

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Tuesday, October 15, 1963.

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

**QUESTIONS.****PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH: An article in the *Advertiser* of October 10 states:

For the second year, Intermediate and Leaving public examinations in Italian will clash with other subjects.

It further states that Intermediate examinations will be conducted in Italian and arithmetic at 2 p.m. on December 10 and that Leaving Italian and mathematics I examinations will be held at 2 p.m. on December 4. Last year I requested that the Public Examinations Board consider the matter, but apparently the desired result has not been achieved. The article goes on to say that the reason for the clash is that the papers for Italian examinations must come from Victoria. Will the Minister of Education say whether steps can be taken to avoid a clash in the times of these examinations?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: No, I cannot give any indication myself, because the control and conduct of the public examinations is vested in the Public Examinations Board. I took up the matter a year or so ago, I think on behalf of the Leader and also on behalf of one of my constituents, Mr. Lawrence Power, a famous opera singer in Italian who, unfortunately, has since died. The Chairman of the board (Prof. Neal) said, in effect, that he hoped that soon the public examinations in Italian would be conducted in South Australia, and that the clash in times would then be obviated. I do not think that anything can be done about the matter this year, but I shall be pleased to see whether anything is possible. It seems to me to be extraordinary that the times for these subjects are allowed to clash: I would have thought it would be possible to avoid that.

**AMERICAN FOUL BROOD.**

Mr. HARDING: On October 2 I asked the Minister of Agriculture a question about a serious outbreak of a bee disease in the Upper South-East and said that officers of the Agriculture Department had taken appropriate steps to have this matter cleared up. Has the Minister a departmental report?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Chief Inspector of Apiaries reports:

The exposure of honey contaminated with the spores of American foul brood can be a serious source of infection to bees. The Apiaries Act provides machinery for handling the situation when the honey or equipment is known to be infected. In the example quoted by Mr. Harding, there is no evidence that the tins contained infected honey, and therefore there could be no thought of legislative action. Furthermore, there is no practicable way of policing the movement of empty tins. Washing and sterilizing the tins is not feasible, as this would lead to rusting and a greatly shortened useful life. It is understood that the tins used in Victoria have mainly press-in lids in contrast to screw-top lids in this State. The latter would be much safer, as the press-in lids tend to blow out when the tins are exposed to the sun, thus allowing for greater exposure of the contents to bees. The only positive action which can be suggested is that the use of screw-top tins be encouraged, and that all surplus honey be wiped from the exterior of the tin.

**INDUSTRIAL NOISE.**

Mr. HUTCHENS: In recent years there has been great concern about additional noise, particularly from factories, and at a meeting of ratepayers in my district last Thursday evening many complaints were made. It was claimed by a member of the Hindmarsh council that the law on industrial noise was very limited and that there had been no substantial amendments for many years, and it was considered that it would be wise to introduce amendments to protect residents who had to live near industrial areas. Although I appreciate some of the difficulties, will the Premier say whether the Government has considered this matter and, if it has not, will it do so with a view to seeing whether it is possible, as well as necessary, to amend the law in this respect?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: As far as I know, the Government has received no requests and therefore has not considered this matter. That statement is subject to correction if the Minister of Labour and Industry has had some complaints that have not come before Cabinet, but I doubt that that is the case. Whether it is desirable to alter the law is a matter that needs examination of the circumstances, but I think that in the main there would be a common law provision to control any nuisance. If that is the case, and if my understanding of the law is correct, it would be for a court to decide whether the specific noise should be suppressed or whether it was not unreasonable in the circumstances. Any law that puts an industry out of operation would have to be closely watched. Subject to the remarks I have made, I cannot take the matter any further.

## METER READINGS.

Mr. COUMBE: Did the Minister of Works see in today's newspaper a report of complaints regarding water meter readings, and will he see whether the meter-reading procedure can be improved so that further information can be given to the consumer to enable him to check the quantity of water he is using, which he cannot do under the present practice whereby a meter is read only twice a year and only the total quantity used is indicated? Will the Minister consider showing the previous and the present reading, so that the consumer can check the account?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I saw the letter from the correspondent in the press this morning, and I must confess that, on the face of it, I have sympathy with his remarks. From time to time I have discussed this matter with the Engineer-in-Chief and the Chief Revenue Officer, whose duty it is to render accounts, assessments and rate notices to ratepayers. A difficulty is that the department renders about 350,000 accounts each year, and any complication of the procedure in rendering such accounts must be reflected in additional costs that would tend to affect ratepayers in due course. At present the department is considering rendering accounts more frequently. That has been requested from time to time, more particularly by metropolitan ratepayers, who would find it more convenient to pay a smaller account more frequently than a large one once a year. The department is investigating machine accounting, and if this is feasible (and I believe that it would be), the more frequent issuing of notices would be considered and probably incorporated in the new procedure. The whole matter is largely one of economics. The Engineer-in-Chief has informed me that the number of inquiries received about rate notices issued is probably less than 2 per cent of the total number of notices issued, and it becomes a matter of nice calculation whether or not an alteration of the present system is justified. I have already discussed the matter with the Engineer-in-Chief occasionally, and I will discuss it with him again, to see whether we can improve the service to which ratepayers are entitled, without unnecessary complication in the calculation and rendering of accounts.

## SWIMMING POOLS.

Mr. DUNSTAN: Concern has been expressed in the Norwood district about a recent suggestion that the Government might subsidize, by a large sum, the cost of a proposed swimming pool at Hazelwood Park. The Norwood

council has, through public subscription and public functions, established, on the normal subsidy, a sizable swimming pool in its area, and the people in my district believe that a large Olympic-standard pool should be centrally situated in the City of Adelaide. It would then be available to all suburbs, in addition to the pools such as Norwood that are serving the public on a rather lower standard. The Norwood council is concerned that councils, other than itself, should be given facilities and subsidies that have not been available so far to it. Can the Premier say whether it is intended, in respect of the Burnside area, to proceed with a large Government subsidy beyond that already granted to other council areas? If it is so intended, will the Government also grant subsidies to other councils that are prepared to establish facilities of Olympic standard? The Norwood council intends to build an Olympic-standard diving pool and would be prepared to erect the necessary seating to Olympic standard, if necessary. If the Government intends to subsidize the Burnside project to the extent suggested, will it consider subsidizing similarly the Norwood council on the cost of an Olympic-standard diving pool?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have received a letter from the Norwood council objecting to any suggestion of a subsidy for Burnside. I received a deputation from the Amateur Swimming Association which pointed out that South Australia did not have a suitable Olympic pool to attract overseas competitors. It was said that this State had been by-passed, or would be by-passed, by champion competitors. I pointed out to the deputation that the Government had had a long-established fixed policy of subsidizing the cost of approved swimming pools to the extent of £1,500 on an expenditure of £3,000 in any financial year, and that it would commit itself for three years. In other words, if the initial expenditure was £9,000, the Government would provide subsidies up to £4,500 by paying £1,500 for each of the three years. The Government could not, without creating a precedent of the sort the honourable member has mentioned in his question, start putting in an elaborate pool in a specific place, because that would create a precedent and produce jealousy between districts.

Mr. Shannon: When many people want only a moderate swimming pool anyway.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. It is better to spread our money over a number of pools rather than spend a large sum on

one big pool. To that suggestion, the deputation countered that it only wanted one centrally established Olympic pool, and asked whether the Government would consider a special proposition for a headquarters swimming pool in South Australia. I said that I would consider it and submit it to Cabinet. The Burnside council's question has arisen because it proposes to construct a swimming pool, and in fact, has had a pool in the district, and the Mayor of Burnside, having seen a report of the deputation, may consider that it may be an opportunity for him if the City Council is backward in coming forward. That may be the background of the Burnside application. When Mr. Bolton saw me he asked what subsidies he could be assured of, and I told him a subsidy of £1,500 a year on an expenditure of £3,000, the same as other councils. I have not yet received officially a submission from the Amateur Swimming Association regarding the special project it wanted considered. That is as far as I can convey the matter. I do not know whether Mr. Bolton has been negotiating to get official approval for the pool in his district, but I believe that an official pool should be centrally situated. It loses its value if it is in a suburb away from public transport. It depends whether the Adelaide City Council is prepared to come to the party. I do not know whether it is. Summarizing, Burnside has been offered no subsidy that has not already been given Norwood and other districts; there is no promise of a special amount being made available; there has been a half promise to the extent that I said that if there were to be established a headquarters for amateur swimming where international competition could take place I should be prepared to have Cabinet consider it.

#### SCHOOL TRANSPORT.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: A few weeks ago the member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Shannon) and I introduced to the Minister of Education a deputation from the Blackwood High School Council on a matter that we have raised in this House during the last two years, namely, the question of the transport to the Blackwood High School of children living in the Onkaparinga District outside the zoned metropolitan area. The Minister gave the deputation a sympathetic hearing and the case was ably presented by the members of the deputation. Has the Minister yet considered the matter and decided whether to accede to the request that transport should be provided for these children?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I have considered the matter sympathetically. That may have been because of the able manner in which the deputation presented the case or it may have been because of the persuasive eloquence of the members for Onkaparinga and Mitcham. However, the fact remains that I have a special transport committee consisting of the Deputy Director of Education, the Secretary of the department, and the Accountant of the department, and I always obtain reports and recommendations from that committee before I make a decision. Up to the present I have not received a report, although I should do so soon. When I do, I will come to a final decision and will communicate it to both honourable members as soon as possible.

#### FREIGHT CHARGES.

Mr. BYWATERS: My attention has been drawn to an anomaly in the freight charges imposed on the transport of farm machinery from Sunshine in Victoria to South Australia. I understand that the charge for a machine loaded on to a single truck is £38 to Adelaide, £45 7s. 1d. to Murray Bridge and £57 1s. 4d. to Tintinara. I surmise that the closer the destination to the Victorian border the dearer the charge. The position is that these trucks are off-loaded at the siding to which the machine is consigned. Because of this the haulage of the train to Adelaide is reduced. I understand that a freight concession rate applies between capital cities, and this may be the reason why it is cheaper to bring a machine to Adelaide than it is to off-load a machine *en route*. Will the Minister of Works ascertain from the Minister of Railways whether this apparent anomaly cannot be corrected?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes. I will bring the honourable member's remarks to the notice of my colleague.

#### GERANIUM AREA SCHOOL.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I have given the Minister of Education notice of several questions relating to the proposed new area school at Geranium. Can he say how many students are expected to attend the school at its commencement in 1965; how many will be primary and how many secondary students; will buses be provided by the Education Department; have bus routes been finalized; and what staff will be attached to the school and in what capacities?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: It is estimated that at the opening of the 1965 school year there will be a total of 295 children

enrolled at the Geranium Area School, consisting of 245 in the primary section and 50 in the secondary section. Buses will be provided by the Education Department unless suitable contractors are available to operate the transport services. Bus routes have not yet been finalized, but, at a suitable time prior to the opening of the school, the Transport Officer will visit and survey the district with a view to giving the best possible transport services in accordance with the prescribed transport regulations and policies of the Education Department. It is expected that the staff of the new school will be a headmaster, seven primary and infant assistants, three secondary assistants, and one boys' craft teacher, and one girls' craft teacher. The girls' craft teacher may be shared with another area school.

#### WEST TERRACE JUNCTIONS.

Mr. **LAWN**: In view of the apparent confusion in the minds of motorists driving from the east of the city to the west and turning north into West Terrace as to who has right-of-way, will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Roads to refer this question to the Road Traffic Board with the object of having "give way" signs erected?

The Hon. G. G. **PEARSON**: I will refer the question to my colleague.

#### POWERLINES.

Mr. **LAUCKE**: A feature of the South Australian landscape is the presence of stately gum trees along many of our water courses. This feature marks the course of the Little Para River, and it should be preserved. Will the Premier discuss with the Electricity Trust the matter of aligning the proposed powerline from Torrens Island to a substation sited in the hills east of Elizabeth so as to ensure the retention of the gum trees along the Little Para River? This could be achieved by not following the course of the Little Para River as is, I understand, now planned.

The Hon. Sir **THOMAS PLAYFORD**: This matter was referred to me by the Chairman of the Electricity Trust a few months ago. He pointed out that the trust experienced great difficulty because of the presence of three aerodromes (including Parafeld and Edinburgh) near the substation. The Commonwealth Government has imposed a blanket prohibition limiting the height to which any structures may be erected near the aerodromes. It would be impossible, of course, for the trust to carry the high voltage wires above

a residential area. The presence of high voltage lines in a residential area could be extremely dangerous to the public and would necessitate the trust's purchasing and demolishing houses along the route. I negotiated with one company to try to help the trust obtain a right-of-way through the area. I will see the Chairman of the trust this afternoon and I will ensure that every possible step is taken to preserve any beauty spots, including trees, in the area. Quite frankly, I do not think there will be any destruction of trees to cause concern. I will do my best to see that the line is sited so as to preserve the beauty of the area as much as possible. I understand that much of the objection concerns the mere fact of having a transmission line through the area. However, people cannot have electricity unless they have transmission lines. This area is heavily industrialized and is becoming even more so, and the success of the industrialization will depend on adequate power supplies. I will take up the question of preservation of any beauty spots and see that any necessary project for the public utility will be undertaken without causing undue concern.

#### PORT AUGUSTA BRIDGE.

Mr. **RICHES**: Last week I asked the Minister of Works a question concerning the installation of traffic islands at the railway bridge at Flinders Terrace, Port Augusta. Has the Minister a reply?

The Hon. G. G. **PEARSON**: Yes; my colleague, the Minister of Roads, has informed me that the intersection, which includes a bridge over the railway at Flinders Terrace, has been under investigation by the Highways Department for some considerable time. Several plans have been prepared and, after further investigation, found to be impracticable. The most recent one has only just been completed. This plan incorporates traffic islands, which should improve conditions, but it must first be approved by the Road Traffic Board. It is expected that this plan can be submitted to the Port Augusta Corporation in the very near future.

#### NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Mrs. **STEELE**: One evening last week at about 8.30 p.m. a boy aged between 12 and 13 called at my home asking for subscriptions to several leading newspapers and magazines. For each subscription he secured he would, he explained, be credited with one point which would go towards earning him an educational

trip to the Snowy Mountains scheme. This boy had secured about 850 points, and I understand he had to have 1,000. This is certainly earning a trip the hard way, I suggest. If by any chance the publication subscription is not proceeded with, he loses that point. Concern has been expressed by some of my constituents, whom boys participating in this scheme have visited, that they call at a time when they should be home doing their homework. This scheme, which is, to say the least, a novel way of increasing the circulation of the papers mentioned in the other voucher left with the customer, seems to me to be wrong in principle. Does the Minister of Education know of this scheme, and does he consider it to be in the best interests of the boys participating in it?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: My answer to both questions is "no".

#### ORIENTAL FRUIT MOTH.

Mr. CURREN: I have had a query from the Secretary of the Oriental Fruit Moth Committee in Renmark regarding the regulations to be made for the operation of that committee. Can the Minister of Agriculture say what action is being taken to draw up and gazette the necessary regulations to enable control committees to be set up and to operate under the appropriate Acts, and when these regulations are likely to be introduced?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Polls were held recently under the different Acts relating to red scale, oriental fruit moth, and San Jose scale, and those polls were all carried. The regulations under which the new committees will work are now being prepared. In the meantime, in order to establish the personnel of the committees, I have been contacting various organizations in the districts concerned for suggestions, and the committees of each of these, whichever Act is concerned, will be appointed shortly. The regulations will be submitted to the Government as soon as the Crown Solicitor's Department has finished preparing them. At present I cannot say exactly when those regulations will be available.

#### PORT PIRIE AIR POLLUTION.

Mr. McKEE: Is the Premier able to report on the findings of the Mines Department regarding air pollution over Port Pirie? If he is not able to give any information on this matter now, will he obtain a report from the Minister of Mines?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I will obtain a report.

#### PULPWOOD.

Mr. CORCORAN: My question concerns the guarantee of additional supplies of pulpwood from the Government to Apcel Ltd. at Snuggery in the South-East. On Tuesday October 8 the Minister of Forests, in a reply to a question I had placed on notice, said that the matter was being considered in connection with the general development of the State and private forests. Since then I have sought further information, and from what I have been told—and I believe my information is reliable—Apcel Ltd. plans not only immediate expansion but subsequent major expansion, and this will occur only if additional pulpwood supplies can be guaranteed by the Government, otherwise the intended expansion will go to another State. I have also been told that, if the company is not aware of the Government's decision on this matter within the next 2½ to three months, this expansion will probably not occur. As I consider this matter of vital importance to my district, particularly as it will cater for much female labour, will the Minister indicate the issues involved in this matter and say when a decision is likely to be reached?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Actually, this question should be put on notice. Instead of replying to the question today I will consider it and see whether I can obtain further information for the honourable member.

#### HIGHWAY 32.

Mr. CASEY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to a question I asked last week concerning a railway crossing on Highway 32?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Minister of Roads informs me that national route 32, that is, the Broken Hill road, is to be re-aligned in various sections. However, until the alignment of the standardized railway is determined it is not intended to carry out any work at the various railway crossings. The railway crossing mentioned by the honourable member, however, will be checked to ascertain whether the existing signs are adequate.

#### ELECTRICIANS.

Mr. LANGLEY: Over a period of months the Minister of Labour and Industry and his department have stressed the need for safety in factories and also for the public to become safety-minded. In view of the fact that recently the trade union movement and the Electrical Contractors Association have met the Minister by deputation, can the Premier

say whether legislation will be introduced to license electricians as a step to improving the safety of all concerned?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I know of no such legislation, but I shall have the matter examined and advise the honourable member.

#### WINDY POINT.

Mr. FRED WALSH: Has the Premier a reply to a question I asked on August 22 about widening the Belair Road to Windy Point?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The honourable member's question was referred to the Highways Department, and Mr. Jackman (Commissioner of Highways) reports:

I referred to the alignment of the Clapham-Belair section of the Adelaide-Goolwa Main Road No. 11 as being of substandard alignment because generally a safe speed of 20-25 miles an hour only can be maintained, and at two curves, for safety reasons, this should be reduced to 15 miles an hour.

#### PORT GAWLER BORE.

Mr. HALL: In recent months the Mines Department drilling team has put down a bore at Port Gawler to a depth of about 1,000ft. Will the Premier obtain from the Minister of Mines a report on the significance of the findings of that drilling team and the relation of that bore to the water basins in the Virginia area?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I will get a full report on this matter, which I know is important to the honourable member's district.

#### BUILDING ACT REFEREES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: My question concerns the Building Act and its requirements regarding home units. In one case a building inspector had to consult a dictionary and other authorities to know whether a group of home units for sale was to be regarded the same as rows of houses as we previously understood them. It is not uncommon to see many of these units for sale in the district I represent. I should like to know what the qualifications of a building inspector should be. I understand that a building surveyor is a highly qualified person. When a council declines an application, it is forwarded to the advisory committee of referees under the Local Government Act, and further cost is then involved. Evidence is given by a building surveyor. One of the referees is 84 years old, and the other is not much younger; I do not know

whether home units were fashionable when these men were practising their profession. Will the Premier say whether the Government intends to review the appointment of the building referees and whether any further definition of flats or home units will be given in the Act so that it will not be necessary to use a dictionary or encyclopaedia?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Leader has raised two main matters and I will get a report for him, although I doubt whether I shall be able to get it before next Tuesday. I realize that what he is asking me to do is not something that can conveniently be put on the Notice Paper. Regarding the latter part of his question, for many years a legal problem has been associated with this matter. It was the subject of a very keen debate in this House some years ago when the Hon. Mr. Richards was Leader of the Opposition. If my memory is correct, he was not prepared and did not desire to sponsor multiple building on a building block: he desired to retain the provision that a house could be built only on a block of, I think, 7,500 sq. ft. There are some legal problems in this matter, but I will get a report for the Leader, I hope by next week.

#### WATER RATES.

Mr. TAPPING: I have received numerous complaints from people who have received accounts for water rates and have found that they have been increased. I realize that the increase has occurred because of a variation in assessment. The Act says that, when an assessment is varied, within a month of the date of variation a notice shall appear in the *Government Gazette* entitling a person to lodge an appeal against an assessment if he considers it too high. The Act also provides that in the case of appeal it comes before the Local Court of Full Jurisdiction in Adelaide. Many people are not aware of this procedure and, even if they were aware of it, they would be reluctant to go before the court, as this could involve much money. Will the Minister of Works consider adopting the policy used by councils whereby, when an assessment is made, people have the right to resort to a court of revision within the council? With the present practice, people receive accounts that are higher than previously but do not know why they are higher. Could it be made more economical for them to appeal against assessment increases?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member's question concerns policy, but the

illustration that he has used, namely, the procedure under local government, is not analogous to that applying under the Waterworks Act. In local government it is normal for a district council and, I presume, a corporation, to sit as a court of appeal, and ratepayers may have recourse to a full council sitting as a court. It would not, I think, appeal to ratepayers merely to have a right of appeal to the department's chief assessor and his staff, as they would consider that they were appealing from Caesar to Caesar. However, in practice a much more satisfactory system applies, namely, that any ratepayer, who receives an assessment about which he is not clear or has some objection or which he considers is incorrectly based, may approach the department and will receive the most courteous consideration and full information about his increased assessment and the circumstances relating to the increase. I have frequently said (and I repeat for the information of all ratepayers) that should they have any matter to discuss or any objection to raise, then they should approach the department. In 99 per cent of the cases that come through me for consideration, the ratepayer is eventually satisfied that the assessment is fairly based. It would not be possible for the details of every assessment to be published in any way that would be available to the public, because the number is far too large. I repeat, however, that if any ratepayer has any query about his assessment, the department will be happy to give him a full explanation.

#### EUDUNDA-AUBURN ROAD.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: The Eudunda District Council has sealed the Eudunda-Auburn main road in its district as far as the council boundary, and I have been asked about the undue delay in completing the road. Will the Minister of Works ask his colleague, the Minister of Roads, what are the plans for the continuation of the sealing of this important road that links the Murray Valley with the western part of the State?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will get that information for the honourable member.

#### SOLDIER SETTLEMENT.

Mr. HARDING: I understand that of over 1,000 war service land settlers only 3 per cent have failed. Can the Minister of Repatriation say what the method of reallocation will be if more of these farms become vacant? Will

applications for allotment be called by notices in the *Government Gazette* setting out the final rentals and the full commitments at the time of allotment?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: The method of calling for applicants for the new blocks is well defined. A list of people eligible to apply for war service land settlement is available. These people have not yet been given land or had the opportunity to obtain land. When a vacancy occurs those people who are eligible are informed (as recently happened on Kangaroo Island) and, if necessary, conducted tours of the area are arranged by the Land Board so that applicants may indicate their first, second and third choices. They will not all necessarily be allotted land. There may be only three blocks available for 50 applicants. The three will be selected from the applicants, and an endeavour is made at all times when these blocks become available for all applicants to be given the opportunity to apply. At the time, the fullest information possible is given to them, but not all the information as to cost and so on is necessarily known at the time of application. Therefore, they are not aware of their full commitments when they take over, but that information is made available to them later.

#### POWER SUPPLY.

Mr. CORCORAN: Can the Minister of Works say whether provision has been made by the Electricity Trust to extend its power supply to the Allendale East, Kongorong and Eight Mile Creek areas during this financial year, and, if so, when is the work likely to commence? If it is not to be undertaken this year, will he ascertain the reasons for the delay?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will ask the Chairman of the trust for a report and let the honourable member have it.

#### PINNAROO SCHOOL.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I understand that the Minister of Works has a reply to my recent question about proposals for paving the Pinnaroo Area School yard.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: When the honourable member raised this matter a few days ago, I told him (from memory) what I thought were the circumstances. My report then was not correct. I now have details of what is proposed, and the Director, Public Buildings Department, states that

approval of expenditure has been obtained for paving at the Pinnaroo Area School, and it is intended that the work to be carried out under group contract with other paving works in the area. It is expected that tenders will be called for the group paving contract within the next few weeks.

#### FLOODWATERS RELIEF.

Mr. COUMBE: Does the Minister of Works recall that four or five weeks ago I introduced a deputation to him from the Prospect council and some residents of Prospect, concerning relief from floodwaters? Has he, or have his officers, decided what alterations are necessary at the sewage farm to overcome this problem, and, if so, can he inform me what that decision is? If no decision has been made, when will one be made?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: As I promised the deputation the honourable member introduced, I discussed this matter with the Engineer-in-Chief a day or two after the deputation saw me. I outlined the proposals generally and then forwarded to him a report of the case as presented by the deputation. The Engineer-in-Chief undertook to have the matter examined, as he considered that problems were associated with it. What I had thought to be a comparatively simple matter was, indeed, not so simple, for other factors had an impact on it. Mr. Dridan referred the matter to the Engineer for Drainage, and I have not yet had the benefit of the findings. I will ask the Engineer-in-Chief to expedite the report which I will submit to the honourable member.

#### RIVER LIGHT WATER CONSERVATION.

Mr. FREEBAIRN (on notice):

1. Have any investigations been made by the Engineering and Water Supply Department into the possibility of carrying out a water conservation scheme on the River Light?

2. What action is proposed in this matter in the future?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The River Light was gauged for several months in 1888-1889, but the work was discontinued on the instruction of the Conservator of Water. The question of gauging the stream was again raised in 1941, and in 1945 estimates were prepared for two gauging weirs, but the scheme was abandoned as offering little prospect of being as useful a project as the development of the South Para. The River Light is known to carry large quantities of

water, but known dam sites would be very costly to develop. The irregular nature of the seasonal flow, in keeping with other streams in the area, would make a very large storage necessary to give any reliable continuity of yield. There are no plans for developing the River Light at the present time.

#### JUDGES.

Mr. TAPPING (on notice): Is it the intention of the Government to appoint additional judges to the Supreme Court?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: One appointment is now pending.

#### CHURCHES OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, INCORPORATION BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

#### ELDER SMITH & CO. LIMITED PROVIDENT FUNDS BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

#### SCAFFOLDING INSPECTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council with an amendment.

#### BUSINESS AGENTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

#### METROPOLITAN TAXI-CAB ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

#### HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

#### TRAVELLING STOCK RESERVE: HUNDREDS OF DAVENPORT, WOOLUNDUNGA AND WINNINOWIE.

The Legislative Council intimated that it had agreed to the House of Assembly's resolution.

#### TRAVELLING STOCK RESERVE: ODNADATTA.

The Legislative Council intimated that it had agreed to the House of Assembly's resolution.



**THE BUDGET.**

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

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from October 10. Page 1025.)

**THE LEGISLATURE.**

Legislative Council, £13,900.

Mr. HUGHES (Wallaroo): I congratulate the new member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney) on having retained that seat for the Government. I extend a cordial welcome to him and trust that his contributions may benefit not only his district but the State generally. Obviously much time was spent in compiling the Budget speech delivered by the Treasurer. Much information was presented on this occasion, but it cannot be argued that our present position gives any cause for complacency: on the contrary, I believe there is much reason for anxiety. Unless some drastic changes are made as a matter of urgency I believe that the people will soon feel the effects of a system that is inadequate to meet the needs of our expanding population.

The Auditor-General's Report clearly sets out the ever-increasing public debt. In connection with the transactions for the year ended June 30, 1963, the public debt increased by £32,879,000. In 1960 it increased by £26,721,000; in 1961 by £28,440,000; in 1962 by £28,974,000; and last year by £32,879,000. If we let the public debt increase by about £30,000,000 a year where will we finish? As with all borrowed money, debt charges have to be reckoned with. All members should be concerned with the colossal debt charges levied against this State. Despite our sinking fund payments, public debt charges increased by £1,406,000 last year, making a total of £22,744,477 for the year 1962-63. Since 1958-59 the increase has been £6,668,938. As at June 30, 1960, the public debt represented £395 per capita. In 1961 it had risen to £414 per capita, an increase of £19 over the previous year; in 1962 it had risen still further to £436, an increase of £22; and in 1963 it had risen to £460, a further increase of £24.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Do you think we should not borrow so much?

Mr. HUGHES: I am not arguing that point at present; I am bringing these figures before the Committee because I maintain that if the Government had acted some years ago the public debt would not be as high as it is today. In the course of time, and as a result of our increasing public debt, we shall have to populate our country to the fullest extent to

enable its productivity to be used as capital. The Auditor-General pointed out that our interest-bearing indebtedness has increased over the past 10 years by 135 per cent, but that the amount per capita had risen by only 81 per cent, owing to the gain in population. I think another contributing factor to the better side of the ledger is that labour today is being channelled into specialized skills. Division of labour improves production, both in quantity and quality, and, more importantly, in its ultimate effects it gives a first-rate stimulus to accumulation of wealth, which in turn takes the form of capital. Immediately, an outlet is available through which the increased supply of goods can flow.

Today I think most men and women are aware that the individual must produce for others besides his own family. If this were not true, and if this were not put into practice, there would be no accumulation of capital and our public debt would have risen even higher than 81 per cent more per capita over the last 10 years, despite the gain in our population. However, in my opinion this figure is far too high, and something must be done about it. In fact, something should have been done about it long before this. Only recently the Attorney-General addressed a meeting in this State, and the *Advertiser* of September 20, under the heading "Progress of State", reported:

"South Australia had made more progress in the past 20 years than any other State", the Attorney-General (Mr. Rowe) told a meeting at the University of Adelaide yesterday. Addressing a lunch-hour Liberal Union meeting, Mr. Rowe said that the Playford Government had found the basic essentials for the progress of private enterprise and the expansion of employment.

If that is true, I consider there should have been much greater evidence of development during the last 10 years, and we should have more to show for the £267,000,000 that this Government has added to the State public debt during that time. I do not consider that the development achieved has been sufficient, having regard to all the circumstances. Every honourable member knows that we have had a record number of good seasons and high prices, and throughout this period of plenty the present Government has been in office; but the State as a whole has not received the benefit of a balanced development. The greatest development has been in and around the metropolitan area, with a few exceptions where natural conditions have induced development in the country. This Government has passed through a post-war period when large-scale spending has resulted in our being committed

to even greater expenditure in certain areas, particularly the metropolitan area. How much further could we have progressed if the Treasurer had listened to the advice of certain people years ago that our education system needed financial assistance to cope with the demand for more schools and qualified teachers to staff them? It is evident that this Government had a short-sighted policy on the needs of the growing population following the war. The expansion that has taken place is the result of a natural pattern, and is not due entirely to the efforts of the Government, as it would like people to think. If the State progressed under the planning of the present Government, with its short-sighted policy that I referred to a moment ago, how much further could it have progressed? This applies particularly in relation to planning the requirements of our education system. Despite the pressure for greater aid from the Commonwealth Government, this Government stuck to the idea that because education was a State responsibility it was not prepared to seek special aid from the Commonwealth. Seven years ago, Anthony Eden, who at that time was Prime Minister of Great Britain, said:

The prizes will not go to the country with the largest population: those with the best system of education will win.

I do not believe it is the responsibility of the parents of children attending school entirely to foot the bill for education: it is the responsibility of every wage earner to contribute towards the cost of our education system. If a more complete system of education is required in order that Australia can be in a position to meet other nations on an equal footing, then the State and the nation will benefit from it; therefore the whole nation should pay for it. We all know that Australia is moving rapidly into a technological age and that more and more finance is required for education to provide more teachers to enable efficient teaching to be carried out in smaller classes. The President of the South Australian Institute of Teachers (Mr. Haines) told the National Education Congress in Melbourne that the ratio of pupils to teachers in our high schools was far too high for efficient teaching. He also said:

While we are pleased that the entrance requirements for the Teachers College this year are more selective, the need for highly qualified teachers is still very great.

He went on to say that of the 1,268 highly qualified teachers of all kinds in our high schools in 1961, only 592 had academic qualifications of a diploma or higher. Mr. Haines went on to say:

The staffing position is very tight, and the shortage of qualified senior teachers is very acute.

He further said:

Most high schools have classes in excess of 40 pupils. Some Leaving classes are as large as 48.

Another interesting point he made in his report was:

Teaching equipment and aids are provided through parental finance on a subsidy basis, and some schools are forced to do without equipment because school bodies cannot always raise the money.

That is a bad thing, because children living in a poor community could be (I will not say they are) denied the opportunity of advancement compared with children living in a community where no problem is associated with raising money for the purchase of equipment and aids. I think it is a good thing for school parent bodies to work for schools and assist the department wherever possible. I know from personal experience that the morale of the children is built up when they know that their parents are taking an active interest in their school and are making a sacrifice to assist them in their individual development. However, I think the Education Department will need to consider this matter in the future as more money becomes available.

Some of the remarks and figures in the Auditor-General's Report about our public debt leave me with no alternative but to say that, if the Government had sought and received additional grants for education when this was suggested some years ago, the public debt would not be as high as it is and we would not be faced with additional interest-bearing indebtedness for some years to come. In his introductory remarks, the Auditor-General said:

The expenditure from Loan moneys on capital works results in recurring debt charges each year. Many of the works considered necessary to meet demands arising from increased population and the development of the State and to provide social services on an increasing scale will not recover costs. To the extent that such works do not meet operating costs and debt charges, an increasing burden will be imposed on the taxpayer. Last year I stated that, because of this, it was necessary that the costs of individual works should be the subject of closest review to enable the maximum return to be gained from Loan moneys available. I do not consider that this is being done to the greatest possible extent in all cases. Whilst the proposed work is no doubt justified (and in major projects this is examined by the Public Works Standing Committee), I am of the opinion that closer reviews could be made in an endeavour to provide the facility at a lower cost. Although

the Public Works Standing Committee examines this aspect for projects referred to it, and has effected many reductions, the move for economy must of necessity emanate from departments. 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:

|  | Estimated<br>Capital Cost.<br>£ | Approximate<br>Annual Interest<br>and Sinking<br>Fund Payments.<br>£ |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| Adelaide Teachers College . . . . .      | 1,500,000                       | 75,000   |
| S.A. School of Arts . . . . .            | 420,000                         | 21,000   |
| Adelaide Technical High School . . . . . | 493,000                         | 24,650   |
| Daws Road High School . . . . .          | 493,000                         | 24,650   |
| Underdale High School . . . . .          | 513,000                         | 25,650   |
| Modbury High School . . . . .            | 454,000                         | 22,700   |

The annual charges have to be met by the taxpayer in addition to the other costs of running the establishment. These education projects, which are under construction or virtually completed at the present time, are some of the most costly which have been undertaken. They are quoted to indicate the magnitude of annual charges. The estimated cost includes land where purchased and final costs may vary from the estimate. Purchase of sites, etc., in advance of requirements, although desirable, should be considered in the light of annual charges.

Mr. Shannon: Does the Auditor-General make any comment about the costs for each student?

Mr. HUGHES: Yes.

Mr. Shannon: What are they?

Mr. HUGHES: I am not dealing with student costs yet. I do not know whether the honourable member was here when I began my speech.

Mr. Shannon: I have been here all the time listening patiently.

Mr. HUGHES: It is nice to know that the honourable member has the patience to listen to me. I hope he can learn something from listening to me; I am always happy to listen to and learn from him. I will not debate whether we are getting the maximum return on Loan moneys made available for school projects, because I have much confidence in the Public Works Committee, of which the honourable member who has just interjected is Chairman. I know how thorough that committee is; only recently I had dealings with it in relation to a project at Wallaroo. I also know how careful it is when examining any evidence that comes before it and before making any decision. I know that the committee will consider the points raised on this matter by the Auditor-General. If the Government had received substantial emergency grants for education, perhaps the six pro-

jects mentioned in the Auditor-General's Report would not have been featured in this way. As all members, and particularly the member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Shannon), know, this expenditure is not directly productive.

Mr. Shannon: I do not agree with that, and I do not agree with the Auditor-General. There is productivity in having the people well educated.

Mr. HUGHES: I think the honourable member is misinterpreting the remarks of the Auditor-General, just as he is misinterpreting my remarks. I am sorry that he has adopted this attitude towards the Auditor-General; I do not think he meant what the honourable member said. I think the honourable member will agree that the buildings themselves are not directly productive and, because of that, they will add to the burden over a long period.

Mr. Shannon: We produce brain-power from these educational institutions.

Mr. HUGHES: I agree with that. I do not know if the honourable member has spoken in this debate. I am patient but, if he persists in this way, I do not intend to reply to him. I was trying to be helpful and was hoping that the member for Onkaparinga would assist me as a young member of this Committee, but apparently he will not. What Mr. McMahon (Minister for Labour and National Service) said about education at the National Education Congress in Melbourne early this year further substantiates the claim that the problem associated with education in this State could have been eased long before this and long before next year, if the Treasurer had pushed for Commonwealth aid for education when it was suggested in the first place. When addressing the congress, Mr. McMahon said:

I must confess right from the beginning that I haven't come in any sort of penitential mood. I'm one of those who feels enormously proud of the achievements of this country over the last 10 or 11 or 12 years but I don't want you to think that I think everything has been done; because it hasn't. Much remains to be done, but we would be unfair if we said a tremendous amount hadn't been achieved during the course of the last 12 years.

Federal Cabinet looks at its priorities, and of course they change from time to time, but we have to be constantly looking at where our order of priorities lies. A few years ago the first priority, particularly so far as I was concerned, was to get national development under way so that job opportunities would grow so that I would be able to think always in terms of a very low number of people who might be registered for employment.

But our priorities do change, and I would be one of the first to admit that now moving right into the forefront of priorities are the problems of education and housing, without losing sight of the real problem of job opportunities and the creation of greater employment, and of course of the problems we have of social services, particularly in the special cases like that of women.

Over the last 12 years there has been an increase in primary and secondary education to the order of 65 per cent; and an increase in university students of 75 per cent, but the vital figures are these, and they must be used against a background that Mr. Bloomfield mentioned, that it is only since Sir Robert Menzies, or as he then was, Mr. Menzies, has been Prime Minister that the necessary funds have become available to permit the advances that we have known over the 10 years to be achieved. In those 10 years the amount of funds becoming available for education has not been 65 or 75 per cent, but 400 per cent, and whilst this may not be and probably isn't enough, it does show that some credit must be given to those who made it possible.

Scholarships for university students amounting to 4,000 a year are granted by the Commonwealth and about 250 post-graduate scholarships are also granted. Already we have decided to increase post-graduate scholarships, and I am hopeful that in the not too distant future, as soon as we get a recommendation, there will be a substantial increase in the numbers of those who receive Commonwealth scholarships too.

So far as formal education is concerned, of the total amount of money spent by the States 55 per cent is provided from Commonwealth funds.

I believe that fundamentally it is the responsibility of the States to have control of education. I regret that at the last meeting that the Premiers had in Canberra in February of this year, the Premiers or their representatives (there were five there; Mr. Reece of Tasmania was not there) departed from the request for Federal aid and asked that instead it be channelled through what we call "general revenue grants to the States" to permit them to decide, within their wisdom, what should be done.

I could read the statement on behalf of the Victorian Government saying that they don't want special aid now. They have looked at the problem more closely, and what they want is general revenue grants from the Commonwealth to the States to permit the States to carry on their educational activities as they are doing.

With the economy now sound and developing at a steady pace, the rate at which the general revenue grants will be made available will from henceforth start to increase, and that is of fundamental importance from your point of view, and from the point of view of the State Governments. The reasonable expectation is for a substantial increase in general revenue grants to the States next year.

Members will notice that he said "reasonable expectation". No promises were made, but I hope that as our Premier has turned down specific Commonwealth aid for education as we were known to express it—

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: That is all the Premiers.

Mr. HUGHES: That is so. I wanted to be honest and quoted the Minister's statement on that occasion.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: Were there general revenue cuts because they did not take it as a special education grant?

Mr. HUGHES: I am unable to answer that, but the honourable member will note that the Minister said, "I regret . . .", and he made that announcement to about 4,000 people attending that congress. The Minister boasted somewhat about what had been achieved and what was intended in the future. I do not blame him for that, because one can afford to do that when one is sitting in the box seat. However, he did say that education and housing were in the forefront of priorities. In other words, he said his Government was well aware of the problem facing the States and was prepared to come to the party.

Mr. Jennings: He was not in a penitential mood!

Mr. HUGHES: I do not know about that.

Mr. Jennings: He may have been in a pestilential mood!

Mr. HUGHES: He intimated that the Government was well aware of the problem and that if it had been approached by the Premiers then money would have been made available. Mr. McMahon also said that although an amount of money had been made available in the last 10 years, it was not enough. According to the October edition of the *Teachers Journal*, the Commonwealth Government has fallen down badly on the number of scholarships awarded today in comparison

with the ratio of students of 10 years ago. Many thinking people, including educationists in this State, consider that the amount made available by the Commonwealth Government is definitely inadequate, and because of this, many students today will be unable to continue their studies and will be forced into jobs for which they are totally unfitted. The October edition of the *Teachers Journal* stated:

Commonwealth Scholarships Inadequate: The last conference of this Institute drew attention to the fact that the number of awards of Commonwealth scholarships had not kept pace with the number of able eligible students. Representations made to the present Prime Minister were not favourably received. The facts are these: In 1950, 62.5 per cent of applicants were awarded scholarships; in 1961, 23 per cent. The number awarded was 270 in 1950 and 367 in 1961, but in order to restore the position there should have been 1,000, because the number of students sitting for Leaving rose from 700 to 2,700, and the number of applicants rose from 430 to 1,700. At the present time the lower standard at which scholarships were granted was six subjects and two credits. Some applicants of this standard failed to win scholarships. Originally the "quota" for each State was fixed so that virtually all applicants who had a good chance of success at university could go there on a scholarship. Any wastage of talent could not be laid at the door of the Government. Today many able children of poor parents cannot win scholarships and do not go to the university. At the same time we as a nation are desperately short of graduate manpower, unable as in the past to live as a parasite on the universities of Great Britain. This is yet another example of the low priority given to education by the Commonwealth.

The figures mentioned in that article do not support the general remarks of Mr. McMahon, particularly that the Commonwealth Government, under Sir Robert Menzies, has made the necessary funds available to permit the advances that we have known over the last 10 years. I cannot accept that any real advance has been made, particularly when it can be pointed out that in 1950 a total of 62.5 per cent of scholarships was awarded as compared with 23.1 per cent in 1961.

All members were pleased to read in the press last week that Mr. Griggs (a former Deputy Director of Education) and Mr. Symonds (a former Principal of the Adelaide Boys High School) had commenced work as counsellors for holders of Commonwealth scholarships. They are interviewing winners of Commonwealth scholarships and helping them decide which university courses they should take next year. This is a move in the right direction and it will assist students and

safeguard the Government from waste of talent. However, I sincerely hope that these appointments will not make the Commonwealth Government complacent. It should meet its responsibilities in providing education in South Australia. Admittedly, the Commonwealth contributes to our education system, but it takes good care of its investment by recruiting to its ranks selected graduates from our university. In today's *Advertiser*, under the heading "Recruiting of Graduates", appears the following article:

Two Commonwealth officers seeking potential administrators among University of Adelaide graduates will visit Adelaide from Wednesday until Friday. They are the Senior Inspector of the Commonwealth Public Service Board (Mr. J. C. Conway) and Mr. G. N. Meyer, head of the board's recruitment examination staff. They will interview prospective recruits at the Adelaide office of the board on Thursday.

Mr. Conway, who is responsible for recruiting to the Commonwealth service, said that selected students would be given a year's training in Canberra immediately after graduation. Men and women graduates in any faculty were eligible, but most of the recruits would probably come from the faculties of Arts, Law, Economics and Commerce.

That substantiates my claim that the amount allocated by the Commonwealth Government for scholarships and university grants is reimbursed to it. Up to the present the Commonwealth Government has been contributing to what I would regard as a safe investment. It is now time that the Commonwealth Government contributed to the initial preparation of our students by making money available for teachers' salaries and for buildings. The Deputy Leader of the Australian Labor Party, Mr. Whitlam, told the congress in Melbourne that this could be done. I do not propose to weary members by reading what he said, but Mr. Whitlam pointed out to the huge gathering that it could be done.

Mr. Ryan: It will be done after December.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes. Mr. Whitlam said that it was up to the States and the Commonwealth to provide a just, fair and sensible education system. He left no doubts at that congress that it could be done. He appealed for some interim measure of assistance pending an inquiry into primary, secondary and technical education.

I am not sure of the exact amount involved but I believe that water rates unpaid at June 30 last represented 1.6 per cent of the year's rates. This compares favourably with the position for the previous year when £85,000, or 1.9 per cent, was unpaid. It

represents a decrease of £6,000. Undoubtedly there are more consumers connected to the Engineering and Water Supply Department's mains now, but it indicates that people are more conscious of the asset that water represents. With the advent of trace elements the carrying capacity of land has increased considerably and the demand for water has increased correspondingly. The department is to be commended for keeping pace with the demand. However, in some areas the quality of reticulated water is bad. At the last annual meeting of the Northern Yorke Peninsula Local Government Association conference held at Moonta, a representative from one of the councils made a strong plea for water to be reticulated further south down the peninsula. Immediately he resumed his seat a councillor—an ex-chairman of the Kadina District Council—rose and referred to the bad water. He censured the Government for allowing those poorer mains to deteriorate to such an extent that during the summer months many property holders in the Kadina area have a serious problem in obtaining enough water for their stock. I know that the Minister and his department are well aware of this problem because they have attended to many miles of these mains, but there is no need for me to remind them this afternoon that there is still much to be done in this regard.

Capital payments to waterworks and sewerage were £904,000 more in the Adelaide water district than in the country. Despite the £6,081,000 spent in the Adelaide water district, it finished the year with a surplus of £444,000—pretty good business acumen! Payments in the country amounted to £5,177,000, leaving a deficit of £2,038,000. My point is that it must not be thought that this deficit is a total loss to the State. Through the reticulation of water brought about by this outlay many other payments are collected by various Government departments. So, whilst there may have been a huge deficit in the country, actually the whole State is benefiting from that deficit. I do not think any honourable member would argue against that.

I had wanted to deal this afternoon with the point made in the report of the Clerk of the House of Assembly about a public accounts committee but I think that was covered adequately by the member for Mitcham (Mr. Millhouse). Therefore, I do not wish to pursue that any further. But I, like some of my colleagues, was most concerned about one of

the statements made by the Attorney-General during the Stirling by-election, when he stated, I believe, at a public meeting that only one member of the Labor Party had given evidence to the Industries Development (Special) Committee. I know he retracted a little in the press a day or two afterwards and stated that the Leader of the Opposition had contributed by way of a letter. I do not know just how the Attorney-General could arrive at that conclusion, because I was another one who gave evidence to that committee.

Mr. Lawn: You were invited too, were you not?

Mr. HUGHES: I know that the member for Murray (Mr. Bywaters) intimated that he tendered evidence; I know I did and I understand that several other members did. But I think every honourable member whose district the committee visited played a big part in the preparation of the evidence presented by the local people. I spent many hours with my local people helping to prepare the submissions that they placed before the committee. I make it clear this afternoon that the Attorney-General was definitely wrong, because I was one who did give evidence.

Mr. Lawn: But there was a by-election on at the time!

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, and no doubt it was not really a slip of the tongue: it was for purposes of publication, but sometimes these things have a habit of backfiring, as apparently happened on this occasion. I gave evidence at Wallaroo and went along when the committee visited Moonta. I advised the committee that I did not intend to give any further evidence on that occasion, although I was given the opportunity. I saw no purpose in my giving evidence the next morning when I had been speaking for the district the previous night.

When the committee came to Kadina its Chairman asked whether there was anything further I would like to add. A couple of statements had been made by members of the committee which I thought might be a little misleading to the local residents, so I endeavoured to clarify the position by asking the Chairman a couple of questions about them. He answered the first question all right, although it would appear that he did so under duress but, when I asked a second question, I was promptly told (it might not have been in these words but it meant this) that he was not

going to have any of the statements of his committee queried. I was not there trying to query any of their statements. I have a high regard for each member. I was merely trying to clarify the position so that my people would understand the statements that had been made.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: You are not trying to question the conduct of the inquiry?

Mr. HUGHES: Apparently, the Minister did not hear that what I was complaining of in the first place was that a statement had been made during the Stirling by-election by one of the Minister's colleagues, and I am just letting this Committee know that I did give evidence.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Are you not objecting to the attitude of the Chairman of the committee?

Mr. HUGHES: Yes; I certainly did on that occasion, but it did not get me anywhere. Make no mistake about that, Mr. Minister! I have great respect for any chairman and, when I was told to resume my seat, I did so. If you, Mr. Chairman, were to ask me to resume my seat now, I would do so. That was the attitude adopted towards me by the Chairman, and I had to suffer that. I have not complained to anybody about it but, when it reaches the point that a statement is made from a public platform that I did not give evidence, I think it is high time I let the Committee know just how I was received when I wanted to give something to enlighten, perhaps, the committee and the local people. I was advised by the Chairman that, if I wanted to get any information, I could get it down at North Terrace.

Mr. Lawn: You would not get it here; you would get it over the television.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes. That is the point I make in reply to the statement of the Attorney-General—that I was one who did give evidence and, when I wanted to clarify one or two things, I was asked to resume my seat and told that, if I wanted to get any information, I could get it at North Terrace. Of course, I knew that, but my people were there and I wanted the position clarified.

Mr. Lawn: What did he mean by "North Terrace"—the Liberal and Country League?

Mr. HUGHES: No; I think he meant the House of Assembly. That was the position. I respected his wish and did not proceed any further. I say no more about it. It gives me great pleasure to support the first line.

Mr. CASEY (Frome): Before I speak on the first line, let me first pay tribute to the late member for Stirling, Mr. Bill Jenkins.

We all knew him very well and, in the short time that I have been in Parliament, I always found Mr. Jenkins to be a righteous and upstanding man who represented his district to the best of his ability. His death has resulted in a great loss to his constituents. I also congratulate the present member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney) on winning the seat in the recent by-election. If he does half the job Mr. Jenkins did, he will do his job reasonably well.

The Budget is complicated and difficult to understand. This is because we receive the Auditor-General's Report at practically the same time as—usually it is after—we receive the Budget itself. This puts members at a great disadvantage because they have only a very limited time at their disposal to peruse this big document. I recall the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) claiming that this was an extraordinary Budget, but I do not see anything extraordinary in it. The increased expenditure shown is only natural, because with increased population in any country there inevitably must be more taxation and this, in turn, results in more finance being available.

When we look at the Auditor-General's Report we see that the Consolidated Revenue receipts have increased appreciably every year over the past five years. For example, succession duties have increased by £500,000 in that time. The only lines which show any marked reduction, particularly on last year, refer to horse racing and transport licences. We have had much agitation from the horse breeders and the racing clubs in South Australia over the past few months. These people have pointed out that the position is deteriorating to such an extent that racing will soon become a lost cause if something is not done to help revive this vital industry, which is carried on not only throughout Australia but throughout the whole world.

I am particularly pleased that most speakers have said it is high time a public accounts committee was set up to investigate Government expenditure of money. The late Leader of the Opposition (Mr. O'Halloran) was a strong advocate of such a committee. I remember reading on one occasion about a one-man committee that exists in some Scandinavian countries, and I understand that such a person is known as an ombudsman. This gentleman is elected by Parliament, and his official duties are to ensure that the bureaucrats—or the Government of the day—do not take the taxpayers for a ride, if I may use a colloquialism. Whether that type of thing could operate in

South Australia is a matter of opinion. I understand that the first Commonwealth country to appoint such a person—who, incidentally, functions under Parliamentary delegation—was New Zealand. This person, who, I understand, is a lawyer and a very learned man, was appointed in 1962. Strangely enough, the Victorian Liberal and Country Party voted on this very matter during the same year; it passed a resolution with a slender majority, but nothing was done to create such a position in Victoria. However, I think something on these lines should be done in each State so that a Government can be brought to task and even individuals singled out, irrespective of rank, for not properly discharging functions which they are required to perform.

I was pleased to see that the amount allocated for education for the ensuing 12 months is considerably more than last year. However, once again we must inevitably rely on the Commonwealth Government for that increased amount. The member for Mitcham (Mr. Millhouse) has pointed out that the amount received from the Commonwealth Government is almost 40 per cent of our total income, and I venture to say that all States must inevitably turn to the Commonwealth for more aid for education. In South Australia there are certain items where perhaps money could be expended better than it is. I am sure that I would receive the full support of the member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell) on the subject of assembly halls, particularly for secondary schools. I consider that an assembly hall is a necessity in any secondary school, for it tends to hold a school together and promote the *esprit de corps* which is so essential in secondary education.

Last year the Peterborough High School applied to the Mines Department, which was then vacating Radium Hill, for permission to purchase a hall that was available at Radium Hill at that time. The council wished to purchase this hall for use as an assembly hall at Peterborough High School. I inspected this building and I considered that it would be a fairly simple matter, with the type of transport available today, to bring it only the comparatively short distance to Peterborough. I was greatly disappointed when the Education Department, in its wisdom, did not agree to this course. However, recently when I was in Broken Hill I noticed that an independent school was erecting that very building for use as two classrooms on a site at Broken Hill South. Strangely enough, that school paid exactly double the amount of money

which the building could have been procured for initially by the Education Department from Radium Hill. The reason was that when the project folded up an independent organization purchased everything that was left there, and it sold anything in the nature of buildings or plant and machinery to anyone who wished to purchase such items. If an independent school could pay double the money for the hall and transport it to Broken Hill to be erected for use as I have said, our Education Department missed a golden opportunity to get an assembly hall for a secondary school. Matters like this should be investigated, but I appreciate that it is difficult for the department to always grasp the opportunity and make a proper decision. What I have said shows that normally opportunity knocks only once. The Industries Development Committee has been mentioned by other speakers. I condemn the Attorney-General for his statement during the Stirling by-election campaign that to his knowledge only one person from the Opposition had given evidence to the committee.

Mr. Jennings: He said that there had been only the one person to give evidence.

Mr. CASEY: Yes, but not long after I came into Parliament I gave evidence to it about towns in my district, and I was well received.

Mr. Ryan: You gave constructive information.

Mr. CASEY: That is true. We hear much about the committee, yet, according to the Auditor-General's Report, only a limited number of industries has been assisted as the result of its inquiries. It seems to me that it is a dying committee; it does not seem to have any go in it. Have we received a comprehensive report from it? Are we likely to receive such a report? If South Australia is to expand it must do so beyond the metropolitan area. Many places in the State are awaiting development, both agriculturally and mineralogically.

During a recent visit to the Stirling District I was amazed at the activities of the dairying industry. It was the first time that I had seen what was going on there. The member for Murray (Mr. Bywaters) will probably say that his district has the best dairying country, but I was pleased with the topography of the country and growth in the Stirling District. However, there is much room for improvement, both of the land and of the herds. I am sorry that the Minister of Agriculture is not here, because he could correct me if I



am wrong, but I think the people responsible for the control of our dairying industry should be strongly advised to adopt a more realistic approach to the type of cattle run. In Holland the dairy herds produce almost three times as much milk as the same types of herd in Australia, yet I do not think Holland has richer pastures. As a matter of fact, I think the contrary applies. In Australia we have sunshine for 12 months of the year, but in most European countries feed grows for only seven or eight months. In the other four months the land is covered with snow, and cattle have to be housed in barns. I think that must have a detrimental effect on milk production. Nevertheless, we could learn much from the types of herd run in Scandinavian countries.

Last year Parliament passed a Bill dealing with Aborigines. It was an important measure because it gave the coloured people rights that are enjoyed by white people. Because of that, we made a step in the right direction. It was a bold step, and it had been advocated by the Opposition for some time. The Bill did not go as far as the Minister wanted, and it is just as well that it did not, but as passed the legislation will prove to be an asset to the State as a whole, and to coloured people in particular. Unfortunately, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs is not in the Chamber. I hope he will read my remarks as recorded in *Hansard* and correct an anomaly that I believe exists. I speak about the Nepabunna Mission situated 35 miles east of Copley. Although I do not agree completely with mission stations, they are a necessity in some of the remote parts of the State, and they contribute much to the welfare of Aborigines. The Nepabunna Mission is run by the United Aborigines Mission on good lines. The people responsible for it are devoting their lives, as it were, to the advancement of the welfare of Aborigines.

Last year we were asked to provide for coloured people learning our language and habits. That meant that they had to be taught English, our ways, to eat the same food, to abide by the same laws and to become used to our customs. The Bill specified that there would be no restriction of any kind on persons of aboriginal blood. I fully agree that these coloured people should be brought closer to the white people in order to be assimilated. We voted for assimilation last session and, as I understand it, assimilation is the right of Aborigines to take their place in our society if they so desire. If they are to be assimilated

they should be brought to a place where they can mix with the white community; therefore, I suggest to the Minister that the Aborigines at Nepabunna, although still remaining under the jurisdiction of the United Aborigines Mission, should be brought to Copley where, for example, there is a power supply which, although a luxury in that part of the country, is available there because it is near the Leigh Creek coalfield. In addition, Copley has a continuous water supply from two sources: the Aroona dam and the Government reservoir. Water is not so readily available at Nepabunna where, only a few months ago, the situation was so acute that the only supply of water available was from a creek that was not flowing at the time. There is a limit to how long water can remain in a creek in that area and still be drinkable. I believe that rather than put extra strain on the people responsible, who are doing a very good job in running this mission, it would be far better for all concerned if the mission station was moved close to Copley where it could still operate as a mission but where the Aborigines could be assimilated.

At Copley a very good schoolhouse, now unoccupied, could be used to its fullest extent in the primary section. At Leigh Creek a secondary school is available. At present children, including a few coloured children, are using the school bus to attend Leigh Creek school and this could be used by the children at the mission station. In addition, a doctor is available at Leigh Creek and probably not at Nepabunna. I ask the Minister to bring these matters before the Aborigines Board to see whether something can be done. I believe it would be a step in the right direction. Admittedly Nepabunna Mission is on a reserve of about 27 square miles and another nine square miles is to be added to the lease, giving a total of 36 square miles; but that is only a flea-bite in that area and in some drought years would not even sustain a grasshopper. However, if it was thought desirable to run a few sheep or cattle on this property there is no reason why this could not be done and managed from the site at Copley. The new bore to be made available by the Mines Department at Nepabunna could suffice for the stock raised there. With those few remarks I support the first line.

Mr. CURREN (Chaffey): In supporting the first line, I add my remarks to those already expressed by previous speakers on the passing of the late member for Stirling (Mr. Jenkins). I was associated with him in various

matters concerning my district and found him to be a very fine person to work with. I trust that his successor in this Parliament will also carry out his duties to the benefit of the district.

I wish to refer to various matters concerning the district of Chaffey. One matter I have often raised concerns the duplication of the ferries at Kingston and Berri. On November 1 last I asked the Treasurer (who was Acting Minister at the time) a question about this and he said a report would be obtained on what could be done. Since then, I have raised the matter about four times and now tenders for the work will be called in December. From my previous experience with the construction of ferry approaches I expect this will take several months. This is another occasion when plenty of time was available and unnecessary delay has been caused in the duplication of these ferries. I believe that the opening of the bridge at Blanchetown will cause an increase in the flow of traffic and longer delays will occur, particularly at Kingston.

Some time ago a debate took place on increases in rents of Government-owned houses payable by Government employees. Recently I asked the Minister of Lands about the agreements that must be signed annually by occupiers of departmental houses in my district and he said the Irrigation Act did not allow the department to enter into agreements for periods longer than 12 months. The yearly fee is an unnecessary imposition on the tenants and I suggest to the Minister that a slight alteration to the Act would eliminate the need for an annual agreement.

This year's Loan Estimates indicated that during the coming year a certain number of houses would be built in Upper Murray towns. From the constant inquiries I have received from people seeking accommodation, particularly rental houses, I say that the 15 houses to be built in Berri in the coming year will not be nearly sufficient. At present people wanting rental houses must wait 12 months. I understand that about 12 months ago the Housing Trust was considerably delayed in its building programme because of the lack of land. The area known as the Hamden subdivision was acquired by the Lands Department and its failure to act quickly caused considerable delay in the area becoming available for building blocks. That put the Housing Trust programme back seven or eight months. The money that should have been spent on houses at Berri was spent

elsewhere, and the whole programme in the area was delayed. The second part of the Hamden subdivision has been surveyed and gazetted, and I understand it will shortly be made available for allotment to applicants. From the number of inquiries made by people who wish to buy building blocks, particularly for private building, I am sure that the small number that will be available will not be enough. The Lands Department has already acquired another block adjacent to this area for subdivision, and I urge the Minister to get his officers to draw up a plan shortly for that to be subdivided.

On many occasions I have mentioned the channelling in the Chaffey irrigation area, and the Minister has indicated that the engineers are still studying the problem. I have stressed it on so many occasions because it is all bound up with the comprehensive drainage that has recently been installed; the internal drainage of the blocks is now being installed. It is no use installing a drainage system if the channels are still leaking and the plantings are being damaged by salt and seepage from those channels. I trust that at an early date the engineers will make available plans for concrete lining and for shortening the channels so that properties in the area will not further deteriorate.

Another matter that has been brought to my notice recently is the operation of the Transport Control Board in refusing to grant permits to transport produce of the Upper Murray by road to Adelaide. The Treasurer said recently that a review of the Transport Control Board Act was contemplated. I trust that when this legislation comes before Parliament due recognition will be given to factories in the Upper Murray so that they can have a fast transport service to bring their goods to Adelaide. I know members are aware of present trading conditions under which a big wholesale grocer in Adelaide will ring either Riverland Fruit Products Co-operative Limited or Berri Fruit Juices Co-operative Limited in the afternoon and order 4,000 cartons of a particular line of produce, which it wants delivered to the warehouse on the following morning. The railways cannot provide a good enough service, so the only alternative is to use road transport. The companies concerned have some vehicles at their disposal, but if they cannot provide one of these to make the delivery they must endeavour to get a permit for a carrier to deliver the goods, but the request is usually refused. When that happens, the sale is lost, because the goods are brought in from another State in the time stipulated.

Mr. Ryan: Where are they delivered?

Mr. CURREN: To the warehouse.

Mr. Ryan: That is damaging.

Mr. CURREN: It is damaging now. These conditions have applied to the detriment of Upper Murray companies over the last 12 months or so, as competition from interstate canning and juice factories has become keener. As public money has been invested in these companies under the Loans to Producers Act, I think the Government should protect its investment and the livelihood of the people concerned by taking a much more reasonable attitude to issuing permits. Another aspect that may have escaped the notice of the Government is that these companies are building up their fleets of trucks to take care of their urgent orders so that they will not miss out because of the competition from interstate companies. Eventually they will have fleets of trucks in which they will be carrying not only urgent orders but all their produce. The trucks will come down loaded, and they will take back other things needed by the factories, so the railways will miss out altogether.

Mr. Ryan: And under section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution we cannot stop them.

Mr. CURREN: No. A silly point about this is that any carrier can without a permit bring these goods down if they are to be consigned by boat to another State, yet if they are to be consigned overseas a permit cannot be obtained to carry them.

Mr. Clark: For once, section 92 comes in handy.

Mr. CURREN: Yes. This shows how stupid the law in this regard has become. From information supplied to me, I think it is time that there was a shake-up, not only in the operation of the board but in the personnel of the board. The board could be composed of persons more qualified to give decisions on matters relating to transport.

Recently a field day for pasture plants was held at Markaranka, in the Upper Murray area, at which there was a demonstration of what could be done in the area. Excellent results were achieved and several new varieties of pasture plants were demonstrated. One of these was a harbinger clover, which is now being grown for seed and which has proved an excellent variety for Murray soils. It is growing very well in this area, and it was demonstrated at a field day held recently at Wanbi that similar results had been achieved in that area.

I have no particular comments to make about the Budget, but when we are dealing with individual lines I shall mention matters I wish to raise on them. I support the adoption of the first line.

Mr. LANGLEY (Unley): With other honourable members, I congratulate the member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney) on his election, and pay tribute to the late Mr. Jenkins who was a genial fellow, well liked by everyone, and a keen bowler. I had the pleasure of playing with him in his rink during the Parliamentary Bowling Association's visit to Hobart. I was privileged to attend the Careers Exhibition at the Wayville Showground from July 8 to 13, at which parents and future tradesmen were shown details of the types of employment available. Its scope was wide and varied, and advice was offered by the Minister of Education to parents to choose wisely to suit the abilities and aptitudes of their children. Many people in industry have since said the maximum employment of apprentices is required if this State is to progress in all fields. The Minister of Labour and Industry has said that Government departments now employ 76 apprentices, and I hope that the departments will add to this number because at present the Public Buildings and the Engineering and Water Supply Departments and the Highways Department workshop are increasing the number of their personnel. The number of apprentices in the building trades is falling, and the Bricklayers' Union, with 1,400 members, has a mere 32 apprentices, or a ratio of 1 to 40. Since the advent of builders' subcontracting for most of the trades, there has been a noticeable effect on the indenturing of youths.

The bricklayers were the first to be affected and, if something is not done quickly, the same position will arise in other trades. Builders who several years ago had a work force of carpenters, bricklayers and plasterers covering much construction have now simply become organizers. They receive prices, causing tradesmen to join forces and battle it out to see who has the cheapest price. These people, unless in a substantial way like the builder and contractor used to be, have not the time to train apprentices, although an apprentice still gives value after a five-year period. One problem is that the quality of work deteriorates, and the Government should be concerned at this trend. Many large Government contracts are let to reputable builders, but much subcontracting is being done.

The subcontractors, although employers today, could be employees tomorrow under this system, and they cannot employ apprentices. Recently, a carpenter, while a subcontractor, had his own son apprenticed to himself. Later, he finished his contracts and became an employèe of another builder. As a result, he had to cancel his son's indentures of apprenticeship. This is one result of this form of subcontracting. If all trades had apprenticed the number of apprentices allowed by the respective awards over the years, the apprenticeship system would not be in the position it is in today, and there would be sufficient skilled tradesmen to meet present-day demands.

Recently, in company with the member for Semaphore, I visited Suneden House in Unley. This is a school for retarded children. The £2,600 subsidy provided in the Budget will benefit the teachers and students at this school. The staff, supervised by Miss Williams, works untiringly to ensure that the little ones get every opportunity. One of the biggest problems is the large waiting list, and further space is needed. I know the member for Burnside (Mrs. Steele) is greatly interested in this sphere of education, and that many organizations in other areas are providing as much as they can in this way. These organizations need much money, and the more the Government can subsidize these worthy institutions, the better. I support the first line.

Mr. RYAN (Port Adelaide): In rising to speak on the Budget, I am going to stick strictly to it. If anyone tells me I am off the rails, I shall come back on the track immediately. We have heard many complimentary remarks about the terrific job the Treasurer has done over, I believe, the last 22 years.

Mr. Jennings: They are from himself.

Mr. RYAN: Yes, and from those who want the Liberal and Country Party to stay on the Treasury benches during the next 22 years. Unfortunately, that is a false prediction. Perhaps they are realizing that when the Labor Party changes sides, the Leader in this Chamber will present a Budget on behalf of the people of this State. That is something long overdue, because most people have expressed the opinion that they want a Labor Government to deliver a Budget on their behalf, but they have been deprived of that by the attitude of this Government.

Despite the Government's presenting 22 Budgets, its members now realize that time is running out and that it cannot hold the reins of office much longer, because the people are

giving a larger vote to the Labor party. We therefore see a further attempt by the Government to create another type of gerrymander in this State. The Treasurer has often said that he will alter the electoral system, and no-one in this Chamber can deny the fact that if the Treasurer alters the system, it will be done for the express purpose of keeping the Liberal Government in power, although that is against the express wish of the people.

Mr. McKee: I doubt whether they are game to.

Mr. RYAN: The Treasurer will try. Someone said 25 years ago that the Government was not game to do it, when Sir Richard Butler said the Government intended to stay in office so that there would be stable Government. That state of affairs has been carried on. In speaking to the first line covering the Legislature, I condemn the absolute and utter contempt in which this Parliament is held by the Treasurer. Members of this Parliament, who are elected to carry out the duties of Parliamentarians, have no doubt read in Thursday morning's press of what is going to happen in this State. Members of the Government receive as much prior knowledge as members on this side do, and have to read in the paper details of the future programme of the State, delivered by the Treasurer on the Playford fantasy on Wednesday night. Last Wednesday week we saw the greatest contempt that has been offered to the public in any democratic State in the world, when the Treasurer announced a change in the electoral qualifications for another place. That is, those of us who saw him; thank goodness I did not. I see enough of the Treasurer every day without paying a fee to see him on Wednesday nights. Such a thing would not happen in any other Parliament in the world: the Treasurer in a Lower House announcing a change of electoral qualifications for another place. Would it not be right and proper for such an announcement to be made in the Chamber where the change is to be made?

Mr. Hall: They will get a vote.

Mr. RYAN: The honourable member will make sure that the people do not get the vote they are entitled to, otherwise it would be the end of the Liberal Party's reign in the Upper House. In South Australia there is a limited franchise for the Legislative Council. Can the honourable member tell me where else there is such a low electoral system as in South Australia? No other State or country would have such a low system.

Mr. Hall: The system is better in New South Wales, I suppose!

Mr. RYAN: In New South Wales the electors do not have a say for the Upper House, but the elected Parliament—and it is not elected on a gerrymandered system as here—

Mr. Hall: That is only your opinion.

Mr. RYAN: Thank goodness I have the right to an opinion. The honourable member has not that right. Wouldn't he like to be in a Party that meets weekly to decide what it can and will do and where the majority decision applies? His Party does not hold regular meetings. When the Minister of Lands was appointed what say did the honourable member have in that appointment? He read about it in the paper the next day the same as I did! Such an occurrence would not happen in the Australian Labor Party.

Mr. Hall: Quite so. It would be done elsewhere.

Mr. Shannon: Yes, in Grote Street.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Isn't the honourable member's conscience worrying him now?

Mr. Shannon: Not a bit: he hasn't one!

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. RYAN: Fancy the Minister of Agriculture talking about a conscience! He is not even a member of the team. Admittedly he is Minister of Agriculture, but how far does that take him? Absolutely nowhere! We are all familiar with the ridiculous set-up of our Cabinet. It is a Cabinet in name only. The Minister of Agriculture would not have as much say in the Cabinet as I have, and I am not even in it. He knows that. If he wants to know anything he has to go to the master. There is no doubt that the Treasurer is a dictator absolutely. The Minister of Agriculture reads in Thursday morning's press what is planned for the State. Like the Opposition he is held in absolute contempt by the Treasurer. I notice the member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell) laughing. Let him tell me the number of Party meetings that the Liberal and Country League has held since this Parliament was elected. It has held two only. One meeting was held last Wednesday at 12 noon and it concluded at 12.30. When the pig gets stuck it squeals: don't members opposite squeal?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! On what line is the honourable member speaking?

Mr. RYAN: I am referring to the Legislative Council. I am speaking of the utter contempt in which Parliament is held by the Treasurer.

Mr. Clark: Why don't you continue talking about the greasy pig?

Mr. RYAN: I cannot hold him, and neither can members opposite. They have no control over him, but they follow him blindfolded no matter what he says or does.

Mr. Clark: You cannot grab him by the tail!

Mr. RYAN: He hasn't one, unfortunately. Every Thursday morning the *Advertiser* plays up what the Treasurer announces on the Wednesday night. As a matter of fact when one reads the *Advertiser* one gains the impression that the speech the night before was nation-rocking, whereas most people, immediately they see the Treasurer's face, turn to another channel. We frequently see instances of the contempt in which the Treasurer holds Parliament. Recently he announced that certain concessions under the Maintenance Act would be implemented by the Children's Welfare Department, yet a Bill authorizing those concessions was still before this Chamber. He is not even concerned with what happens in Parliament. He is not concerned with the legislation we pass. He does things off his own bat. Can any member opposite truthfully say that they know what the Treasurer is going to announce on his Wednesday night broadcasts? The executive of the Labor Party is elected, but what happens in the Liberal and Country League Party? Members opposite do not get a vote. I could say much about what happens in the Liberal and Country League Party.

Mr. Shannon: Tell us about the pledge you had to sign when you were elected.

Mr. RYAN: I would sign it again.

Mr. Coumbe: You would sign it every time.

Mr. RYAN: Of course.

Mr. Shannon: You would sign away your liberty.

Mr. RYAN: The honourable member talks about liberty, but he has no liberty in this Parliament. The Treasurer treats the honourable member with the same contempt as he treats the rest of us.

Mr. Shannon: I did not sign my liberty away.

Mr. RYAN: The honourable member has none to sign away. In his weekly fantasy the Treasurer delivers the Government's policy. I would not object to his broadcasts out of session, but all members must surely object

to reading in Thursday morning's *Advertiser* what is to happen in this State and what the proceedings will be in this Parliament. I do not think the broadcasts would be so objectionable if they were truthful, but part of them springs from the Treasurer's imagination.

Mr. McKee: You get replies to questions over television.

Mr. RYAN: Yes. A question can be asked in Parliament on Wednesday afternoon and the reply can be obtained from the television programme on Wednesday night. That illustrates the contempt with which the Treasurer treats Parliament. The Treasurer has introduced his 22nd Budget. Members opposite fear that his next Budget will be his last before a Labor Party Budget is introduced in South Australia. For the benefit of the dear old gentleman—the member for Onkaparinga—who has used the expression “young and budding”—

Mr. Loveday: Is he still budding?

Mr. RYAN: —in today's *News* under the heading “TV School” the following appears:

A unique television “school” for 30 L.C.L. politicians and budding politicians will be held next weekend. It will be opened by the Premier, Sir Thomas Playford, at the North Adelaide studios of NWS-9.

Mr. Clark: Is he going to give a demonstration?

Mr. RYAN: The Treasurer will be an expert because he has learnt all the twists from Bob Menzies, who is the greatest twist expert in Australia today. The article continues:

NWS-9 programme manager, Mr. Rex Heading, would conduct the school, Mr. R. Y. Wilson, L.C.L. general secretary said today. “Something instructive like this has been badly lacking for a long time,” he said.

We do not know which day or weekend—probably some time when nobody is watching. The article continues:

Several Ministers hoped to attend. I hope that our illustrious friend, the Minister of Agriculture, is one of them. He will be photogenic on television.

Mr. Lawn: I must say they have their high-brow.

Mr. RYAN: The article continues:

We feel our members should become more fully conversant with this important medium to give a proper image to the public of the Party.

That will be the joke of the century—“image to the public of the Party.” They have only one image, and that is the dictator over there—the master. They are talking about the

“image of the Party”. If they said the “image of the Premier”, it would be more factual. The article concludes:

There has already been strong interest, particularly from younger men in the Party of this need.

That is how the Liberal and Country League will spend its time next weekend. I hope it enjoys it. The viewing public of South Australia will have inflicted upon it a severe strain by NWS-9, and I think they will transfer their viewing to either Channel 2 or Channel 7 when they see this on their screens.

The member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) spoke on the Budget and said what a wonderful Budget the Treasurer had presented. He did not say that the Treasurer would be here for the next 22 years, because he realizes how futile such a prophecy would be at this stage. Everyone can see the writing on the wall. If the Treasurer follows the example of Menzies and has a snap election, probably it will be his last. If he wants to go to the public on a snap election, we challenge him to do so. We are prepared at any time to take up the challenge of an election. If members opposite are sincere about determining the issue of which Party the public of this State wants to be the Government, we issue the challenge to them to go to the electors at any time and fight the issue.

Mr. Curren: And the sooner the better.

Mr. RYAN: Yes; and the sooner the people of this State will receive democratic justice.

Mr. Shannon: As they did in Stirling.

Mr. RYAN: I am glad the member for Onkaparinga said that about Stirling. Look at the predicament the Liberal Party was in as regards the member for Stirling! In the logical choice of a Liberal and Country League candidate for the Stirling by-election, the Liberals were in dire distress.

Mr. McAnaney: We got the man of our choice, and here he is!

Mr. Lawn: The district of Stirling has now given Parliament a knucklehead!

Mr. RYAN: If the Liberal and Country League had made the logical selection of a candidate for Stirling, they would have realized what had happened in the past with an Independent candidate: they would have realized that an Independent in the field against a Liberal and Country League candidate and an Australian Labor Party candidate would leave it open for an Independent to take the seat.

Mr. Shannon: He lost his deposit.

Mr. RYAN: I am not talking about the Independent on this occasion; I am talking about when Mr. McAnaney was an Independent candidate. When things are not the same they are different. The member for Onkaparinga should know that. When the Liberal and Country League candidate—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Port Adelaide.

Mr. RYAN: For the benefit of the member for Onkaparinga, who apparently is not conversant with the Budget, let me ask: does not the Budget provide under the Electoral Act for a disbursement of money for by-elections?

Mr. Lawn: I thought a book had been written about it.

Mr. Shannon: Do not talk about the member for Stirling being an Independent candidate.

Mr. RYAN: The member for Onkaparinga will wake up and find that he has been fast asleep. We shall see in the next State election an unendorsed Liberal and Country League candidate again. I was about to refer to something connected with the Public Works Committee but I note that its Chairman has just walked out. The member for Torrens, as I was saying when I was rudely interrupted, referred to the fact that the Treasurer had done a wonderful job with the Budget. I agree that the member would be one of the executive officials for back-scratching because on each and every occasion he indulges in an eulogy of the wonderful work done by the Treasurer.

Mr. McKee: He is chairman of the back-scratching committee!

Mr. RYAN: As to the forthcoming L.C.L. television programme no doubt it will start as "Suitable for adults" because adults could assess the value of that programme. Whereas now it is only "Suitable for adults", no doubt it will be classified later as "Not suitable for adults". The member for Torrens stated that he was strongly opposed to the expenditure of Government money on frills in the field of education. When I asked him what the frills were that he had referred to in his speech, I was given no example. When an honourable member makes a statement like that and criticizes Government expenditure, it is to be expected that he will give at least one example of where there has been bad and unnecessary expenditure of Government money. I do not think it is good or wise for a member of a Parliamentary committee to come in here and criticize the recommendations of that committee, which is

what the member for Torrens did. Practically every school built in South Australia has been referred by the Government to the Public Works Committee for its consideration and report to Parliament, and I know of no occasion when its reports have not been unanimous; yet a member of that committee criticizes in this Chamber the expenditure of Government money because of the so-called frills in schools. If a member of that committee disapproves of its report, he should say so at the time. The Chairman of that committee leaves the Chamber when we offer our constructive criticism.

Mr. Curren: The member for Torrens should have submitted a minority report.

Mr. RYAN: I have looked through the last four or five reports of that committee on schools, and not one mentions anything about unnecessary expenditure. The only report that referred to the subject of cost concerned a school in my district which I hope will be commenced within the next few months. The cost of that school was considerably reduced from that of a similar earlier school, but that had nothing to do with the provision of internal or external amenities. No suggestion has ever been made by the committee that the cost of schools today is excessive and that it should be reduced because of the frills provided.

In reply to my colleague, the member for Semaphore (Mr. Tapping), this afternoon the Treasurer said that an appointment of a Supreme Court judge was now being considered. I can give the Treasurer the answer now: if he desired to overcome one of the biggest objections opposite he could appoint the member for Mitcham (Mr. Millhouse) to the Supreme Court bench, and at least half his troubles would be over. I believe there is no requirement in the legislation that any appointee must be a Queen's Counsel. As Mr. Millhouse is a member of the legal fraternity, let us hope the Treasurer will relieve us of some of our anxieties and appoint Little Lord Fauntleroy as the next Supreme Court judge. He would get my support if he took that course. The honourable member could be a Tory there as well as here.

Mr. Lawn: If you keep on organizing the Party over there, the Liberal and Country League will be offering you a job as an organizer!

Mr. RYAN: I do not think I could ever get that low.

Mr. Lawn: That Party might offer it.

Mr. RYAN: I have heard of people lowering their flag, but I do not think I could ever get my principles down that low.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There are too many interjections. I ask the member for Adelaide to cease interjecting.

Mr. RYAN: Mr. Chairman, on page 3 of his report the Auditor-General states:

The South Australian Harbors Board's surplus of £111,000 was the lowest for seven years. The employment each year of more capital has not been accompanied by increased tonnages handled at ports operated by the board.

It is nice to know that when we offer some constructive criticism of the Government some responsible authority finally recognizes that the criticism is valid. When I first came into this Parliament I pointed out that the Harbors Board was employing capital to the benefit of a selected few and that the money was not being spent to the advantage of taxpayers. The Government over a long period of years has been supplying the necessary capital to introduce mechanization for the loading and unloading of ships, without passing on the additional cost of the implementation of such mechanization, and this becomes an advantage to the shipowners and a burden on taxpayers. Although I mentioned this in my earlier speech, nothing was done.

It is not true to say that there has been a falling off in the handling of cargo at some berths where mechanization has been introduced. In the year I quoted in that early speech, 246,248 tons of iron and steel products was handled at berths Nos. 13 and 14 at Port Adelaide, which were mechanized at the expense of South Australian taxpayers. The report of the Australian Stevedoring Industry Authority for 1961-62, the latest report available, stated that the tonnages of iron and steel products handled increased by more than 50 per cent to 321,088 tons. As far as I am aware, there has been no increase in the charges to shipowners for the use of the mechanization provided by the taxpayers of this State. If the capital is to be used and the taxpayers' money is to be provided, it becomes an obligation on the Government to see that it is reimbursed that capital expenditure.

Someone referred to the twist, and I maintain that in the Harbors Board there has been a terrific twist in the last 18 months or so. I was asked by appropriate organizations to raise the matter here and ask whether the Government intended to improve the passenger terminal at Outer Harbour. I was told that the Government did not intend to provide money for such a purpose because, in the words

of the Treasurer, the terminal was at least up to the standard of terminals overseas. It was said that the Treasurer had seen the Outer Harbour terminal and those elsewhere. Within 18 months the Government sent members of the Harbors Board to another State to inspect an improved passenger terminal in the hope that the Outer Harbour terminal could be similarly improved. It is peculiar that within 18 months our terminal has fallen from one of world standard to one of low standard.

I am sorry that the Minister of Education is not in the Chamber because I have a matter to bring forward. It has caused much public controversy in the last few months and the position should be rectified. It refers specifically to the grant to be made to the Adelaide University. The member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Shannon) was outspoken recently concerning the shortage of doctors in this State, and suggested how it could be overcome. Other members have made public statements about the serious shortage and have offered ways to remedy the position. I will read a letter that I have received from one of my constituents. He forcibly expresses his opinion about what is happening at the university. I do not think money should be spent for the purpose of lowering a standard, but it is apparent to many people that something is wrong at the university concerning examinations for the medical degree. The letter I have received stated:

With reference to the matter of fourth-year medical student failures I mentioned to you recently, I supply some details and thank you appreciatively for your sympathetic hearing, and leave it to you whether it merits questioning. I enclose a snip from the *Advertiser*. I do not know the exact contrasting Adelaide figures but they are about 125 candidates, 20 failures and 20 supplementaries; the lastnamed are given a second chance in the November examinations.

Letters of protest from parties appeared in the *Advertiser* on 3/9/63 and 6/9/63, and a further enlightening one on 13/9/63 (possibly 12/9/63 but more likely 13th).

This student class was described as above average the previous year. They wonder why such a high failure rate now. Students who failed say that one of the examiners was too severe and this seems to have substance in that five closely associated students conferred prior to one examination and hoped that they all encountered examiner A and not B. Three were examined by A and all passed, the other two had B and both failed. They feel that if they had had A they would at least have been granted supplementary examinations. It is claimed that B twists the questions confusingly.

In medicine, unlike most other curriculums, if you fail a year you do the whole course again and have to pass all subjects again,



even those passed as part of the course. Fourth-year students take three subjects and if they pass two subjects generally they are given a sup. in the other; in isolated cases they are given sups. in two subjects when the failure line was slender.

A comparison of Brisbane and Adelaide results does justify anxiety on the part of students in Adelaide. As two of them put it, we know the work but it was not put clearly to us and we met the wrong examiner, and if we were tested in a supplementary examination and met examiner A we would get a high pass. The following report from Brisbane appeared in the *Advertiser* of August 29 last:

Surely it is the happiest exam result in the annals of Queensland University. Of 121 fourth-year medical candidates not one failed.

Now I come to criticism offered by people who know what they are talking about. The *Advertiser* of September 3 contained the following letter to the Editor:

Your Brisbane letter records (29/8/63) that all 120 fourth-year medical students passed without one failure. What a credit to the university authorities of Brisbane and what fortunate candidates. Contrast this with Adelaide results of two weeks ago when a large number of candidates were failed outright despite the belief held by most of them that they had done sufficiently well to be passed or given supplementary examinations.

Some were given supplementary exams certainly, but about one in five was failed outright. In this exam students take three subjects, and it is known that most of the students failed in one particular subject because a zealous professor demanded more of students than has been demanded in previous years.

I am the uncle of a student who has failed, but feels that he knows the work. He feels that he has been unjustly treated, and so do his parents, as he loses his scholarship and his parents will now face paying fees of perhaps up to £1,000 for the next three years. Several students, I understand, have in desperation given up the course at this stage, after costing the Government enormous sums in what amounts to completely wasted teaching expense and a loss to the students. This is a plea to the university authorities to reconsider their recent harsh treatment of medical students; I could, if desired, supply the names of three medical (and eminent) men who would be pleased to sign a statutory declaration that the present standard has been unnecessarily placed too high, and that they consider that some of the students who were failed would have gone on successfully if passed.

All sorts of opinions have been expressed by prominent people about South Australia's serious shortage of medical men. The *Advertiser* of September 6 contained the following letter to the Editor:

When a student has successfully completed three years of the medical course it is certain that he is of at least average intelligence.

Therefore, when a more-than-average number of students fail in just one particular subject (3/9/63), it suggests that the manner in which that subject has been presented is at fault rather than that the students are not up to standard.

In such a case, as the consequences are so serious for most of the students concerned, would it not be feasible for their papers to be re-examined by someone who could reasonably assess whether they had an adequate knowledge of the subject?

Unfortunately, certain professors (not unnaturally, perhaps) tend to attach an importance to their own subject which is out or all proportions to its true significance in the training of a student. In these cases the enthusiastic professor over-loads the curriculum with work that the unfortunate student has to "cram" to the detriment of more important studies.

The letter to the Editor referred to by my constituent was in the *Advertiser* of September 13, and stated:

On the eve of my departure from Adelaide after a very pleasant holiday I would like to remark on recent letters concerning fourth-year medical students' examination failures. My comments might be of interest as I was a graduate of Sydney University and a teacher there before my marriage some years ago. I am mystified to know why there was such a severe failure rate in the fourth year, when medical students were already one year into clinical studies.

It is considered elementary in the Eastern States' universities that the severe years are third and sixth, and I thought this would also apply here. I feel there has been failure somewhere with one or more tutors not able competently to impart their knowledge. Either that, or imperfect examination of candidates. It does happen, unfortunately, with the poor students suffering. This is where a student council could help by meeting the administration and conferring sympathetically. As an impartial outsider I am disappointed to think that your university has had a failure rate in medicine this year more than twice that of any other sister university in Australia, but I will not believe that your young men and women are any less intelligent than those attending Brisbane University, where all 121 students passed this exam.

I had hoped that the Minister of Education would be present so that he could raise this matter with the University of Adelaide at the appropriate level if there was some merit in the criticisms offered. It does seem to be an anomaly that, in fourth year medicine, if a student fails, he should start the course afresh at great cost to his parents and continue it for another four years, although I could understand his being required to do the fourth year studies again. It should be possible to overcome this anomaly. I certainly do not advocate the lowering of standards, but it would appear from the comments of those who

are critical of this year's results that an investigation is needed. I bring the matter forward and I hope that the Minister of Education will take it up at an appropriate level and rectify any anomaly that may exist.

On page 4 of the Auditor-General's Report I find that the Railways Department has not only catered for fewer passengers in the last 12 months but has also reduced the number of passenger trips considerably. The report shows that 233,000 fewer passenger journeys were undertaken than in the previous year. That is amazing! One would think that if the department was looking for business it would run more rather than fewer passenger trips.

Mr. Hutchens: That has been the trend for years.

Mr. RYAN: Yes. The Government's policy should be to build up results from expenditure of Government moneys on the railways system but, in fact, it does the opposite: it encourages the department to cut down the services operating. How can any Government-operated organization get increased business if it cuts down the services operating? If the Railways Department is looking for business it should be offering services acceptable to the passengers and I can see no better time than the present for setting a target for improved services.

As we all know, parking in the city of Adelaide is at a very high peak today. This has been offered as an excuse: that people are using private transport and bringing others into the city rather than using public transport. With the private transport problems existing in the city I would expect that more people could be encouraged to use trains than are using them at present.

Although this matter has not received much publicity the people of this State are vitally concerned that a schoolchild, compelled to attend school to the age of 15, should be treated as an adult when travelling on public transport. I have previously referred to this anomaly on several occasions. I do not know whether it exists in other States. These pupils receive a concession when travelling to and from school but if they are otherwise required to use public transport (and as they are aged 15 and under they do not use motor cars) they are treated as adults. I believe this is one of the greatest anomalies existing in this State. It represents a financial imposition on parents, most of whom are unable to bear the burden of paying adult fares for children who are compelled to attend school. Children are not permitted to leave school on reaching the age

of 14. If school attendance after this age, up to 15 years, were voluntary there might be some justification, although I doubt it; but as the law compels children to attend school to the age of 15 it is anomalous that the Railways Department and the Municipal Tramways Trust should require them to pay the adult fares.

The Treasurer has said that the Government does not intend to intervene by raising this matter with the Railways Department and the M.T.T., because he does not believe in a system that would discourage people from using public transport. If this were not such a serious matter such a comment from the Treasurer would be absolutely laughable. To say that he will not intervene because he does not want the number of the travelling public on public transport to decrease, and to offer this as an excuse, is completely unreasonable. If children were allowed to travel at the reduced rate up to the age of 15, parents might be able, financially, to allow them to use public transport.

Mr. Nankivell: How do they go to school?

Mr. RYAN: They get a concession when travelling to and from school, but if they travel on public transport at other times they are treated as adults.

Mr. Nankivell: I have to pay these fares, too. I have a child aged 15.

Mr. RYAN: If the honourable member for Albert is in this category I hope he will raise this matter within his own Party on one of the rare occasions it meets. Perhaps some other Government members and Opposition members are in this category. Thousands of people outside this Chamber are vitally concerned about this matter, which one would have expected to be dealt with when the school-leaving age was raised. Incidentally, the public might have believed that the delay in raising the school leaving age was caused by this Parliament; however, the Government has had power for the last 14 years to raise it.

Mr. Nankivell: You say children travel to school by train or bus at concession rates but at weekends they do not get these rates. What do they travel on at weekends? Is the honourable member saying they travel on public transport?

Mr. Corcoran: He is saying it is an added burden on parents.

Mr. RYAN: I think I had better give the honourable member back his lifesaver! I now wish to speak about the method of conducting the recent by-elections for the districts of Yorke Peninsula and Stirling. I am not being

critical of the result; however, I believe that both members, if they knew what went on, would be the first to criticize the conduct of the by-elections. In the Yorke Peninsula by-election it was apparent that, as we had had the ridiculous position of there not being an election in that district for 22 years, the Electoral Department had got rusty, as no provisions required by the Act were made in many places. In one place, the polling place was an attachment to the local general store. It was the only store in the town.

Mr. Nankivell: A one-horse town, or a one-store town?

Mr. RYAN: It was a one-horse town; I think the member for Snowy River rode through it. The by-election was the only important thing they had seen in recent years. The local storekeeper was the presiding officer, and he had a table in the attachment to his store. Voters received ballot papers from him, then went over to the table, which was about two feet away, and filled out their ballot papers. No provision was made for secrecy. All the presiding officer had to do was look across the table to see which way the person voted.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: You don't think he would do it, do you?

Mr. RYAN: Not much! The Minister of Lands thinks he would not, but he would be surprised at what went on in some of these one-horse towns.

Mr. Nankivell: I said a one-shop town.

Mr. RYAN: It was not a Totalizator Agency Board town! On the same day, voting took place in the garage of a private property elsewhere in the district. When one voter went there, he had to ring a bell to get the presiding officer to come from his house a few yards away. The desk provided was an oil drum with a piece of wood on the top.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: That is all right; the bonnet of a Jeep does the same thing.

Mr. Coumbe: It was rough justice.

Mr. RYAN: And rough voting, too. I am not criticizing the vote.

Mr. Harding: Then you are satisfied with the result.

Mr. RYAN: I am not. Do not put words into my mouth. In one booth 31 votes were cast and—talk about a gerrymander!—they all went the same way.

Mr. Nankivell: They were all people with sense, weren't they?

Mr. Clark: He did not say which way they voted.

Mr. Nankivell: He would not be interested otherwise.

Mr. RYAN: The Government is in charge of administering electoral matters; it is obsolete in other ways, so naturally it is obsolete in electoral matters. In the Stirling by-election one polling place was a room 10ft. square in a private dwelling. When I went into the booth at the opening of the polling, I saw a ballot box on which no attempt had been made in the last 20 years to use the lock. The presiding officer took several minutes to adjust it. If he had not locked it with the key provided, I as scrutineer would not have allowed it to be used. It looked as if it had been used by Noah and had not been used since; the lock had not been turned for years. No provision was made for secrecy. However, a few votes went to the Labor Party in that booth. I think Government members will agree with me that on polling day the public should be given the necessary facilities as required by the Act. In this booth, a ballot paper was given to each voter, who had to fill it out within four feet of the presiding officer, who could see how each elector voted.

Mr. Nankivell: What were you doing—watching?

Mr. RYAN: I was a scrutineer. I had a perfect legal right to be there and, if the honourable member were conversant with the requirements of the Act, he would know that it was necessary on occasions for scrutineers to go into polling booths to see what went on. At the Victor Harbour Town Hall, which was the main polling booth in the Stirling by-election, electors had to cast their votes in cubicles made from old packing cases nailed together with rusty nails. I am not criticizing the member for Stirling for this; I am criticizing the Electoral Department. They were the cubicles supplied by the Electoral Department at the Victor Harbour Town Hall. In 1899 or 1900 we would expect something like that. On the day of a general election with many polling places throughout the State, we could expect a shortage of equipment. On the day of the Yorke Peninsula by-election no other election took place in this State; when the Stirling by-election was held a similar set of circumstances existed. If the Act had to be followed on those occasions, there would be nothing wrong with the Electoral Department requisitioning for the cubicles that are used in the metropolitan area to be used in the Stirling and Yorke Peninsula Districts. I hope this criticism is heeded by the responsible Minister, so that some alteration may be made to a system that allows polling booths in private houses in small one-horse towns with

no provision for secrecy of ballot. Perhaps this constructive criticism will result in action by the Minister to alter these archaic conditions.

Mr. Riches: Would those polling places be polling places also during a Commonwealth election?

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: They probably would be.

Mr. Ryan: That is true. The Victor Harbour Town Hall would probably be, but I do not know about private houses in the Yorke Peninsula District. I do not think the Commonwealth Act would allow a polling booth in a garage on a private farm. I do not know whether the place I mentioned in Stirling would be used in a Commonwealth election.

Mr. McAnaney: I think it is.

Mr. RYAN: I hope that the matter is brought to the notice of the Commonwealth authorities. If the same circumstances apply under the Commonwealth Act then it is time this matter was considered and improvements made. We have the necessary machinery to handle this in a proper and correct manner, and no-one wants those archaic conditions when polling takes place. Time is running out and, if Government members do not already know it, I point out that it is only seven or eight weeks before we shall once again face a Commonwealth election. It is amazing how a Liberal Government runs for cover whenever there is any trouble. The Auditor-General's Report refers to the payment of rent for Government-owned houses, and at page 5 it states:

Following these reviews, a decision was made to give effect to the recommended increases over a period of three years, viz., one-third of the increase to be applied on the first days of July, 1963, 1964 and 1965. Prior to the above, the last review of rents was made for departments under the Public Service Board in 1957, and for the railways in 1954. In the intervening period, generally rents were adjusted only in those cases where additions, etc., had been made to houses.

Let us cast our minds back to the opening day of this session when the Government announced that it intended to bring in a flat rate of increase in the rent of all Government-owned houses irrespective of which department controlled them. On that occasion, the Treasurer announced that the Government was making the increase as from that date to be paid forthwith. The Opposition expressed concern at this announcement, and now we find in the Auditor-General's Report that the recommendation as submitted is being adopted by the various departments. If

was only because of the Opposition's pressure that the recommendation as contained in the Auditor-General's Report has been implemented, because it was pointed out that the increases were absolutely unjust and unwarranted. The Government once again backed down on its policy owing to the Opposition's pressure and that is why the period of three years is stipulated in the report. There is nothing to show that it was the Government's policy at first for householders to pay a flat rate of weekly rental that included the increase.

Many Government members have referred to the number of sittings of Parliament, and all Opposition members have done so. The sittings are too few, so that the government and destiny of this State is left in the hands of a bureaucratic Cabinet to administer in the Parliamentary recess. Now we find that we can only meet in accordance with the Treasurer's wishes. Apparently no-one else has any say when this Parliament shall meet, not even Cabinet members. If Parliament met more frequently anomalies that become apparent in legislation could be rectified. If it does not meet we have no opportunity of criticizing the Government on important matters. No doubt this plea will fall on deaf ears but I am sure I express the wish of every member of this Chamber that the House of Assembly should meet more often to discuss the important and necessary affairs of State.

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

Mr. RYAN: Unfortunately all good things come to an end. This could be said of many things, including my speech. It could also refer to the L.C.L. Government. It may be coming to an end.

Mr. Jennings: I thought you were talking about good things!

Mr. RYAN: Page 2 of tonight's *News* refers to the L.C.L. television school. I was hoping that the Treasurer would take heed of the announcement on page 1, particularly as he usually takes notice of his colleagues in the Commonwealth Parliament. Menzies fell into the trap of announcing a Commonwealth election. There is no doubt that on November 30 the Menzies regime will end; and if the Playford Government followed the Commonwealth's lead South Australia would see the end of the Playford regime. The Labor Party would be prepared to accept an offer of a snap election. However, the issue should be decided before the Treasurer tries to further gerrymander the State by introducing electoral reform based on the recommendations of a commission that took evidence from one

political Party only, the L.C.L. It would be rather peculiar if the Treasurer submitted legislation for members to consider—and I have a personal interest in such legislation—based on L.C.L. evidence. Although I do not agree with the Treasurer's opinion of his television programme on Wednesday nights—I think it is the worst programme on television—he could improve it by making a nation-rocking statement instead of issuing tiddly-bit information.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: I will see what I can do for the honourable member!

Mr. RYAN: If tomorrow night the Treasurer makes an announcement of nation-rocking importance—

Mr. Lawn: A State election on November 30 to synchronize with the Commonwealth election?

Mr. RYAN: It would be difficult to have two elections on the one day. However, it will be all right with me if the Treasurer decides to hold an election the week before or the week after the Commonwealth election.

Mr. Lawn: A Christmas present?

Mr. RYAN: The greatest Christmas present the Treasurer could give us would be to announce an election before Christmas so that the first Labor Government for 30 years could be elected. Of course, no-one would be more disappointed than the Minister of Works who would then be a back bencher in the Opposition. It would be hard for him to take.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: What a present!

Mr. RYAN: The Government has done everything possible by fair and unfair means over the last 30 years to put every possible obstacle in the way of the Labor Party's becoming the Government in South Australia. The Liberal Party—whether it be a dictatorship or any other form of tyranny—has done everything possible to thwart the wishes of the people of this State who have clearly indicated a desire for the Labor Party to govern. The Liberal Party realizes that whilst it has governed for 30 years against the will of the people, when a Labor Party is elected the Liberal Party will be in opposition for more than 30 years.

Mr. Harding: Tell us about the unemployment, will you?

Mr. RYAN: As his swan song the Honourable member says, "Tell us about unemployment". Did the Labor Government have unemployment when it was in power in the Commonwealth Parliament until its defeat in 1949? Did not Mr. Gerard, in his dual capacity as President of the L.C.L. and South

Australian representative on the Federal Executive of the L.C.L. and Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, say that the people of Australia would have to get used to a policy that inflicts upon them a percentage of unemployed persons?

Mr. Lawn: The member for Victoria goofed when he asked that.

Mr. RYAN: Mr. Gerard is one of the sleeping partners of the L.C.L. who comes here to see that members do not kick over the traces. He is a representative on the Federal Executive of the L.C.L., yet members opposite claim that they are not subjected to domination from the Federal body. The Liberal Party has also appointed a secretariat which feeds back policy to the States. The member for Victoria is a member of the Party that accepts a policy whereby employers can select labour by having unemployed waiting outside factory gates. No Party has a better record in the eyes of the working people of Australia than the Australian Labor Party which created a policy of full employment. The L.C.L. does not want full employment; it wants a policy whereby we always have unemployed. The member for Victoria has the audacity to ask me, a member of the Labor Party, about unemployment. Unemployment was created by the L.C.L. Does the member for Victoria regard unemployment as a joke? An unemployed man's greatest wish is for the opportunity of employment. No man wants to be unemployed and no man wants a Government that implements a policy of unemployment. When the Treasurer announces a snap election for South Australia, the Labor Party will go into the district of Victoria to ensure that it returns a Labor member. No-one can tell the member for Victoria that it will happen: no-one knows better than the Liberal and Country League that that will happen. I tell the member for Victoria that the Labor Party, as a Government, will implement its policy of decentralization in seats that are at present held by the Liberal and Country League. My colleagues and I stated in the Stirling by-election campaign that one of the things that the people of Stirling desired and hoped to see in the future was industry created in seats like Stirling, considered blue-ribbon seats of the Liberals.

Mr. Lawn: Are they likely to get any industry there?

Mr. RYAN: Not while the present Government is in office. There is no possibility of the Government committing political suicide by creating industry in the blue-ribbon Liberal

seats. One thing brought home to the members of the Opposition when they participated in the Stirling by-election campaign was the lack of industry in such seats as Stirling. If the present member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney) is sincere on behalf of the people who elected him on September 28 he will leave no stone unturned to see that their wishes are met by inducing the Government to create industry in that district so that the people there will see their teenage children on leaving school having a chance to work there and enjoy local employment rather than being sent to the city, where all the industry is created.

Mr. Jennings: Now you are asking the honourable member to commit suicide.

Mr. RYAN: Some of the new members who have come into Parliament have realized that some of the statements made by members on this side are not wild in their facts, that, whilst before an election the members opposite say, "We will do this and that and make people sit up and take notice", and will even demand that the Government set up industry in their districts, they find that when they enter this Chamber they are given a number and, when their number comes out of the lottery box, that is when they speak; they speak when they are told to speak. Once again I say to the Treasurer that, if he likes to follow a similar course of action to that decided upon by the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, we shall welcome the challenge. There is no doubt about why the Commonwealth Government decided on an election for November 30, the reason being that the members of the Government fear the adverse publicity they will receive when the result of a British general election is known. Even the Conservative press is admitting today that the next Prime Minister in Britain will be Mr. Harold Wilson.

Mr. Lawn: Also, many schoolchildren will be leaving school at Christmas and will have no jobs to go to.

Mr. RYAN: Yes; and they and their parents realize that. That is one reason why the Commonwealth Government has decided to have an election before that happens.

Mr. Shannon: Has the honourable member heard of the quip that there have been nothing but Harolds since 1066 in Britain?

Mr. RYAN: That is true. Harold Macmillan will decide what he will do, and he will be followed by Harold Wilson. The Conservative Party itself and the Tory press—

Mr. Lawn: If Sir Robert Menzies is defeated, probably Harold Holt will be the next leader.

Mr. RYAN: The member for Onkaparinga talks about the United Kingdom, but the United Kingdom is not Australia. We have not had a "Harold" in the Prime Ministership for—I cannot go back to 1066 or before but we have not had one.

Mr. Heaslip: That was before the Labor Party was formed.

Mr. RYAN: In conclusion, I want to say that this afternoon I made some constructive criticism of the grants to Adelaide University in the absence of the Minister of Education (Sir Baden Pattinson). I quoted a number of criticisms that were levelled at the recently conducted medical examinations as far as they affected fourth-year students and their medical degrees.

The Hon. Sir Baden Pattinson: I shall read it with great interest.

Mr. RYAN: I raised these points in the interests of those people vitally concerned and I hope that you, Sir, as Minister of Education, will take it as constructive criticism so that the matter can be taken up with the university authorities. Those students who have reached the fourth-year examinations will not take it lightly when offered criticism, and the criticism has come from the parents. I did not raise this politically; I raised it purely and simply to bring it to the notice of the Minister of Education. On occasions like this I try to leave politics out of it. The only time I bring them in is about by-election time. If the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) wants to be sincere, let him use his persuasive powers to get the Treasurer to go to the poll to see which Party will form the Government of this State. It is all very well to go about with your tongue in your cheek, saying this and that. The honourable member's record has not been too good, when one looks at it.

Mr. Heaslip: The people keep putting us back, don't they?

Mr. RYAN: By a vote of 33 per cent! How absurd can one get! If the honourable member had any spark of decency or reason in him, instead of saying "They put us back", he would say, "33 per cent put us back." Can the man from Snowy River tell me of any other Government in the world outside the Iron Curtain that has been elected to govern by 33 per cent of the electors? Can he tell me of any Opposition, once again outside the Iron Curtain, that has been elected by 56 per cent of the electors? It happens nowhere in the world but here. The member for Snowy River—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the honourable member to refer to the member for Rocky River by his correct title.

Mr. RYAN: Rocky River: the contour of the river slowly alters, and so will the political representation, we hope, in the future. He is one of those who hope that they will force through this Parliament the Constitution Act Amendment Bill, the effect of which will be that members opposite will not need 33 per cent of the votes to get back into office: they will need only about 27 per cent. The honourable member says, "They have put us back." Members opposite have never been put back by the majority of the electors of this State, except on one occasion, in the last 20 years. They even gerrymander their pre-selection. The amazing thing is that they hold an annual convention (it is held in show week) when they decide certain things and the Treasurer says, "I will decide what our policy will be," and he announces it on television on Wednesday night. It may be a policy to abolish the Prices Commissioner's office. They call that democracy when they go in secrecy and decide upon a certain policy; then they come back and the boss says, "Either you accept my policy or you will be out of office." What do they do? They follow the dictates of Sir Thomas because they realize that they must give their allegiance to the public image that the Treasurer creates.

Mr. Lawn: They would be sunk without the master.

Mr. RYAN: The *News* misrepresented the position when it referred to the image of the Party; there is only one image—Sir Thomas.

Mr. Shannon: What would you pay for him?

Mr. RYAN: We would not have him as a gift. Talk about buying members! Have a look at the latest recruit they bought. Talk about buying a pig in a bag. Members opposite talk of buying people, but they said to the member for Ridley, "You support us, and we will give you immunity at the next State election." The sooner we get down to dollars and cents the better, because the Party opposite has outgrown the pounds, shillings and pence system, and has made it corrupt even to think of it.

Mr. Lawn: Can you understand Farmers Union and Bulk Handling becoming bed-fellows?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member must address the Chair.

Mr. RYAN: I do not mind doing that on occasions.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member will address the Chair.

Mr. RYAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Let me say in conclusion that the sooner the people of this State are allowed to decide for themselves when and how they want a representative and democratically-elected Government—something that has not happened in the past—the better it will be. We issue the challenge to the Government, and if it has any political decency it will go to the electors and let them decide the issue, and we will abide by the judge's decision.

Mr. RICHES (Stuart): I do not propose to keep the Committee very long. I have listened with much interest to the addresses that have been delivered in this debate, and probably I will refer to one or two of them as we proceed. I should like to comment on the speech of the honourable member who has just resumed his seat, and say that I believe he did a service to the State when he brought to the notice of the Minister of Education the situation that has developed concerning the fourth year examinations for the medical course. I want the Minister to know that the remarks of the honourable member in that regard have my full endorsement, and I believe they have the endorsement of most members on this side. I consider that a case has been made out for a complete investigation of the situation, because this matter is of the utmost importance to the well-being of the people of this State.

I join in welcoming the new member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney). I cannot add much to what has been said, but I consider that the honourable member will find here an avenue in which he can serve his people and get much satisfaction from so doing. I think he knows that he is following in the footsteps of a man who was highly respected. Just before I left for overseas one of the last men I met was the late Mr. Jenkins, who gave me a letter of introduction to his brother in the Scilly Isles in the hope that I might be able to find a day to go over and see that part of the world. Although that was not to be, I appreciated very much the thoughtfulness of the late member, and I believe that was typical of the friendship and the thought that he had for his colleagues.

Speaking of my trip overseas reminds me that I owe a debt of gratitude to this Parliament for the leave that it granted me. I want to acknowledge that debt and to express my thanks. I wish also to thank my colleagues and members opposite for their expressions of goodwill on my departure and for

their hand of welcome on my return, and in particular I would like to thank the members for Whyalla and Port Pirie, who went to no little trouble to look after some individual requests that members have to deal with in their districts.

Mr. Ryan: That is the spirit of co-operation that exists on the Opposition side.

Mr. RICHES: I acknowledge that. I suppose that one in the circumstances that I find myself in at present is sorely tempted to give a discourse on what he saw whilst away. Although I shall not do that, I should like to make one or two comments. This was a trip that I had looked forward to all my life, and this was the first opportunity that I had of ever leaving the shores of Australia, of seeing any other part of the world, and of gaining some insight of the way other people live. The trip was also a wish of my wife, and it was a wonderful experience for us in many respects. For instance, it was the first time in our 30 years of married life that we had been able to have five months together without a break. I found that that was not a bad experience; and I am all in favour of it.

As we journeyed we wondered, with the accent on the "wonder". I came back, not with a lot of answers but convinced that there was much truth in what Mark Twain once said—that when he was 14 years of age he was amazed at the ignorance of his old man; when he was 21 he was amazed how much his old man had learned in those seven years. Thinking of that, I admit that I came back knowing a lot less than I did before I went away, but on the other hand I consider that my education has been improved immensely. It was a thrill for us not only to cross the lands and not only to have our horizons widened geographically but, as we were privileged to go into the Cairo museum and the Athens museum, to take an excursion back into time, and perhaps in some of the other places that I visited at the end of the trip to have a glimpse into the future or what might be the future of this country.

It was a privilege to see how other people conduct elections. We were in Brindisi the day before the Italian elections, and I was impressed with the fairness of the conduct of those elections. We were in Stratford-on-Avon during the by-election following the resignation of Mr. Profumo; it was my privilege to attend the House of Commons during that crisis in the British Parliament, and also to hear the debates on the famous Beeching Report, which arose as the result of a tendency

that we find developing in this country. It was a privilege to attend a Labor rally at Llanudno in North Wales; I went along there to see how they did things in that part of the world. My impression is that the people of England are more keenly politically minded and that they take politics much more seriously than do the people of this country. The town hall at which this rally was held was full. The rally was addressed by Mr. Gunther, who probably will be the Minister of Industry in the next Labor Cabinet, and his address could have been delivered with just as much relevance in the town hall of Adelaide as it was at that town hall over there, because those people dealt with the same problems that confront us. They dealt with the problem of automation in industry and of the necessity for men who have long been trained at a given calling to find employment in some other way of life when machines took over. It dealt with a problem that many of our people face, because young people must leave home to seek secondary education and then satisfactory employment. It was said that 26,000 young people in the Old Country were unable to enter a university, with a consequent wastage of youth. At the same time it was pointed out that such a wastage was not seen in Germany, Russia and some other countries. It was felt that the United Kingdom could not afford to have one.

One thing that pleased me was the standard of the political life in the Old Country, particularly during the period of the Profumo scandal. It was a trying period for all people who believe in the Parliamentary system of government. In France we saw newspapers, but I could not read them. I saw yellow rags displayed on news stalls with a large amount of red ink on them. I could make out the words, Philip, Elizabeth, Queen Mother, Prince Charles, Profumo and Dr. Ward, and it appeared that all of them were involved in the one scandal. I think it was all done with the idea of writing down the British system of government. When I went to the House of Commons and talked with members of the Opposition I discovered that they were keenly interested in giving everything they had towards lifting the standard. I found a feeling of sincere regret about what had happened and there was a determination not to make political capital out of it, and they did no do so in the by-election at Stratford-on-Avon. I think that was to their credit. They felt that the people who believed in democracy should see that democracy worked, was clean,



and that the way of government commended itself to all peoples of the world. There was a belief that there was no future for the world under a series of dictatorships. When we think of it, nations close to Australia are emerging into independence, and not one of them has accepted the democratic way of life.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: It takes a long time to acquire that.

Mr. RICHES: I said that we had been to Athens and had seen what we were told was the place where democracy was born. In Scandinavia we were told how much they appreciated democracy, but in France they have got away from it. We are not sure about the politics of Greece. We are convinced that those who believe in democratic elections and government by consent must make democracy work. We must present a better image than was being presented when I was there. We had scandals in the Old Country, race riots in America, and in Russia the glorification of women because of the sending of a woman into space. The members of the Labor Party with whom I spoke were determined that they would do nothing to break down democracy. They wanted to lift it, and that gave me much pleasure. That sort of thing is good for us. If we believe in democracy we must see that it works and that the will of the people prevails, whether we like it or not. There is something real for the Government to take to heart.

The member for Port Adelaide's suggestion should not be taken lightly. He suggested that in South Australia we had reached the stage when it would be a good thing if the people were able to express at a poll the Government they desired rather than have it decided on the floor of this Chamber, as was done last year. If we are to have a Commonwealth election on November 30 every argument the Prime Minister can put forward can apply with equal force to the political situation in this State. There is room for serious thought if we really believe in democracy, and we often claim that we do.

The Treasurer has introduced his 25th consecutive Budget. That is a personal record of which he is entitled to be proud, and I am prepared to join the back-slapping committee. He has been able to hold the position of Leader of his Party for a long time and has introduced 25 Budgets. I do not hold with the method by which the office has been retained. If the Government had not been retained in office that twenty-fifth consecutive Budget would not have been possible. The way

in which the Government has stayed in office does not give much comfort to the thinking populace. Thirty years have elapsed since I first came here. The member for Onkaparinga will get as little satisfaction as I do when he looks at some of the photographs around Parliament House, and realizes that from those days only four members are left. It indicates that time is not on the side of some of us.

In those days there were 46 members and we had just had a Labor Government. Action was taken immediately to alter the machinery so that South Australia could never have another Labor Government. The first move was to extend by two years the life of Parliament to five years. That is how some people were prepared to throw the machinery out of gear. During the five-year Parliament another move was made. When the Labor Government was in office it wanted to do many things in the interests of the people and often had to do it by regulations. The Government did not command a majority in the Upper House, but regulations could be gazetted. They held the force of law until disallowed by Parliament. About the only thing the Labor Government could do under the circumstances was to use regulations. That position was altered and the Treasurer (who was not Treasurer then) was responsible for the legislation that set up the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation. The law was altered to curtail the powers of any Government; even though it knew it had a mandate from the people and believed that what it was doing was in the interests of good government, the power to make regulations was largely whittled away.

Then the same Parliament set up an electoral commission as a result of which the number of members of Parliament was reduced from 46 to 39 and single districts were established. This seems to be the pattern that the Liberal Party is prepared to follow to make sure that, irrespective of the wishes of the people, it can remain in office. That is not making democracy work but, in so far as it goes against the expressed will of the people, it is in the face of democracy and is to be deplored.

The Treasurer told us that the Budget showed an increase in expenditure in 25 years from about £13,000,000 to about £103,000,000. He said that this reflected credit on the State and showed buoyancy in public finance. He drew much satisfaction from that fact. In so far as it shows growth and demonstrates

expansion of our services, I think it gives satisfaction to all of us, but one or two things call for comment. The first is that the relationship between £13,000,000 and £103,000,000 has to be looked at in the light of the changed value of money. Sir Robert Menzies' pound is worth so much less than the Chifley pound since he has been putting value back into it that the value of the pound has decreased by 3½ times! The alteration in the value of money is one of the things the Treasurer acknowledged as a reason for the increase in expenditure. There are other alterations; we have had a war, which has taught us several things. It has taught us that it is possible to establish instrumentalities, even industries, if we have the manpower and materials. If it is beyond the capacity of private enterprise, it is possible for a Government to undertake an industry. The Government now has a much wider field of operations than it had in 1939. A small expenditure for raising money for the Electricity Trust is mentioned in this Budget. In 1939 the trust did not exist; the supply of electricity was in the hands of a private undertaking.

Mr. Ryan: It is agreed that it is better now.

Mr. RICHES: I think it is to the good of the State; and I should like to see more of it. In this period, the Woods and Forests Department has progressed to the extent that this year almost £500,000 is being paid into Consolidated Revenue as a result of this Government enterprise. In the first Parliament in which I was a member there was a strong move, largely because the forests had been established by a Labor Government, to sell them. This asset would have passed out of existence and this sum would not have been on the Estimates this year if that had been allowed to take place.

This State has developed only because of an increase in its water supply. Without any doubt, the supply of water is a limiting factor. I believe the Engineering and Water Supply Department has done a good job but, as our population has increased to over 1,000,000 people, the demand for water has increased. In order to keep pace with the demand, expenditure has had to be increased. I believe this State has probably done a better job in providing reticulated water than has any other part of the world.

Mr. Shannon: Certainly it has done better than any other part of Australia.

Mr. RICHES: I think it has done better than any other part of the world, possibly

because it is one of the driest parts of the world. The development of our water supply and reticulation system stands to the credit of everyone responsible. This has involved a necessary expenditure, but it had to be incurred no matter which party was in Government. In saying this, I do not wish to detract in any way from the department.

Mr. Shannon: We have been well served by the Engineer-in-Chief.

Mr. RICHES: Exceptionally well served. When I looked around in the places I visited, I formed the opinion that Australia had nothing to be ashamed of in relation to services provided—railways, water supply or electricity. My impression was that we were right up to the front.

Before touching on one or two matters of special interest to my district, I shall make references to the speeches made by other members. The member for Frome (Mr. Casey) referred to the Industries Development Committee, saying that he had appeared before the committee to give evidence. In some cases members on this side of the House not only appeared personally to give evidence in support of cases submitted for consideration in relation to the establishment of industries in their districts but assisted in preparing the cases submitted. I think that, in every district we visited, the member for the district, irrespective of his Party, was present. You, Mr. Chairman, were present when the committee went into your district, and the Speaker was present in his district. Members generally took the work of the committee seriously. The member for Frome made a comment with which many members would agree. He said that industries had not been established in the country and that he thought the committee should be doing something about it. I know that is the opinion that is generally held, so I think it appropriate to put the work of the committee in its proper perspective. Parliament has not charged it with the responsibility or given it the authority to establish a single industry anywhere, nor has it given the committee any initiative at all. It has merely set up the committee to act as a kind of brake on the Treasurer in the same way as the Public Works Committee must make submissions to Parliament concerning projects for Government departments. The Industries Development Committee examines propositions put to it by private interests through the Treasurer. Anyone interested in establishing an industry in this State may, by applying to the Treasurer, expect to receive

(and many do receive) financial help, technical help, help in choosing the location of industries, in the erection of buildings, housing of employees and the provision of services by the Government. If the Treasurer is interested he may refer the matter to the committee; if he is not he says "no" and that is the end of it: nobody else knows about it.

Mr. Ryan: Has any industry been established as the result of a reference to the committee?

Mr. RICHES: Plenty have been. I will come to that. The Treasurer refers applications to the committee and its job is to protect the interests of Parliament and the public interest. If the committee agrees that the establishment of a business is in the interests of the State, has a reasonable chance of success, and will provide employment it can then recommend that the Treasurer be given authority to proceed. Sometimes the committee attaches conditions to its recommendations. I shall refer to such a case in a moment. The committee never receives a report on how a business gets on after the committee has submitted its recommendation. The committee has asked for such a report, but it has never got one. Because it deals with private applications the evidence given to the committee is treated in strictest confidence, as are its reports to the Treasurer.

Mr. Ryan: You say the Treasurer acts with the authority of the committee, but he also acts without its authority, doesn't he?

Mr. RICHES: Not that I know of. I believe businesses have been helped by the State Bank without reference to the Industries Development Committee but other machinery deals with that. If the committee says "no" the Treasurer has not the authority to proceed, but the committee cannot compel him to proceed even after it has presented a favourable report. Occasionally, when favourable reports have been made, the applicants have subsequently not gone on with the undertaking. The committee has never been told the reasons for this. There has been a breakdown in negotiations between the applicants and the Treasurer. The committee cannot initiate any inquiry and it cannot undertake, in any way, the establishment of an industry. Its purpose is merely to short-circuit the work of this Parliament, to keep confidential applications from persons interested in establishing industries, and to safeguard the interests of the public purse; instead of the Treasurer having a completely free hand in the matter he must get the approval of this committee.

This Budget contains an item of £200,000 in respect of an industry that was recommended for assistance and failed—Foster Clark (South Australia) Limited. The assistance was given to Foster Clark before it ever came to Australia (on the application of Brookers Limited) three weeks before the apricot harvest was due and when, without that industry, there would have been no market for apricots. Honourable members are aware of the great changes that take place in our eating habits. Apricots can be in demand in one period, at a discount in another, and later, with another change in eating habits, in demand again. When assistance was granted to Foster Clark apricots were in glut supply with nobody else to buy them. The committee was faced with making a quick decision to give the Treasurer authority to help Brookers. It had in mind the market for apricots, the employment of hundreds of people who would otherwise have been turned out of work, and the need for the industry to continue. The matter was then in the hands of the State Bank and it proceeded from there. It was not originally a full-scale inquiry by the Industries Development Committee and it would not have been an industry the committee would have established as such if those investigations had been started off by the committee in the first place.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: You will agree that the Government has clean hands over the Foster Clark incident?

Mr. RICHES: Yes, entirely clean. I am not being critical at this stage. I believe it would have been a bad thing if every step possible had not been taken in order to keep this industry going as long as it kept going. I do not think it would have been a bad thing if Foster Clark had received no help at all because I do not think it played the game. Industries have been established in various parts of South Australia at fairly regular intervals.

Mr. Ryan: Will the number of industries and their location be contained in the committee's report, or is that information confidential?

Mr. RICHES: That is not confidential information. It has been given from time to time.

Mr. Ryan: It is not given by the committee?

Mr. RICHES: No, that is not our function; our function is to report to the Treasurer. As a member of the Industries Development Committee I think I am entitled to tell the honourable member what industries have been

established and where. About 50 per cent of the industries at Elizabeth have been established with Government assistance. All the industries housed in Housing Trust buildings there have been investigated by the Industries Development Committee. There are smaller industries in various parts of the State but not nearly as many as I should like to see. I have expressed my opinion as forcibly as I can in Parliament previously: that the Industries Development Committee should be clothed with more power and have the right to initiate investigations. In addition to the work of investigating new industries, Parliament asked the committee to investigate ways and means of taking industries to the country.

Mr. Jennings: That is what the honourable member for Frome was referring to.

Mr. RICHES: Yes, and in the course of that inquiry the committee has visited every South Australian country town to which it was invited. When a town was visited people were asked to come along and freely state their ideas. There was nothing in camera about its investigations.

Mr. Ryan: Even the member representing the district?

Mr. RICHES: Yes, and the press was invited too. The inquiry was not confidential unless a particular witness asked that his evidence should be treated as confidential. If a witness expressed such a wish the committee offered to have regard to it but I cannot remember this being done in any case. The committee received submissions at every country town it visited, and called upon organizations like the Chamber of Manufactures, the Chamber of Commerce and other representatives of industry, some of whom attended and some refused to come. Although the committee asked for the authority to require witnesses to attend, Parliament refused the request.

Mr. Ryan: Parliament didn't. The Government did.

Mr. RICHES: The committee is drafting its final report, which should be available shortly. It will be lengthy, but will have noted all submissions placed before it at every place it visited. No submission has been treated lightly, and if I had my way the report would not yet be ready, as several submissions required fuller investigation than the committee was able to give them. For instance, the Speaker was personally interested in the preparation of a case for a meat works at Penola on similar lines to one operating at Wagga in New South Wales. It was not a

private undertaking, but a meat works managed by the municipality and financed by the Government on a long-term loan. I should like to have visited that undertaking, but the committee was not able to do that. The economics, as disclosed on a balance-sheet, were fully examined, and a report will be submitted accordingly. That is the way the committee has functioned.

I have much sympathy for the member for Frome and other members who have been asking why this report has not been tabled and what has been done about any concrete recommendations. I hope that the report will be satisfactory but I cannot disclose any information at this stage as it would not be proper. This is a committee of both Parties and is not a Government committee, and it appears that in the public mind its function are somewhat confused. I think this is the result of statements made that the committee has been clothed with the power to assist industry in the country or something like that, but it is not that kind of a committee. I think it should be, but it is not.

The member for Gouger took the Housing Trust to task when he said that it interfered in local government. I do not know to what he referred. If it was personal interference in the politics of local government then I agree with him. However, if it had not been for the Housing Trust undertaking the work of local government at Elizabeth, there would not be an Elizabeth. I make that statement in supporting a claim that I have often made, that the time is overdue for a complete overhaul of the Local Government Act and the relations existing between the Government and local government regarding functions and finance. I claim that nowhere in South Australia could a town be established under the present Local Government Act. Wherever a new settlement was being established some means have had to be found to get around the Act to make finance available over and above that which is available under the Act. Even at Whyalla, with its development, Parliament has had to amend the law to give the commission greater borrowing powers. At Woomera all local government functions have been taken over by the Commonwealth. If the people at Woomera had to provide the services that councils normally provide there would not be a Woomera. If the people of Elizabeth had to provide services as is done by other towns under the Local Government Act, there would not be an Elizabeth. The Housing Trust is almost a State instrumentality and an

example of how a State instrumentality could work. It can take into the financial pool the full sale price of land; when it builds a street of houses it reserves every third or fourth block for sale and the proceeds of the sale are taken into the pool, out of which it pays for local services. That finance is not available to ordinary local government authorities. The hotel at Elizabeth was sold after the town was developed, and the proceeds were placed into the pool to provide essential services. The trust built roads, established ovals and recreation grounds and footpaths, and provided many services that have to be provided by the means available to ordinary local government authorities. That is good. A complete examination of financing of local government is long overdue. I am not claiming that I have the answer, but in many places the burden falls on too few shoulders and the responsibility on too few people. I should like to see adult franchise at local government polls; and everyone responsible for running all the services of a local community, with everyone having an equal vote and accepting his or her share of the cost. That could not apply under the present Local Government Act. Councils have been asking for it for many years, but their pleas have apparently fallen on deaf ears. They have asked for conferences between the leaders of local government and the State and the Commonwealth Governments to reapportion the functions of the various parts of government and to rearrange the system of financing.

One important matter affecting my district is housing. I took at face value the Treasurer's statement that the Government would assist in housing construction for a minimum deposit of £50 with payments spread over a number of years. I thought that that was an undertaking that would surely apply wherever houses were needed and where suitable applicants could be obtained. I asked the Treasurer whether this scheme would be extended to the country, and he said that it would be as soon as the Government could do so. I believed that there would be a demand for it in my district, but wanted to make sure, and invited people, who were interested in being applicants under this scheme, to write to me. Over 60 people from Port Augusta wrote asking that the letter be treated as an application. The letters were handed to the Treasurer and to the Housing Trust, but all that they have received has been the offer, not of renting the Radium Hill houses that the trust had already arranged to erect for renting, but of being able to buy them on the deposit of a minimum of £50.

Would any member conscientiously recommend to a constituent the payment of £50 deposit on a purchase price of £3,200, with repayments spread over 30 years, for a Radium Hill house re-erected in his district? That is not the type of house I envisaged. I thought that the Government intended to have solid construction houses erected, or to make available some of the single unit houses the Housing Trust is now building. However, the scheme as originally announced was subsequently watered down. It was stated that the £50 deposit need not apply: that was a minimum deposit and the deposit could be any amount above £50. Then some limitation on age was applied. This all took place while I was away, and I am grateful to my colleague, the member for Whyalla (Mr. Loveday), for the way he handled this during my absence. Surely the present situation is not what members envisaged. I hope that where it is demonstrably apparent that houses are needed, such areas will be brought within a scheme to operate soon.

We have been told that the trust cannot consider the scheme for some areas because housing costs are more expensive in the country than in the city. If that is so, it behoves the Government to investigate the situation thoroughly because it is a burden country people have to bear, and the Government might well come to their aid. It is possible for Governments and other authorities to accept responsibility for housing people. In London and Glasgow fine apartment houses have been erected. These are called "council houses", not only because they are erected and managed by local councils but because rents are subsidized by councils. The occupants pay a reasonable rent, far below the rent that would be demanded from a person renting a comparable private house. I suggest that the Treasurer's undertaking should be honoured even if it costs the State money, because it would be a good investment.

The member for Port Adelaide (Mr. Ryan) and, I think, the member for Semaphore (Mr. Tapping) referred to the desirability of erecting a modern passenger terminal at Outer Harbour. One needs only to visit Western Australia and examine the magnificent passenger terminal at Fremantle to appreciate what it can mean.

Mr. Millhouse: Would our passenger terminal be used as much as the terminal in Western Australia?

Mr. RICHES: It probably would not be, but that is a matter that could be determined by the authority preparing the plans and the

body authorizing the construction. I thought that my colleagues' comments were valid. At every airport proper provisions exist for the comfort and convenience of travelling passengers. Why should not such facilities be provided for users of other transport? Associated with the standardization of the railway gauge, alterations will be made at Port Pirie Junction. I cannot understand why a modern passenger terminal cannot be established where passengers from all parts have to wait for trains for longer periods than passengers have to wait for planes at airports. It would certainly attract people to our road and railway transport systems. At present the passengers are treated not much better than cattle. I cannot think of another place where less regard is paid to the needs of the travelling public than at Port Pirie Junction. Public expenditure is incurred in providing facilities at airports and harbours, so why could not adequate facilities be provided in centres where rail and road transport services meet?

The member for Gouger (Mr. Hall) expressed fears of a 35-hour working week. I think most of his fears have been answered by my colleagues. He pleaded for enlightenment on the issue. By now he probably realizes that in Australia a working week is not shortened until a complete investigation has been made of all circumstances associated with an industry. No responsible court would grant a reduction in working hours until it was shown that by the installation of machinery it was desirable in the interests of the employees. It would have to be proved to the satisfaction of the court that the industry could afford a 35-hour week or any reduction in working hours, and that it would be in the national interest. If these things can be shown, what valid objection can there be to a 35-hour week? The honourable member must know that many people work a 35-hour week at present. However, because they are of different strata of society, that is accepted. One regret I have is that, with the mechanization that has taken place in the rural industries, although work has been made light, in many instances the hours of work have not been made shorter. The result, by and large, is that, instead of the burden becoming lighter, men have to have larger farms and have to milk more cows than they did before. Overall, work is lighter and easier than it used to be, but I do not think that the men who bear the heat and burden of the day in the production that takes place on our farms and in the country are reaping the full benefit that they might have by virtue

of the introduction of mechanization on the farms.

There are factories in which machinery is installed. Rightly or wrongly, the people who have been trained in the industries in which machines have been established feel that they have a right to share in the benefits that human-kind as a whole derives from the inventive genius of man and, in particular, from the installation of this machinery. The machine should not be for the profit of management only; the benefits of increased and better production should be distributed fairly amongst all sections of the community. Surely that is something to which we can all subscribe and which should not cause any undue worry to the member for Gouger (Mr. Hall) or any other member. It is a policy to which every member on this side subscribes wholeheartedly.

Mr. Hall: I cannot see that there is much automation in the brickmaking industry.

Mr. RICHES: There is a great deal of automation in the mechanical handling in brick-making compared with a few years ago. Housing is subject to subsidy in other parts of the world. There is no reason why it should not be here. If every other industry enjoys a 35-hour week and it is necessary that some people should work longer, I do not think they would work longer. That is not an insuperable matter for the economists to grapple with; I hold no fears in that regard.

Whilst I was away, I travelled as a tourist; I paid my own way everywhere. I travelled tourist class with the idea of seeing as much as I possibly could and of getting an understanding of the tourist industry, because I have always been firmly of the opinion that Australia has much to offer by way of development of the tourist industry, which is one of the most important industries in the world today. I am told that already in Australia the tourist industry is worth £250,000,000 a year, £27,000,000 of which is derived from oversea visitors. I did have one day in Los Angeles, and I went out to Disneyland.

Mr. Jennings: I thought we would come to that.

Mr. RICHES: I saw some comical characters out there, but nothing to compare with my colleague from Enfield.

Mr. Jennings: I expected that, too.

Mr. RICHES: These were the things that struck me about Disneyland. It is built well out from the city. I do not think anybody could be enticed to go to Los Angeles without seeing Disneyland, if he knew that he was

going to. Right out from Los Angeles, about 30 miles out, one passes through some oil wells and derricks, about the size of the Electricity Trust's powerline towers, and comes to Disneyland. I shall not describe it, but we were told by the driver that 4,000,000 people a year are attracted to Disneyland. I estimate that at least 10 dollars a person would be spent there, judging by what I had to pay for admission and to go into each section of Disneyland. Another 1½ dollars would be paid to get from Los Angeles to Disneyland and back. Then people would have to eat somewhere. People would be employed in making all the paraphernalia sold there, because there is a main street in Disneyland with quite well provided shops. So about 60,000,000 dollars a year is represented in that one enterprise, most of which is ploughed back into Disneyland. I think it will never stop growing.

That is what tourism can be worth. Without what has been placed there by the inventive genius of Disney and his associates, it has nothing whatever to offer that is not available here. I am not advocating that a Disneyland, or anything like it, should be established here. I think perhaps there is room for only one of them in the world, but I want to demonstrate how important tourism can be and what big business it is.

When we were in Italy we were told that Rome had not a single industry. There is a city of nearly 2,000,000 people, yet there is not a single industry in Rome. Italy as a nation depends largely on tourism for its existence. That is the first industry in Italy, above agriculture, steel-making, car-making and everything, which leads me to think that people are prepared to recognize that vacationing is an important part of our living and that the men engaged in making our vacations pleasurable are just as worthy of support in the economic structure as those who make luxury goods, flash motor cars or anything else in the luxury class. I may be biased—I do not know—but I think that for colour and presentation Australia has everything to offer that any other country has. People can spend a happy time here and can be enticed to come here if we go about the business properly and develop what Nature has provided to the state where people will be attracted to come. I am suggesting that it could be not on the scale I have mentioned but on a much bigger scale than is operating at present. In saying that, I am not detracting in any way from the Tourist

Bureau, which is doing excellent work. However, as a whole we are not paying enough attention to it.

It has been said that we cannot have tourism unless we have luxury hotels, but I do not believe that. From what I saw on the Continent I found that the people who were booking tours were not booking accommodation at the flash and expensive hotels, and that the people who were getting the big business were those who were offering touring at a reasonable price and arranging for people to be accommodated at clean and comfortable hotels without the frills. I have seen the Hilton hotels, including the one in London (at which it was reported Elizabeth Taylor was paying £250 a week) and the one on the Nile, but with all due respect to them I think they cater only for a small section of the people and do not attract any great number of tourists. We need to have our resorts developed as places that people can visit, and that can be done with imagination, if we as a people put our minds to it. I should like to see a bigger drive than we have hitherto made in the interests of the tourist industry. Mr. Chairman, you may have gathered by this stage that I support the first line.

Mr. McANANEY (Stirling): I rise to speak on the first line of the Budget. I consider that the first thing I must do is pay a tribute to the late member for Stirling, who was so well known for his friendly nature and admired for his devotion to his job. If I can do only half the job the late honourable member did I think I will be doing a good job indeed. I should like to thank honourable members for their kind words, which I particularly appreciated because they came from members on both sides of the Chamber. I should also like to thank the Clerk of the House (Mr. Combe), who met me on the first day at 10 o'clock in the morning and spent three hours showing me around the building and showing me the ropes; he did this in a very gracious manner.

The member for Adelaide (Mr. Lawn) made some comment about not knowing what faction I might belong to, but he overlooked the fact that the people of the race from which I come are always invincibly ourselves. When we are in an adopted land we fit in with the culture of that country, and for our numbers we have had more good politicians and leaders than any other country. I hope that in this place I can follow the traditions of those people and stay invincibly myself, which is something of importance in political life.

I congratulate the Treasurer and those responsible for the very comprehensive Financial Statement that has been presented. I also congratulate the Auditor-General on his very fine report and on the fact that it was made available on September 4, which I think is a very good record indeed. I cannot be too dogmatic on this because I am only a new member and have not yet closely studied the document, but I note that £88,000 was spent on the Audit Department, which presents such a very comprehensive report to this Parliament. I consider that a public accounts committee, which has been referred to by some members, could be of immense value to Parliament. I do not believe that it would be necessary to have accountants on that committee, as suggested by one member. There is a certain amount of common sense in examining reports, and as far as I can see, with my limited knowledge of Parliamentary procedure, a public accounts committee could be immensely valuable.

I did notice in the report that the Dental Hospital expenditure was £95,000 and its income £3,100. I understand that the charge to pull a tooth is only 2s., but even if one multiplied that by 30 the charge would be £3 a tooth, and a person with an inquiring mind would want to know why it was that much. Possibly this position arises because of the free dental services provided in the Education Department. I think there would be many occasions when a person with an inquiring mind would be of some value on such a committee. Another thing I noticed was that in the case of two schools of similar structure the expenditure on one school was twice the amount per student of the other. Admittedly, one had more students enrolled. Undoubtedly there is some reason for that, but there are some things to which a person with an inquiring mind would want to know the answer.

Certain comments were made about local government features that perhaps could be improved. Apparently these matters were mentioned a year ago, but so far nothing has been done. I think it was suggested that we want more uniformity in the accounts of councils, but I do not think that is the answer. I think possibly the district clerks are not required to pass a high enough examination. I noticed a year or so ago that 20 people sat for the examinations and nearly all of them passed, but what struck me was that quite a number of them were only 18 years of age and although they had passed the examination they could not take up appropriate positions

until they were 21. With the development in local government, and with costing of machinery so important, I consider that a higher educational standard could be set for district clerks, and then this difficulty in local government accounting could be solved. I also think that possibly local government auditors do not require the full qualifications that the auditor of a limited company requires, and I think that is another angle that could be looked into.

I support the member for Burnside (Mrs. Steele) regarding the need for a school for occupational therapy in this State. It seems extraordinary that people must go to another State in order to train as occupational therapists. Only last year my 16-year-old daughter told me she was about to start occupational therapy and that she and her friend intended setting up a flat in Sydney, and I had to dissuade her from that course. I think it is essential that a course in occupational therapy should be established in this State, because there is a great need for it in modern society.

In my district there has been much talk about the need for an industry, and I know that a certain section of the community would like to see an industry established. If anybody can pluck an industry out of the air I will do everything possible to have it established in my area even if, as might be suggested, I should lose the seat. I think it was the Leader of the Opposition who said that the young people had to leave Strathalbyn. At present I am advertising for a young person to work on my farm at standard award rates plus additional benefits, including a travelling allowance the minute he leaves my door, but I cannot get anybody to fill the position.

As mentioned by the member for Murray (Mr. Bywaters), I think irrigation must come into my district on a larger scale. However, until the actual need for that production is there I cannot see that anything more than a plan of development for the future is required. An area between the Bremer and the Angas ultimately must be earmarked for a full-scale irrigation scheme. At present hundreds if not thousands of acres are being developed by private industry at some profit. However, if members would look through the relevant statements they would see that the moment the Government brought in a big scheme on a pounds, shillings and pence basis there would be a loss to be carried by the taxpayer. It is very difficult to keep a rising population in our farming areas. Despite the tremendous development that has taken



place there over the past few years, it does not mean an increase in the working population. On my farm 20 per cent of the costs go in depreciation and 5 per cent in repairs. Whereas 20 years ago those items were small, I now keep two people directly employed in a factory. It is a problem to build up our country population. Anything that can be done to increase the progress in my area will have my support.

Another important matter is the cruelty to young calves at the Gepps Cross abattoirs. Our present system of auctioneering there is antiquated, and there must be an alternative way of selling the stock. The primary producers are working for it. I do not intend to go into the full ramifications, but it is a matter that must be considered. The prices fluctuations at the abattoirs at certain times are great, and the T.A.B. would have nothing on it. I do not intend to say more in this maiden speech, but I have given some indication of how I think on various problems. As long as I stay here I shall remain invincibly myself, and do the best for the community as a whole.

Mr. BURDON (Mount Gambier): This is my first Budget speech and I pay my respects to the late member for Stirling (Mr. Jenkins). I had the privilege of knowing him for about nine months and during that time I learned to appreciate his great qualities as a man. When I heard of his death I was deeply shocked. I congratulate the new member for Stirling and wish him well in this place. He follows a man who endeared himself to all members and to the people he represented. I hope that the new member will render the same service to the people of Stirling as his predecessor.

When a member speaks in a Budget debate he is expected to criticize the way in which the State is run or speak about items mentioned in the Estimates. Some members have said that the Treasurer has presented his twenty-fifth consecutive Budget, and, regardless of politics, I believe that is an achievement in itself. The population of South Australia is now more than 1,000,000 and for the first time in the history of the State the Budget figure exceeds £100,000,000. Over the last 20 years there has been a tremendous growth in South Australia. Some Government members claim that their occupancy of the Treasury benches has been solely responsible for it. The establishment of industries in this State during the war years was the result of action by a Labor Government and the development that has taken place since has been largely due to the number of migrants that have come here.

Much has been said about various Budget matters and when a member speaks towards the end of a debate there is not much left for him to mention. Some members have spoken at length about the problems of the State. The member for Port Adelaide (Mr. Ryan) referred to education. About 2.9 per cent of our national income is spent on it. Australia is fifteenth on the list of countries in education expenditure. During the Address in Reply debate I said that it was one of the most vital matters for any country. I repeat that we must have a greater share of the national income devoted to education. It is incumbent upon all States to press for more Commonwealth money to be spent on this matter. Anything that can be done to further the education of our young people will have my support.

I want now to speak about an industry in my area. In the South-East we are largely dependent upon the pine forests that were given a tremendous fillip in 1924 by the Gunn Labor Government. In the early 1930's we almost lost them when there was a move to sell them to private enterprise. Only at the last moment was the move defeated. Since that time we have seen a tremendous growth in the forests and in the milling industry. We have timber mills in the Districts of Victoria, Millicent and Mount Gambier, and they have all played a significant part in the growth that has taken place in those areas over the last 30 years. When we remember that Australia has about 550,000 acres of forest land, of which 165,000 are in South Australia, and mostly in the South-East, we realize how much Australia depends upon home-grown timber. Those timbers are being used in all forms of house construction, and most timber products, including paper pulp and cardboard, are made from them. There is no end to the uses to which the production of the South-Eastern forests can be put. The Conservator of Forests and his officers are to be congratulated for the part they are playing. In the last couple of years about 6,000 acres a year has been planted in the South-East, and I hope that these additional plantings will soon play a significant part in the establishment of a paper pulp industry. We look forward to this industry, which we know will be possible if there is continued planning.

I shall deal now with the railways, a subject which is vital to this State and which has been vital to the development of Australia. I was dismayed to note that in the last financial year 233,000 fewer people were carried as

passengers on suburban railways. There was a small increase in country travel; over £850,000 was earned on country passenger services in the last financial year. When the South-East railway system was broadened in 1954, modern facilities were promised. I travelled from Mount Gambier to Adelaide last night. Last week I travelled from Adelaide to Mount Gambier in an old car that was jointly owned by the South Australian and Victorian Railways. Although I did not look at the contents of the mattress, my guess was that the contents were not much better than straw. The promise of modern facilities has been neglected for the last 10 years, even though much has been said in Parliament and elsewhere about providing a better railway system for the South-East. There is a good daylight service with air-conditioned carriages, and I urge the Government to provide these carriages in future for all passengers who sit up on the night journey between Adelaide and Mount Gambier or intervening places. As the railways have played a vital part in the development of Australia, there will be a greater need for improvements in the future. I think these improvements will bring greater patronage, which in turn will bring about greater revenue to the State.

The States of Australia are tied to the Financial Agreement made with the Commonwealth Government in relation to a share of the money received by the Commonwealth from petrol taxation. I believe the full amount of this tax should be distributed; if it were, South Australia would be entitled to about £6,000,000 a year more for its roads. When the agreement expires on June 30 next, I hope the States will press for the whole of this taxation to be returned to them for use on highways.

Many members, particularly on this side, during this debate have mentioned the South Australian Housing Trust, which was originally set up to provide houses for the people of this State. It has now branched out into constructing churches, halls, factories and so on, but in that branching out I think it has exceeded the main purpose for which it was set up: providing houses at a low rate of interest for people unable to afford to buy their own houses. One criticism I make of the trust is that I do not agree with the principle of constructing double-unit houses. I consider that it will not cost the State much more to provide single-unit houses; I consider double-unit houses do not create the right environment. The construction of single-unit houses on a basis whereby people can purchase them on a

rental-purchase basis has much to commend it. I expected that by this time some of the £50-deposit purchase houses would have been constructed in the country, but that has not transpired. People who go into some country districts do not in the first instance decide whether or not they will remain there.

If a system of rental-purchase could be worked out whereby over two or three years, if these people decided to remain in the country, some part of the rent greater than the interest on the purchase money could be set aside to help towards a deposit, it would have much to commend it. When people go to the country, they should be given much consideration because, if they do not get the facilities provided in the city, there will be a continual drift to the city. This problem affects not only South Australia but every State in the Commonwealth. Country populations are diminishing, and while on Yorke Peninsula during the recent by-election, I discovered that fewer people were there than were there 20 years ago. The member for Stirling realizes that no significant changes have taken place for many years in his district. I can assure him that my Party's policy is the decentralization of industry, and if something can be done in his area by its efforts, it will be done, as will be endeavoured to be done in every country town in this State. Let us not consider the political side of the question, because industry must be decentralized to build up country areas. Only by encouraging people to go to the country can progress be achieved. I am proud of my association with my Party's policy of decentralization.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: Have you any ideas of how you would go about it? I would love to hear one. About a dozen members on that side have mentioned it, but no-one has suggested anything.

Mr. BURDON: The member for Stuart spoke of the Industries Development Committee's investigations in country towns, and no doubt many significant suggestions will result from those investigations. While essential services are not provided at a rate comparable with that in the city, people will not go to the country. Decentralization cannot be achieved unless country areas receive essential services at a cost comparable with those in city areas. I have frequently referred to country electricity charges. Practically every country water district in the State has shown a significant loss on its year's operations, except Mount Gambier, but I join with the member for Stuart in congratulating the Government on the

steps it has taken to provide water in this State. However, until some equality of charges operates between the country and the city for essential services, the problem of decentralization cannot be solved. Freight rates must also be considered, and concessions made to aid the establishment of country industries. I hope the Labor Party will be afforded the opportunity as a Government of implementing its policy of decentralization. During the Address in Reply debate I referred

to the activities of the Motor Vehicles Department which made a profit of £4,500,000 last year. The Government should seriously consider establishing a branch of this department in Mount Gambier, as this would also aid decentralization. I support the first line.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 9.40 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, October 16, at 2 p.m.