. 3d. to 31s. There is no guarantee or reason to believe that the maintenance on these railway houses will be any better in the future than it has been in the past. We have received no assurances on that. We know that railway houses have been badly neglected and have had little maintenance over a period of years; yet we are now being asked to believe that about £65 a year is being spent, on the average, on the maintenance of one of these houses.

Although the Housing Trust maintenance is regular and carried out so much more frequently on its rental houses than is done in these departmental houses, it can be done for £21 a year, and the trust has general reserves of £3,500,000. In other words, its business is paying. The other costs—interest and depreciation, as shown in this report—are also interesting. They are supposed to show the costs for 1962-63. Also, it is assumed, by the statement in the report, that these do not vary from year to year. Obviously, they would not vary much in any one department, but the remarkable thing is that in every case the interest and depreciation in each of the six departments is exactly 5 per cent.

Mr. Bywaters: It is purely coincidental!

Mr. LOVEDAY: The capital cost of the houses averages out as follows: Harbors Board, £2,744; Engineering and Water Supply Department, £2,578; Lands Department, £1,500; Railways Department, £1,453; Woods and Forests Department, £1,670; and Highways and Local Government Department, £3,790.

Mr. Bywaters: No maintenance would be needed for new houses.

Mr. LOVEDAY: One would not think so. In the case of the Railways Department, there are many old houses, and that is shown by the average cost of £1,453. Many of these must have been written off by way of depreciation years ago; yet the interest and depreciation charge shown is 5 per cent, the same as in all the other departments, some of which obviously have much more modern houses. Over the whole field of these departmental houses the total of rents as at July 1, 1963, before being raised exceeded interest and depreciation costs as shown in this table by £6,500. If we accept the Railways Department figures for interest and depreciation as correct at 5 per cent, despite the number of old houses included, we find that rents prior to July 1, 1963, exceeded the total for those costs by £5,000. If we allow £20 per annum per house for rates—and many railway houses would not have that rate charge, I am sure—and £21 per annum per house for maintenance, we find that the extra cost for rates and maintenance on 2,355 houses is £96,555. If we deduct the £5,000 excess of total rents over interest and depreciation, we get a net deficit of over £91,500. Rents raised to the proposed level at July 1, 1965, will bring in an extra £85,000. So, instead of the deficit of £110,000 on railway houses, as shown in this table in the Auditor-General's Report, there would be one of only just over £6,000. No doubt the figures in this table, supplied by the departments concerned, have, in some instances at least, been supplied with the express purpose of convincing members that the Government's action in raising these rents was justified. Some figures do not represent the true cost, and the conclusion arrived at is from assumptions that are not valid. Other members will say something about this, because I am satisfied that the costs as allocated to these departmental houses do not represent what has actually been taking place.

I turn to the question of housing. Last year the Treasurer led us to believe that a very beneficial change in Housing Trust operations would be introduced, and that housing would

be provided on a rental-purchase scheme on a £50 deposit. This announcement was hailed as being a great advance by the Housing Trust. We were told that these houses would be built first in the metropolitan area, and that the scheme would later be extended to the country. Some have been built in the metropolitan area, and I am certain that at the time members visualized that they would be of solid construction. This was borne out by what was said at the time. A report in the *Transcontinental* at Port Augusta stated:

Further inquiries made in the metropolitan area with reference to this scheme indicate that the houses are built at a cost of between £3,400 and £3,800 and are very similar designs to the existing trust houses.

In a recent answer to my question, the Chairman of the South Australian Housing Trust stated:

The present houses being built for sale (this is in Whyalla) are of the same design as those being built in the metropolitan area under the rental-purchase scheme.

The inference is that a rental-purchase scheme house is of solid construction of brick with all modern amenities. Let us consider what has happened. After having been led to believe that this beneficial alteration by the Housing Trust would extend to the country, we find that so far none is being built in the country. Recently I asked when the Housing Trust proposed to let contracts for houses in Whyalla under the £50 deposit rental-purchase scheme, and was told:

The present houses being built for sale are of the same design as those being built in the metropolitan area under the rental-purchase scheme but the costs at Whyalla are substantially higher and the weekly payments for the houses under a rental-purchase scheme would be over high. As soon as the trust considers that it can build at Whyalla to the prices necessary for the rental-purchase scheme it will do so.

If the trust cannot build houses today in Whyalla to a price that people can pay under this rental-purchase scheme, it is not likely to be able to do so in the future. This means that unless a person is a tradesman and receiving a skilled man's wages in the country, he is unable to buy a house. When the building of these houses was first mooted, it was said that the payment of interest and principal would be between £3 14s. and £4 1s. a week over a term of 40 years. The Treasurer said that the trust had placed contracts for 1,350 houses of this type in the metropolitan area; the scheme provided for a range of 17 designs from 10 to 11 squares; they were to be sold on agreement for sale at

£3,400 to £3,800; and the scheme was eventually to be extended to the larger country towns.

The Chairman of the Housing Trust has said that these houses are the same as those being built at Whyalla at present. The economic rent is £5 a week, and no workman, unless he is a skilled tradesman receiving a tradesman's wage, can pay £5 a week rent. I have heard it said that not many people receive unskilled rates at Whyalla. Let us examine the position. The wages of other than skilled men ranging from unskilled to semi-skilled, and including a bonus of 25s. to 30s. payable after the first four weeks, range from £15 16s. 9d. to £17 12s. 6d. No-one would contend that a person on those wages could afford £5 a week for rent. The total number of employees of Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited is 3,678, of which 240 are apprentices, 1,984 are unskilled to semi-skilled and 1,454 are skilled. Therefore, more than 50 per cent of them are unable to buy their own house under this scheme. On several occasions I have pointed out that in practically every other industry techniques have improved and industry has availed itself of those improvements, but the building industry does not seem to have done that; a point that has been emphasized at recent building conferences. Instead of a person finding it easier to own his house, it has become progressively more difficult over the last decade.

I have pointed out previously that in 1938 or 1940 a tradesman could buy his house by paying about 23 per cent of his wage in interest and principal over a 20-year term; but now we have 30 or 40-year terms. When speaking on this matter in 1956 or 1958, I said that at that time it would take 33 per cent of a tradesman's wage to buy the same sort of house on a 20-year term, and that is one reason why the term was extended to 30 years or even longer to enable even a skilled tradesman to buy the equivalent house. It has become increasingly difficult to buy one's house, despite the benefits of improved techniques. This has been emphasized at recent building conferences by people competent in the building industry, who have complained about this state of affairs. This is a serious matter from the point of house ownership. Apparently no-one in the country will benefit from these low-deposit houses. Where there is an expansion of population in the country—and that occurs only where there is an industry—the low-deposit housing scheme is needed.

The average migrant has not the finance to purchase a house. The Chairman of the Commonwealth Banking Corporation told a building industry congress in Victoria on August 16 that the vast majority of migrants in Australia had limited chances of saving for their own houses because they were forced to pay high rentals; almost 70 per cent came to Australia with less than £500 and 40 per cent with less than £200; more than 3,500 migrant families were living in hostels; and they represented a need for about £14,000,000 capital outlay on land and three-bedroom dwellings. These are the type of people who are going to country areas where industry is expanding. They need the benefits of a low-deposit rental-purchase scheme for houses. Obviously they will not be able to obtain such houses unless they are skilled tradesmen. All this talk of how easy it is in South Australia for a person to own his own house simply falls by the wayside when we examine details of what is actually taking place.

I have previously drawn attention to the fact that in Western Australia double-unit houses are not built. The Western Australian Housing Commission constructs single-unit houses that can be rented or purchased. This is a better system than ours and I cannot understand why more examination has not been made of it and something done about it. The cost of building in Western Australia is slightly more favourable than the cost in South Australia. In 1961 the Western Australian Housing Commission sold 80 per cent of the houses it built. Furthermore, the rents charged compared more than favourably with the rents charged in South Australia. Surely we should examine this scheme more closely with a view to implementing it here. Obvious advantages accrue from having houses that can be rented or purchased. When a person goes to a new place he seldom makes up his mind immediately about whether he will stay there. If he rents a house he inevitably makes improvements to it, even though he may only stay a short time. Then, if he decides to remain and purchase that house, he does not have to abandon what he has done in it. He does not have to sell his floor coverings at a loss to enable him to purchase new coverings to meet the dimensions of another house. In other words, he accrues advantages during the period he rents the house. No proper reasons have yet been given to me by anyone in the Housing Trust or elsewhere as to why this policy could not be adopted in South Australia.

I have heard strong criticism of double-unit houses from an architectural and aesthetic point of view; nevertheless they are essential while the present conditions continue, because obviously unskilled and semi-skilled workers cannot afford anything else. In Whyalla are streets and streets of double-unit houses with little to relieve their uniformity of appearance. Whyalla does not measure up to Elizabeth, which is a showplace. Of course, this is another instance of the country being treated differently from the city, despite the claim of Government members that they protect the interests of country people. Undoubtedly we must have double-unit houses while the present position continues. It is only by the provision of double-unit houses that the accommodation needs of people on the unskilled and semi-skilled wage levels can be met.

Earlier this year I referred to the question of an emergency housekeeper service in South Australia. I was interrupted by the member for Mitcham (Mr. Millhouse) who said that we had a good emergency housekeeper service. When I pointed out that I did not think it was the same as the service prevailing in Victoria he assured me that it was. He was so definite that I withdrew from the debate on that point because I believed that he might be right and I might be wrong. However, subsequent investigations revealed that he was wrong and that I was right. We lack an adequate emergency housekeeper service in South Australia. Adequate provision is made in Victoria, and it is something that we badly need. I was asked to bring this matter forward by the City of Whyalla Commission because the need for an emergency housekeeper service is most apparent. The Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department has a service of this type. In its report it states that the department provides a housekeeper service for family emergencies. Depending on the need, assistance is provided for up to six weeks, mainly to enable small children to have proper care in their own environment during the temporary absence or incapacity of their mothers. During the year housekeepers were supplied to 157 homes in the metropolitan and country areas. No-one will convince me that that in any way meets the needs. In the previous year housekeepers were supplied to 176 homes. A charge is made to cover the cost of the housekeeper's services but in cases of hardship a reduction may be made in the amount charged. The gross cost, including administration expenses, was £7,672 and the receipts were £5,902, resulting in a net cost

of £1,770 for the year. Yet the member for Mitcham claims that we have an adequate emergency housekeeper service!

Other organizations that supply emergency housekeeper services include the Meals on Wheels organization. However, that body operates a domiciliary service in the metropolitan area only, and requests for living-in help cannot be met. In fact, that organization does not come properly within this category. Meals on Wheels was assisted by the Government this year to the extent of about £3,000. However, it received no assistance previously. Wanslea Incorporated has a service to provide assistance when a mother is sick and children require attention. Seven girls are available to live in with the children—seven girls for the whole State! This organization informs me that often it is unable to meet requests for assistance, and I think that would be an accurate statement. There is no amount on the Estimates to assist it. The Country Women's Association runs an emergency housekeeper service that is limited in extent, and it cannot meet the requests that come in. A charge is made on the ability to pay. The Government is assisting it this year with £250. This is the extent of the emergency housekeeper service in South Australia, which the member for Mitcham was so insistent is as good as that in Victoria.

Mr. Millhouse: What did you say about the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department?

Mr. LOVEDAY: During the honourable member's absence from the Chamber I was pointing out that the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board supplied housekeepers last year to 157 homes in South Australia. Then I went on to list other organizations that have a hand in this service, and I showed how utterly inadequate it is to meet the needs of the State. Earlier this session in an interjection the honourable member said that we have the same sort of service as they have in Victoria, the details of which service I gave.

Mr. Millhouse: I said that we had a satisfactory service.

Mr. LOVEDAY: If the honourable member reads *Hansard* he will see that I asked whether it was the same sort of service as operated in Victoria, and the honourable member said it was.

Mr. Millhouse: How could I say it was the same?

Mr. LOVEDAY: Why did the honourable member say it was?

Mr. Millhouse: I do not believe I did.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Have a look at *Hansard*.

Mr. Millhouse: I will.

Mr. LOVEDAY: I will go into more detail to show that what is happening in Victoria is needed in South Australia. In a letter, in reply to a communication from the City of Whyalla Commission, the City of Preston gave some interesting details. It said:

The service meets the needs of both "family" and "aged" cases. Family cases cover domestic needs during confinements, post-natal, illness of the mother at home or in hospital, rehabilitation of social service and mental health patients, etc. The families are helped according to the needs of their particular family, determined by the ages and numbers and children, *i.e.*, full-time eight to nine hours daily, Monday to Friday, or part-time three to 20 hours weekly. Help is limited to three weeks full-time, unless an examination is requested by the attending doctor. "Sleep-in" or weekend help is given only to those cases in which no other solution is possible, such as widows and widowers with young children during hospitalization, doctors' homes, etc. While this restriction on sleep-in help is adequate in our district many Victorian home help services provide sleep-in help for most, if not all, of their cases; some also providing hostels for stay when off duty. Staff are required to carry out all domestic duties to keep the family routine—shopping, budgeting, ironing, washing, cleaning, care of children, etc., but this does not include "spring cleaning" duties, except in certain rehabilitation cases. Payment is assessed on the family's ability to pay, having regard to the gross income, numbers of dependent children, rent, medical fees, etc. Assessments range from full fees plus overhead down to a few shillings weekly from families on social service benefits.

It is not necessary for me to go into greater detail, because what I have said outlines the sort of service given.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: Who runs the service?

Mr. LOVEDAY: It is subsidized by the Victorian Government, but I will come to that in a moment. The City of Preston letter continued:

An average of 57 staff is paid at 6s. 3.16d. per hour plus fares as required. Holidays, sick leave, workers' compensation, etc., are also covered. Some work only part-time. The service to between 70 and 90 homes daily includes a wide field of conditions—from complete comfort with all facilities to the large families in poor and/or dirty homes with none of the usual amenities, and after needing help for necessities and rehabilitation. Providing "congenial" staff to each individual family

is a big factor in the efficient handling of all cases and in this area we have satisfactorily recruited staff from local housewives and widows—some elasticity as regards time off without pay is given to enable them to handle emergencies in their own families . . . The cost of running the service for the year ended September 30, 1962, was £26,479. Of this amount £16,900 will be recouped from the Government subsidy available for home help, and £4,812 has been paid by people receiving the service, leaving a net cost to the council of £4,767.

This is the position in regard to the City of Preston. The Department of Health (General Health Branch) in Victoria set out interesting information in reply to a query from the City of Whyalla Commission. I will not give the details about the home help service provided, because that matter is covered in the information supplied by the City of Preston. The letter from the Department of Health stated:

Any municipality which establishes, maintains, or financially assists a home help service shall be paid a subsidy on the basis of four-fifths of the net cost of the service to the municipality to the wage ceiling as set out hereunder (excluding administration). In addition, a subsidy at the rate of £50 per annum shall be paid towards administrative costs . . . The administration subsidy of £50 per annum is intended to cover a clerk's time in preparation of salaries and administration of the service, and items such as stamps, stationery, etc. Such items as superannuation, payroll tax, uniforms, fares, advertising, etc., will be included in the general maintenance costs of the scheme . . . A full-time "home help" may be made available to assist a household for a maximum period of three weeks unless exceptional circumstances require an extension. Hourly "home help" to the aged and infirm may be made available for an indefinite period, providing that the priority of the case is reviewed at regular intervals. When the size of the service warrants the appointment of an "organizer" the salary will be left to the discretion of the municipality concerned, taking into account the amount of time, whether part or full-time, devoted by her in the organization of the service. No limit will be imposed on the amount of travelling by tram, bus or train by an "organizer" or "home help" in the execution of her duties. A council car, a hired car or the officer's own car will be subsidized only in special circumstances, and with the prior approval of the Minister of Health.

That outlines concisely what is being done in Victoria in this necessary service. I would like the Government to look at the matter to see what can be done here in providing a similar service.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: It does not appear to be costly.

Mr. LOVEDAY: It is obvious that it is a practicable service and far-reaching. It covers all the cases that could come under this sort of scheme. It is equally obvious that what we do in South Australia is only a drop in the ocean and does not meet the real needs of the situation. The figures given about the number of cases helped and the number of people involved in the assistance show clearly that what we have in South Australia does not meet the position. In Whyalla we have quite an established need for this sort of service, and I have no hesitation in saying that in other country towns—quite apart from the metropolitan area—if the situation were examined and reports were obtained we would find that there is a great need for this type of service. I trust my remarks on this matter will receive the attention which I think they deserve in the interests of the community. With those remarks I conclude and leave anything further that I have to say until we debate the lines.

Mr. FERGUSON (Yorke Peninsula): I rise to support the first line of the Estimates. Of course, by reason of my recent election, this is the first Budget that has been presented whilst I have been a member of this Parliament. I am very pleased that I have the opportunity, the privilege and the pleasure of congratulating the Treasurer on presenting his twenty-fifth consecutive Budget. This is an outstanding achievement and an outstanding record. Right down through the years every Budget has been such as to give the economy of this country the stimulus that is needed. What do we find here in this State? We find that South Australia is one of the most progressive States in the Commonwealth. Members have been perturbed at the fact that I have been a somewhat cautious member of this Parliament. When I decided that I would like to make some comment on the Budget I was just a little concerned as to what matters I might be able to raise, but after hearing the member for Adelaide (Mr. Lawn) speak last week, and after noting the latitude that he was allowed, I am sure that I have nothing whatsoever to fear.

Mr. Ryan: Of course, being a member of the Opposition he is allowed to express an opinion.

Mr. FERGUSON: I noticed also that the member for Adelaide went to no end of trouble to quote figures concerning the by-election held in the Stirling district recently. He then put the recent Yorke Peninsula by-election in just for good measure. I want to say to the honourable member that if he is confident that he

can win Stirling or Yorke Peninsula, I challenge him to resign his seat and contest either of those districts.

Mr. Jennings: The obvious answer to that one is: would you resign and contest Adelaide?

Mr. FERGUSON: As I have stated, this is the first Budget on which I have had the opportunity to speak. When other Budgets have been presented I have always read the comments of members in *Hansard*. I remember reading some comments made by the member for Gouger (Mr. Hall) in his Budget speech last year. He said:

When considering the Budget we should consider it from two angles: what it spends and what it does not spend.

I have noticed that the complaints are usually made about the amounts that are not spent, and I suggest that that is something over which the Treasurer in many instances has no control. I noticed that the Leader of the Opposition in his Budget speech made some remarks about certain amounts that were not expended in connection with the allocation to the Hospitals Department. I think he referred to the fact that certain money allowed for in the way of grants to country hospitals had not been expended, and I think he went to some trouble to mention the individual amounts. He referred to the amount of £8,000 for the Moonta Hospital and £36,000 for the Meningie Hospital. These country hospitals are governed by independent boards, and although the Moonta Hospital is located in the district of the member for Wallaroo (Mr. Hughes), I think I would have some knowledge of what happens at that hospital. I think it might be that this grant has been made to the Moonta Hospital not only for one year but for a number of years.

Mr. Hughes: It is there for them when they can make up their minds to use it.

Mr. FERGUSON: That is the point I am coming to: this hospital is run by an independent board, and the members of that board have not been able to make up their minds about what extensions they need. We do not want those people to make up their minds in a hurry, because we want the best that is available; when they do make up their minds, that money will be available to the Moonta Hospital. I do not decry the work of independent hospital boards. We have a very efficient hospital service in the district which I represent, and the members of the independent hospital boards are rendering a very great service, for they are giving their time and their ability in order that an efficient hospital service will be provided for sick people.

The Treasurer, when presenting the Budget, referred to the good autumn and winter rains that we have had this year. I hope we shall not be over-optimistic about the possibility of the record cereal harvest that earlier in this year we could have expected. Although we have had excellent autumn and winter rains, it does not necessarily mean that the coming harvest will be a record one. Admittedly, the recognized drier parts of this State have had a really good season and have some wonderful prospects, but we must realize that the agricultural areas which we depend on for our good cereal harvests may not reap record crops. In fact, many of the recognized cereal-growing districts will have only average harvests. However, the increased interest in the sale of cereals overseas, and the increase of the quantity of wheat to 150,000,000 bushels for guarantee, should be a stimulus. It is encouraging to note, too, that the Manager of the Australian Barley Board expects to make a trip to Japan to see if further sales of barley cannot be made to that country.

It is interesting to note that increased provisions have been made in this Budget for the Agriculture Department; as the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) mentioned, this increase is of 15 per cent. I am sure that primary producers in this State generally want to co-operate with the department. In the Address in Reply debate I referred to some research work proposed to be undertaken in my district. I am happy to say that that work has been undertaken this year, with great benefit to primary producers on the southern portion of Yorke Peninsula. Previously they have applied superphosphate with a 28 lb. manganese content, which has not produced very beneficial results. This year, however, in co-operation with the department they have made further research as a result of which it has been established that a spray application of 5 lb. of manganese produces beneficial results. These people are most jubilant about the new method, and I hope they will be just as jubilant at harvest time as they are now.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: Does it have to be applied every year?

Mr. FERGUSON: Yes, externally to the crops.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: To pastures, too?

Mr. FERGUSON: They have not sprayed pastures. I am pleased to note that satisfactory progress is being made at the Northfield Research Centre. Many problems confront dairy farmers, and I am sure that this research

into dairy husbandry and its associated problems will be of great benefit to them. The progress made in artificial insemination has been most beneficial to dairymen and, although there are some problems associated with it, I hope that means will be found to extend this service into country districts. Over the air today it was reported that a record number of dairy herds were being tested.

In this year's Estimates is a line that provides for renovating and repairing jetties. My remarks in this connection will be about people interested in the fishing industry. Many people in this State are interested in this industry and, as my district is bounded on three sides by the sea, and as Spencer Gulf and St. Vincent Gulf are good fishing grounds, it will be seen that many of my constituents derive their living from the industry. I ask that some thought be given to repairing jetties around the coastline of Yorke Peninsula which have in the past provided means of loading ketches for shifting grain and other commodities and which at the same time have been used by the fishing industry to land fish. As many of these jetties have been buffeted by storms, they have come into disrepair, and I hope something will be done to retain some of them for those engaged in the fishing industry generally.

The last line about which I wish to comment is that which provides subsidies for Emergency Fire Services organizations. It was my great privilege a week or two ago to declare in operation a fine Emergency Fire Service unit in my district. About 30 ratepayers of one district in the district council area formed themselves into an association and, as a subsidy was available to them, they were able to equip themselves with a very fine unit, which one of the officers of the Emergency Fire Services said he did not expect to see in a country area. Another group of ratepayers in an adjacent district is in the process of forming into an association. These people will equip themselves with a unit that will compare with the one I have mentioned. The council is hoping that other districts in its area will follow suit and form associations to equip themselves with such units. We all remember the disastrous fire in the Kadina area about three years ago, which extended 15 miles south and then east, the damage from which was estimated at £200,000. If there had been in operation five or six units of the type to which I have referred (affiliated with the Emergency Fire Services) I am convinced that that fire would have been controlled before it did extreme damage. We

have experienced a year of luxuriant growth, so this summer will present a grave fire hazard. I hope that associations such as I have mentioned will be formed throughout the country and that country associations will avail themselves of the subsidy available to them. I support the first line.

Mr. CLARK (Gawler): In supporting the adoption of the first line, I wish first to deal with a few general things and then to concentrate particularly on one matter. Before I begin my remarks, may I, as one who was called out of the Chamber when the member for Yorke Peninsula spoke earlier this year, offer my sincere congratulations to him on the interesting and thoughtful remarks he has made this afternoon. It is always good to have a new member come to this House to whom one can listen with a good deal of interest, even though one cannot always support the policies he advocates.

I shall refer first to the speech made last Thursday by the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe). We have been used to hearing what I shall politely call very fulsome speeches made by the honourable member, but I think he excelled himself on this occasion. He ended his speech with a pæan of praise; in fact, we could call it a complete panegyric of the present Government. His tones were so fulsome that they could have become nauseating but for the fact that it was so overdone that he had both sides of the Committee amused and, judging by the expression on his face, he was starting to see the humour of it himself. It did appear to me to be somewhat overdone.

Let me quote just this one sentence from his speech, because it is interesting in view of some other reading I came across over the weekend:

The people are enjoying the stable conditions provided by this Government for so many years, and wish to see this stability continue under the present Government.

Apparently, according to the honourable member—I am not denying, of course, that he has the right to think this—if this Government is quite as good as he would have us believe, its very deeds themselves will advertise it to all the people in South Australia. I was interested in last weekend's *Sunday Mail* to find a full-page article (and let me make it plain that in brackets at the top of the page appears the word "Advertisement") extolling the Liberal Party. I should have thought that, if it was as good as the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) thought it was, it would not need any advertising.

Mr. Lawn: Doesn't it mean that the Liberal and Country League is bankrupt?

Mr. CLARK: It does not say so but there is an inference that, if they are not bankrupt, at least they are hard up for cash. I do not want to go into this at any length but there are one or two statements on this page to which I want to refer. These full-page advertisements are not very cheap. In fact, I was informed on good authority that this particular advertisement cost £252. Of course, I would not pay 252 pence for it, but I am not a member of the Liberal and Country League. Let me now refer to one or two things printed on this page for all the world to see. No doubt, this article was carefully prepared for a specific purpose. We read this:

Join the Liberal and Country League now! If you would preserve Liberal Government, your vote, at election time, is not enough. Your active, practical support is vitally needed to combat the regimented resources of opposition Parties pledged to ultimate socialist despotism.

I do not think that even members of the Liberal and Country League will believe that about "socialist despotism". A little lower down the advertisement continues:

The preservation of Government whose members are free to criticize or to differ without penalty.

I do not intend to continue along the lines of that sentence. I shall hand it over to my friend the member for Adelaide (Mr. Lawn) and if he cannot speak for half an hour on that one sentence I shall be surprised—particularly the part "to criticize or to differ without penalty". However interesting and instructive this may be, I do not wish to continue my speech on these lines except to mention a third item:

To promote objective political thinking and free political discussion as a counter to sloganized "brain-washing".

If we study the page in relation to "sloganized brain-washing", we shall find that the page is made up largely of two articles—one by Sir Thomas Playford, Premier of South Australia and well known, of course, to all of us.

Mr. Lawn: Otherwise known as "the master".

Mr. CLARK: This article is one complete collection of, perhaps not "brain-washing" but certainly "sloganized" material. Then, on the right-hand side of the page under the heading "Individual Freedom" there is an article by Sir Philip McBride, President of the Liberal Party of Australia. This article is one complete

mass (not "mess") of slogans. I notice that Sir Philip McBride has been interested in our House of Assembly debates. We often see him in the gallery. I suppose when one has been in harness for many years, one likes to return to see what is going on. I sometimes wonder whether he has not come back to keep an eye on things, to make certain that they go along as he would want them to. There is one more sentence, which managed to get into small black type, and this was the key to the whole page:

Will you back your choice and contribute liberally to the Liberal cause, to your cause?

Mr. Lawn: But they don't believe in gambling.

Mr. CLARK: No; they are not gambling. The only gamble they took, possibly, was gambling on the amount of money they spent on this full-page advertisement, in the hope that the returns would be much larger than the cost of the advertisement itself.

Mr. Lawn: So far they have not gained one new member.

Mr. CLARK: I wouldn't be prepared to be certain of that—to agree that the member for Adelaide was 100 per cent correct.

Mr. Lawn: I can guarantee it.

Mr. CLARK: But surely the confidence that was so blatantly bandied about in his speech by the member for Torrens cannot be held by his fellow members in the Liberal and Country League when they have to use this means of advertising. If they are so good, their actions advertise them and the member for Torrens does not have to bother about it very much. After all, this particular type of advertising by means of completely biased political articles may have had some value in the good old days when not so many people could read, but today everybody can read. Many people have been much amused by the obvious propaganda contained in the article. I hope the member for Torrens will forgive me if I return for a moment to some other remarks of his. After all, it is a compliment to a man who has spoken if he is noticed at all, so I hope he will take it as a compliment. I was not impressed by one sentence of his speech:

I am concerned that money be not wastefully employed on what I would call "frills". He was talking about education and schools in general, and the member for Port Adelaide (Mr. Ryan) asked him just what he meant by "frills".

Mr. Ryan: I did not get a decent answer, though.

Mr. CLARK: I was not surprised at the member for Port Adelaide asking this question, because after all we may have different ideas of just what is meant by "frills". He may consider frills to be a certain thing, the member for Torrens may have another idea, and I may have a different idea, but I think the member for Port Adelaide did expect to be given some specific answer about these "frills". But what he got was this:

In some of these schools the ratio of non-teaching space to teaching space seems inordinately high.

I am not quite sure just what the honourable member meant by that but, if he means what I think he means, to put it politely I think he was talking nonsense.

Mr. Ryan: Like the advertisement.

Mr. CLARK: In fact, as a member of the Public Works Committee he should have known that what he was saying, if it was not nonsense, was close to it. I am a member of that committee, although perhaps not for as long as the member for Torrens. Members who were on the committee in those days would agree with me that just before I came on to the committee, it was concerned with the matter mentioned by the member for Torrens. In fact, it specifically referred to the Government a request to ensure that school buildings were planned with teaching space not overshadowed by other space. I believe this had happened. The result of this move was that the saving on 10 new schools was enough to build another school. Perhaps that was the first saving made by ensuring that there were not too many frills. If I remember correctly, another successful suggestion by the committee was that classrooms, particularly in technical high schools, should be built on both sides of a long corridor. I am informed that this suggestion resulted in a saving of £17,000 in one school.

I know, and the member for Torrens must also know, that he may have regretted his words. He answered the member for Port Adelaide without thinking too much about it. He knows, as we all do, that since my short period on the committee it has gone out of its way (and if I may be frank about it, perhaps it has gone a little too far) to ensure that the ratio of non-teaching space to teaching space is not inordinately high. If the honourable member made the remarks to attract public attention he was successful, but remarks such as that, knowingly or unknowingly tend to deceive the public. The member for Torrens said that an ordinary primary school could not

be built for less than £100,000, which applies to schools referred to the Public Works Committee. Occasionally small schools are built and they cost much money, although it is less than £100,000.

Mr. Bywaters: One was recently built at Murray Bridge for £80,000.

Mr. CLARK: The cost of building schools is high, but that is something that no-one can do much about. In speaking about education, perhaps I have defended those who plan and build our schools, but the policy and achievements of the Education Department and the Public Buildings Department are not completely beyond reproach. Obviously that could be said about any department, as no department is perfect. I remember when I came into this House 11 years ago as an ex-teacher I suffered from a failing common to new members, of thinking that I knew all about education. I have found out differently since. At that time many sad deficiencies existed in the Education Department and some of them, unhappily, are still there. Much has been done, there is no question about that; much will be done, but the department would agree that much still has to be done. As in many things, changes, mostly for the best, are taking place, but at times how slowly they often seem to occur. A recent editorial by the President of the South Australian Institute of Teachers in the *Teachers Journal* including the following:

This institute has asked for an inquiry into education in South Australia and at the request of the Minister of Education, senior officers have had preliminary discussions with the Director. It is hoped that the matter can be taken up further with the Minister in the near future, and that an inquiry will be held as soon as possible. In asking for such an inquiry, the aim is to get the considered opinion of competent people, so that their findings might act as a further spur and guidance to the very people—from the Minister down—whose main concern is to provide the best education possible, and who are earnestly setting about that task.

Nothing could be fairer or more objective than that. The institute considers that an inquiry would be advantageous for the good of the service itself. I agree with that statement, and indeed favour a full-scale inquiry into all facets of education, and ask that it be instituted as soon as possible. We all know, none better than the Minister of Education, that there has never been a time in the history of this State when such demands have necessarily been made upon all concerned with education. We need only refer to this and previous Budgets, which show that more and more money is

being spent on new schools, teachers' colleges, adult education centres, teachers' training and other material educational needs. We realize that we still have a long way to go and that many insufficiencies exist, some of which have not been considered at all. We are moving forward, not backward, as it seemed to me we were doing 11 years ago.

I have wondered, and I have good company in my wonderings, if we have possibly become too preoccupied with providing the obvious material things, somewhat to the exclusion of other extremely important and perhaps not so obvious matters. If the Education Department has done this, then it can be excused. It cannot be blamed when we consider what an enormous contract it had. We had the back lag of the war years, the back lag of the depression years, and the problem common to all States of an influx of migrants. Are there things not so obvious or material which possibly need much attention, and which could suitably be inquired into by an education inquiry committee? I do not imply that these suggestions are the most important aspects that could be inquired into by such a committee. Indeed, the matters that the South Australian Institute of Teachers want considered could be entirely different from the ones I mentioned, but I know that many teachers and many officers of the department are concerned with these matters. I do not take credit for these ideas being my original thoughts. Some have been planted in my mind by educational reading, some by friends in high and low places in the Education Department and in the Institute of Teachers, and I owe a debt to members of the subcommittee on education of the Australian Labor Party.

We are all interested in education. Much money is spent on education, and much is budgeted for this year. After all, the children we educate now are to fill the jobs and professions in South Australia in the future. However, I sometimes wonder whether our education system is not too isolated. In South Australia we train our own teachers. Some teachers get the opportunity of going further afield—possibly to another State or even overseas—usually at their own expense to study conditions elsewhere. I know of several young teachers—and some not so young—who have gone overseas at their own expense either on leave without pay or after resigning from the department. They have done this because they have sought additional experience to better equip them for their profession on their return to South Australia. It is obvious that outside experience

must help education in South Australia. We should do everything possible—and certainly more than we are doing—to encourage the gaining of such experience. When I was a teacher a system of teacher exchange with other countries existed. I wonder whether it still exists. If it does not, it should.

How many educational authorities have been brought from overseas to South Australia to talk about and demonstrate new ideas to our teachers? I know that some have come here, but they have not been brought out by our Education Department but by organizations like the National Education Fellowship. They did not come to South Australia at the expense or invitation of our Education Department. One has only to speak to members of this Parliament who have made visits overseas to realize the advantage that can be gained from such visits by people in public life, particularly by educationists. One of the best things we could do for our teachers would be to permit those who desire, if they are the type, to go overseas to study different techniques. I believe that the Minister of Education should be sent on an overseas journey of educational exploration—with a return ticket, of course. I cannot recall a South Australian Minister of Education ever having the benefit of such a trip. I believe this could lead to much good for the Minister and for the department for which he is responsible. I do not suggest that our teachers and teaching methods have remained stationary, but I think that it is only because of their own initiative and hard work that many have kept abreast of modern and new ideas. I do not suggest that all new ideas are good: some can be discarded quickly, but when one has been in a position for a long time he acquires a keen understanding of how to sift wheat from chaff. I believe that every opportunity should be given teachers to further and broaden their teaching by visits outside South Australia. The proposed inquiry committee might investigate the most suitable way of achieving this.

I know that educationists throughout Australia have grave doubts that our system of dividing the various types of secondary schools is the best. I will not deal with this problem at length, because it is a difficult matter, but will pose a few questions. Does our division of children into high schools and technical high schools limit the extent of specialized study at each type of school? Is the range of subjects available to high schools—and I realize it is somewhat liberalized this year—still too restrictive on the student? Finally,

does the emphasis on the Public Examinations Board's examinations largely neutralize the benefits obtained from the broadened curriculum by less academically inclined students? Of course, on a subject such as this many questions worthy of serious consideration could be posed. I suggest that when, and if, a committee of inquiry is appointed, it should be specifically charged with considering whether a system of comprehensive high schools should replace the present dual system of high schools and technical high schools. I am not taking sides on this question. I am not certain what the committee's findings would be, but I am certain that the findings would be well worth the time put into the study.

Many fine new schools have been constructed in South Australia in the last few years. What is the position when a new school is built in a locality? It commences with the desks, blackboards, cupboards and not much else. Practically everything else has to be provided by the parents and by parent organizations on a subsidy basis. We all know how parent organizations have worked to provide schools, particularly new schools, with equipment. I am particularly aware of this factor, as many new schools have been constructed in my district at Elizabeth and Salisbury. Once I was completely opposed to the idea of parents raising money for school equipment on a subsidy basis. This system has bad points, but it does have good points. Much good has been done at Elizabeth through the subsidy system. People have come to this new town from other countries. They have been prepared to get together to work to raise money and to help their children in the new schools. It has brought to them some happy associations and some good friendships. Unfortunately, it has also brought them much hard work, and has involved them in giving and raising money, which new people in a new land cannot always afford. There are many ways in which parents can help, and do themselves, their children and the schools much good. It is completely unjust that parent bodies, however willing, should be expected to supply the basic needs for the education of children. This could well be one of the matters to be looked at in an educational inquiry, with a view to greatly liberalizing our subsidy system. The time for this liberalizing is well overdue.

I hope that members have not become anxious about my continuing for the rest of the afternoon making suggestions. I will not do that, but I do want to suggest one more matter that

I think could be looked at in an inquiry. I do not know what the Minister thinks of it, but I know what a number of his officers and teachers think of it. Some of the matters I have already mentioned are important. Some are not so important, but all could be investigated with a view to improving the whole system.

I want now to talk about the odd constitution of the Education Department. Most members would naturally expect all teachers, school inspectors, departmental officers, etc., to be employed under the direct control of the Minister and the Director. If we thought that we would be wrong. All teachers as such are directly under the control of the Minister, but once a teacher becomes an inspector he seems to be regarded as a different type of animal. He becomes a public servant and is technically under the control of the Public Service Commissioner. Technically he is under a different Minister—the Chief Secretary. A similar division occurs with the building and maintenance of schools, which is under the Minister of Works through the Public Buildings Department. Let us suppose that the Minister of Education and the Director have decided, after due consideration and discussion with their officers, that a new senior position needs to be created in the upper bracket of the department. Before anything can be done it must be first considered by the Public Service Board. With due respect to the board, and I have no quarrel with it, surely it cannot claim to be an expert on

educational matters, or be aware of educational trends and needs, in the same way as the Minister and the Director. To put it bluntly, this divided authority is silly. It is a matter that could be investigated by a committee of inquiry. I firmly believe that everybody employed in the department should be directly, and I mean directly, under the control of the Minister. Although I know it is open to argument, and I am prepared to listen to that argument, I am convinced that the department would be better off if it had its own building and maintenance section under the direct control of the Minister.

There is little more I want to say. In as brief a time as possible I have tried to refer to matters that could be investigated by a committee. They all seem important to me, but other members may have just as important matters. There is an urgent need for such an inquiry. I do not say these things in a spirit of carping criticism, but I refer to them in order to assist the educational system to take more advantage of the large sums that are necessarily allotted for education. I do not want any frills, but I want the opportunity to completely justify the allotment of so much money for education, and for it to be used to the best possible advantage. I am happy to support the adoption of the first line.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.38 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, October 9, at 2 p.m.