

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Tuesday, October 22, 1963.

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

**QUESTIONS.****EMPTY FLAGONS.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I have been informed that it is the intention of the South Australian Food Industry Consultative Council not to accept the return of empty flagons that are normally used for vinegar or cordials on or after Wednesday, October 23. I am told that this council comprises representatives of some supermarket organizations and other big retailers. Has this matter been brought to the Premier's notice, and is there any way in which the normal trade practice of accepting the return of empty flagons can be continued in the interests of the public?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This matter has not been brought specifically to my notice, although this morning I heard an announcement about it in the Australian Broadcasting Commission's news service. I think that this matter could be referred to the Prices Commissioner, who might be able to make recommendations to deal with it. One or two factors that may not have a bearing on the present question are associated with this matter: I understand that a trader would not want to accept a flagon that had been used for storing kerosene or a similar liquid. If he did he would then have the problem of properly cleaning it before it could be re-used. I can understand traders objecting to taking other traders' empty flagons. Extra work is probably involved in returning the flagons, and I can understand a trader objecting to handling an empty flagon when he did not have the initial sale. However, I will refer the matter to the Prices Commissioner who will no doubt be able to make adequate arrangements. I will inform the Leader of his recommendations.

**NURIOOTPA BRIDGE.**

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Has the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Roads, a reply to the question I asked last week concerning the proposed bridge over the North Para River at Nuriootpa?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, informs me that the Highways Department has been negotiating with the district council with reference to the

removal of gum trees which is necessitated by the proposed reconstruction of the bridge on the Sturt Highway over the North Para River at Nuriootpa. The best alignment necessitated the removal of a large number of trees. Because of objections raised by the council, attempts have been made to design the road on a satisfactory alignment, removing only as few trees as possible. This plan is in hand and will be submitted to the council again soon. Because of the delay occasioned, it will not be practicable to commence the reconstruction of this bridge until after next winter, as the plan has not yet been prepared.

**SOUTH ROAD SCHOOL CROSSING.**

Mr. LANGLEY: Recently when travelling along the South Road I noticed that motorists were ignoring the pedestrian crossing which is controlled by lights and which assists children attending the Black Forest Primary School to cross the road. These lights, because of their location, are difficult to see in heavy traffic. Letters have appeared in the press on this topic and the school committee is concerned about the position. As prevention is better than cure, will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Roads to consider seriously the installation of an overhead arm, similar to the one used on the Glen Osmond Road, to help all concerned?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will draw the appropriate Minister's attention to the honourable member's suggestion.

**ELECTRICITY TRUST MARGINS.**

Mr. COUMBE: Can the Premier say whether the recent increase in margins payable to employees of the Electricity Trust, especially in powerhouse undertakings, will necessitate increased costs to the consumer, or whether it is intended that the trust will absorb these increases within its cost structure?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I cannot rightly answer that question at present. Trust employees were awarded an increase, but immediately that increase became effective another application was lodged by employees and that application is being heard by the Conciliation Commissioner in Melbourne, I believe today. I understand that the present request is for a much larger increase than the one granted only last week, and I hesitate to forecast its outcome. I do not believe the old application would occasion an increase to the consumer, because the trust is receiving the advantage of efficiency through the use of larger plants and through improvements in other respects. For example, the cost of Leigh

Creek coal to the trust this year will be reduced by, I think, 1s. 2d. a ton, and there are a few other such compensating advantages. If a new award is made as a result of the present application in Melbourne, the position may be more serious, but I hesitate to give any answer on that point. I do not think the award already promulgated would necessitate an adjustment.

#### JOSLIN FIRE HAZARD.

Mr. DUNSTAN: There is an area of land in my district at the river end of Lambert Road, Joslin, which is owned by the South Australian Housing Trust. This land has not been built on, and for some years in the early part of the summer grass has been allowed to grow on it to a height of 6ft. This year the grass has already reached that height, and the local residents are considerably disturbed about the continuing fire danger. They have always had to make several protests to the trust before this area has been cleared, and it has been cleared in the summer after some period of danger has passed. In view of the laudable published efforts of the member for Mitcham (Mr. Millhouse) and the member for Unley (Mr. Langley) in assisting the Government in a clean-up campaign, will the Premier take up with the Housing Trust the possibility of augmenting their efforts by clearing this piece of land at the earliest possible opportunity?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I will refer the question to the Chairman of the Housing Trust.

#### ROAD TRANSPORT.

Mr. CASEY: At the beginning of the year I told the Premier that a considerable quantity of goods was being carried from Broken Hill to Adelaide on road transport vehicles owned by the Silverton Tramway Company. I received a letter from the Premier's office informing me that the Chairman of the Silverton Tramway Company's Board (Mr. Hancock) had said that in the six-month period ended February 28 this year 68 tons of freight and three loads of cattle were carried from Broken Hill to Adelaide, and 123 tons of freight was carried from Adelaide to Broken Hill. I can see that Mr. Hancock is justified in saying that the cattle are to be transported by road because the road service coincides with cattle market times and because the railway service from that area does not cater for the cattle market. However, he went on to say that it was not the policy of his company to compete with the

South Australian Railways or its own tramway line, and that goods and livestock were carried by road only when traffic could not be diverted to the railways. I have often seen road transport vehicles owned by the Silverton Tramway Company carrying wool on the Broken Hill to Adelaide road. Officers of the Railways Department also have this information. Will the Premier again approach Mr. Hancock to see whether wool, in particular, can be transported by rail rather than road from Broken Hill to Adelaide, as it is a commodity that can be transported easily by rail?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes.

#### EGG PULP.

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my recent question regarding the varying prices charged by the South Australian Egg Board for egg pulp?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: This question follows a previous question asked by the honourable member of the Premier about the discontinuance of preferential discounts. Mr. Anderson (Chairman of the South Australian Egg Board) reports:

With reference to the prices of egg pulp as fixed for the season 1963-64, together with my reply given on August 30, 1963, I have to say that one refers to the question of what may be termed discounts to the larger purchasers, and has been an established practice for many years in all types of business. It is pointed out that the larger purchasers of pulp have quite a number of employees, whose wages and other conditions are covered by various Wages Boards, whereas the smaller man purchasing a tin or two of pulp each week usually does the whole of the work himself and is not bound by any award for his own labour. However, in practice, particularly in competition with other States where all these States do give quantitative discounts, the board, in order to hold purchasers of larger quantities of pulp and retain the business, decided to revert to the quantitative discount. Unless this had been done, big business would have been lost to the South Australian Egg Board and the producers who supply the board.

If the honourable member is not satisfied with that reply, I suggest that I arrange for him to meet the Chairman of the South Australian Egg Board to discuss the matter further and see whether any other aspect can be resolved. It is the present opinion of the board that it is important to retain the present system.

#### COOBER PEDY WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Works any further information about the analysis of the water from the bore put down at Coober Pedy by the Mines Department; and can he

say whether further progress has been made towards installing a desalting plant there?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have not seen the docket on this matter for several weeks, but I will look it up and bring down the information for the honourable member tomorrow. The position at Coober Pedy is not at present acute because a reasonable water supply is on hand, but the Engineer-in-Chief has not put the project away, out of sight; he is treating it as alive and is working on it.

#### WEST TERRACE JUNCTIONS.

Mr. LAWN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about West Terrace junctions?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, informs me that the use of "give way" signs is in the experimental stage in this State as well as in other States. This form of traffic control device has, so far, been installed only on the Main North Road between Adelaide and Gawler, the Gawler bypass, and the Woodville Road and Findon Road intersection. Investigations are being made with a view to their being usefully employed on the Port Road and Anzac Highway. Similar investigations will now be carried out in West Terrace.

#### BUSH FIRE PATROLS.

Mr. RICHES: In reply to a recent question I asked the Minister of Agriculture, about setting up patrols to prevent the spreading of bush fires, the Minister promised to obtain a report from the Director of the Emergency Fire Services. Has he that report?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Director of the Emergency Fire Services reports:

"Fire patrols" may be divided into three categories: (a) Patrols by fire appliances and crews with the object of spotting and suppressing fires—Experience has proved the obvious disadvantages of this system and it is not recommended for general use; (b) Patrols for spotting only—Have some use in country of uniform elevation, but manned strategically situated towers or posts are considered more practical and efficient. Aircraft may be used but cost is an inhibiting factor; and (c) Patrols by police or authorized persons to report breaches of the Act—An effective deterrent but limited by range and cost.

The most effective organized bush and forest fire-spotting systems are those of the manned look-out (as used by the Woods and Forests Department) and aircraft. These methods of spotting are used in forest regions largely because of the dearth of ground observers in these areas with the consequent possibility of a fire breaking out without early notice. Cost again is the limiting factor. It has been found

in the Adelaide Hills and settled country districts that, on days of serious fire danger, residents, landowners and the travelling public act as spotters and readily report fires. During these acute danger periods appeals are made to the public to report immediately to the nearest E.F.S. Brigade, Police or Headquarters any outbreaks or unidentified smoke.

Care needs to be taken not to make such appeals too frequently and only on the worst days. Over-zealous members of the public can cause undesirable loading of telephones and a burden on volunteer alarm officers. A recent small rubbish fire near Windy Point brought in 27 reports on one E.F.S. voluntarily manned telephone and this was on a day of nil fire danger. The approach by E.F.S. Headquarters to fire spotting is to encourage and train E.F.S. organizations to set up spotting posts with Alidades (apparatus for sighting bearings) on a strategic network system throughout their districts. All E.F.S. members and residents act as spotters and report smoke to the spotting posts when cross bearings are quickly obtained and the smoke pin-pointed. Such spotting systems have been set up in a number of districts and more groups are being established. To foster and improve this spotting system, Alidade cards and instructional circulars have been prepared at E.F.S. Headquarters. These cards and circulars are issued free on request. Map reading is included on the E.F.S. instructional programme and the spotting system is advocated in country lectures throughout the State.

#### EGG MARKETING.

Mr. BYWATERS: Last year I presented a petition signed by poultry farmers desiring a producer-elected board. The Minister of Agriculture has introduced a Bill to amend the Marketing of Eggs Act to provide for the extension of the period of operation. Does the Minister intend to introduce another Bill to comply with the wishes of the poultry farmers, or to ask for an instruction to amend the Bill now on the Notice Paper?

The SPEAKER: Before the Minister replies, it is not usually in order to anticipate a second reading debate. Does the Minister wish to reply?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes. Another Bill is being prepared. It is rather more complicated, although it sounds simple, to prepare a Bill on the subject of electing producer-members to the board. It is an involved procedure, and it has been thought advisable to introduce a separate Bill. Discussions have been held with representatives of the industry, and the Bill is being prepared.

#### FALSE CAPER.

Mr. HARDING: The noxious weed, false caper, seems to thrive in dry country between Murray Bridge and Taillem Bend, and in better

rainfall country near Kingston, Robe and Beachport. It is a serious menace although many people are unaware of its dangers. It is pretty and has been used for floral decorations. Will the Minister of Agriculture obtain a report from his officers on the steps taken to combat noxious weeds, and false caper in particular, by district councils and private landholders in the South-East?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes.

#### POWER SUPPLY.

Mr. CORCORAN: I understand the Minister of Works has a reply to my recent question regarding the extension of power supply to Allendale East, Kongorong and Eight Mile Creek.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Chairman of the Electricity Trust states that the trust is now working on the design of a large electricity extension to serve the Kongorong, Allendale East, and Eight Mile Creek areas. A firm proposal is expected to be prepared and submitted to applicants by next February and, if this is accepted, construction will begin about next July. This is later than had originally been hoped. The delay arises because progress on other extensions having a higher priority has been slower than expected.

#### MONASH WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. CURREN: Some time ago I asked the Minister of Irrigation a question regarding the renewal of the Monash town water supply. Can the Minister say when this work will proceed?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: Discussions have been held with engineers with a view to putting this work in hand at an early date. Dockets have been borrowed and, on their return to the Secretary for Irrigation, a recommendation for expenditure to be incurred and work to be undertaken will be submitted for Ministerial approval. Funds for the work were not available earlier but, as some reductions on other items of expenditure are now likely, the work can be proceeded with.

#### SOUTH-WESTERN SUBURBS DRAINAGE.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Has the Minister of Works a progress report on the south-western suburbs drainage scheme?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, informs me that the progress of the south-western suburbs drainage scheme is as follows:

Completed:	Drain No.
Edward Street, Brighton . . . .	11
Harrow Road, Somerton . . . .	14
Nunyah Avenue, Parkholme . . . .	7
Morphett Road, Morphettville . .	19
Sturt Creek to Chrystler boundary	21
Tenders have been called:	
Broadway, Glenelg . . . . .	15A
Pier Street, Glenelg . . . . .	15B
Designs in Hand:	
Extension . . . . .	14
Wattle Avenue, Brighton . . . .	12
South Terrace and Morphettville racecourse . . . . .	2
Preliminary Design:	
Bray Street . . . . .	3
Daws Road . . . . .	4
English Avenue . . . . .	6

The University of Adelaide is not carrying out examinations of the flow of water into the Patawalonga, but a model for the junction of Drain No. 2 with the River Sturt has been made. The university is also investigating the flow of the River Sturt where it crosses Anzac Highway. Investigations, however, are not yet complete.

#### APPRENTICES.

Mr. COURCE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked last week about an increase last year in the number of apprentices in South Australia?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The Minister of Labour and Industry has supplied me with the following report:

The number of new indentures of apprenticeship entered into in the year ended June 30 last exceeded 2,000 for the first time. The actual number was 2,006 compared with 1,727, 1,858, 1,775 and 1,538 in the previous four years. It is important that a wrong conclusion should not be drawn from this increase in the number of apprentices. There is still a great need for many more youths to be trained as skilled tradesmen. The monthly employment statistics released last week indicate that in South Australia at the end of September there were 743 vacancies registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service for skilled metal and electrical tradesmen, but only 103 males were registered for employment in those categories. For skilled building and construction tradesmen there were 200 vacancies registered and only 107 seeking employment.

It should be pointed out that earlier this year the Commonwealth Government commenced a scheme for subsidizing employers in country districts who employ apprentices additional to their normal intake and the subsidy in the first year of apprenticeship is £3 a week, which is approximately half of the wages of a first-year apprentice.

#### HAWKER WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. CASEY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked last week about

the supply of water in the new bore at Hawker?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Two bores have been drilled by the Mines Department at sites selected by a geologist on Wonoka Creek in section 76, hundred of Arkaba. The first bore was drilled to 104ft. and was abandoned when only a small supply was obtained. The second bore, adjacent to the creek and about three miles from the township, was drilled to 363ft. and obtained a good supply of water. In a 72-hour pump test, a supply of 8,000 gallons an hour was obtained, although this is considered to be slightly in excess of the safe yield. The quality is 152 grains a gallon, which is better than the water from the railway bore now being used to augment the town supply. The Engineer-in-Chief will now proceed with the preparation of a scheme to supply the town from this bore.

#### PORT GAWLER BORE.

Mr. HALL: Has the Premier further information on my recent question about the Port Gawler bore?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have a report from the Director of Mines, as follows:

One of the problems associated with the intensive development of the underground waters of the northern Adelaide Plains, is the extent to which continual pumping will so lower the water level as to allow the natural westerly movement of the water to be reversed. Should this situation arise, it is expected that the salt water which finds its way into the water bearing beds from the sea, will move into the fresh water areas.

The Mines Department has sunk several observation bores along the coastal strip with the object of locating the existing interface between the salt water and the fresh water, and then of observing its seasonal movement. The results to date are inconclusive in respect of the main purpose of the investigation, but some very interesting information has been obtained.

The drilling has revealed a situation in some areas in which salt water is overlying relatively fresh water—a reversal of the normal order. This salt water appears to be prevented from moving inland by an impermeable barrier. The bore at Port Gawler was constructed as part of the general observation programme, and has been deepened beyond the lowest water bearing bed in order to provide stratigraphic information of importance in the local oil search. The bore has shown that in the Port Gawler area at least, the danger of sea water encroachment is negligible under present conditions. The bore will be retained as an observation bore for several years.

#### KIDMAN PARK LAND.

Mr. FRED WALSH: At present in Kidman Park a strip of land belonging to the Lands

Department is covered by high grass, which is a potential haven for snakes, and rocks. It has a ditch running through it. This is a fast-developing area. I believe that originally—or, at least, since the First World War—the land was leased to a returned serviceman for market garden purposes, but it has not been so used for many years. It has been suggested that this land could be used as a reserve or children's playground. At present a girls' technical school is in course of construction in Valetta Road, which borders this land, and a boys' technical school has been approved by the Public Works Committee for construction in Frogmore Road, which is the other boundary of this land. Will the Minister of Lands ascertain the future plans, if any, for this land? If no use is contemplated, will he consider handing the land over to the appropriate authority for use as a reserve and children's playground?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: I do not know the area, but following the honourable member's description of it I will ascertain the position and bring down a reply. In the meantime, if the land belongs to the Lands Department and it is covered with dangerous grasses, I will undertake to have it cleared.

#### KYBYBOLITE SCHOOL.

Mr. HARDING: The education amenities in my district—apart from those at the Kybybolite school—are equal to any in this State. I understand that about 12 months or more ago a lighting plant was delivered to the Kybybolite Primary School, but it has not yet been unpacked because it is awaiting the erection of a shed, sized 6ft. x 10ft., to house it. If permission were granted to the school committee the shed could be erected in one day and the school lighting plant could be working. Will the Minister of Works inquire into this urgent matter with a view to seeing that this plant is installed?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

#### AIR COOLERS.

Mr. RICHES: School committees and parent organizations at Port Augusta are very much concerned about the methods being adopted to combat excessive heat during the summer months. Each summer for the last two or three years representations have been made to the department for permission to install certain equipment, but there seems to be no fixed policy. The Willsden School applied for permission to install ceiling fans. In fact, the school installed them, but then it was instructed to remove them. Now, I understand, the

department is favourably disposed towards their installation. A similar situation occurred regarding oscillating fans, and there has been experimentation in the installation of Breezair equipment. At some schools this equipment seems to work very well and at others it seems to be a waste of money. Last summer I asked the Minister of Education whether he would send to Port Augusta a senior officer of his department, in company with a senior officer of the Public Buildings Department, in order that the local committees could be fully advised on the best method of cooling classrooms. The people are most anxious to do something about this matter, and some have already raised money, but expert technical advice seems to be hard to get and departmental policy is not clear. Will the Minister, in conjunction with his colleague, arrange for a visit of senior officers, first to investigate what is the most satisfactory method and, secondly, to advise the local people on the wishes of the department regarding installation?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Speaking from memory, I thought the honourable member's request had been acted on and that, as a result, a certain cooling system was installed in at least the Willsden School. I will refresh my memory, and if that has not been done, in co-operation with my colleague I will see what can be done soon. There have been discussions between the Education Department and the Public Buildings Department on this vexed question during the last year or so, and some experimentation has been engaged in at several schools. I will have the matter investigated and obtain a report for the honourable member.

#### HAMLEY BRIDGE ROAD BRIDGE.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Last week I asked a question of the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Roads, about his colleague's policy regarding a new road bridge over the River Gilbert on the Hamley Bridge to Balaklava road, immediately north of Hamley Bridge. Has the Minister a reply?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, states that it is intended to reconstruct the bridge over the River Gilbert at Hamley Bridge, and work is expected to commence thereon in 1964.

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

Mr. CURREN: As the fruit processing season is rapidly approaching, can the Premier say what stage negotiations have reached

regarding the take-over of Foster Clark (S.A.) Limited?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: A firm sent a senior director—probably the managing Director—to South Australia to investigate this matter, but subsequently he said the firm would not be interested in a purchase proposition. He asked if we would be interested in submitting a proposal for his firm to take a lease for three years with the right of purchase at the end of three years. That matter is being investigated; the receiver has reported upon it, and the Government probably will submit a proposal to the firm in question. We recognize the importance of having some outlet for fruit to be canned in this State. At present in the metropolitan area only one firm is likely to be operating, and I believe it will operate only in respect of the members of its co-operative. Some legal points concerning this matter have to be cleared up: they will have to be examined by the Crown Solicitor. I am not yet competent to say whether in any event the offer to be made in respect of the proposition will be acceptable. I assure the honourable member that the Government is doing its utmost to have some firm operating to relieve some of the heavy crops of fruit that will be available.

#### KAPUNDA RAIL SERVICE.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: On October 3 I asked the Minister of Works whether it would be possible to supply a Bluebird rail service from Kapunda at 7.05 a.m. on each week day. Has the Minister a reply?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Railways, informs me that, with the exception of the daily rail car service between Adelaide and Morgan, the passenger services to and from Eudunda and Kapunda are operated by "75" model rail cars. The existing fleet of "250" class cars—which were designed specifically for the long country runs—is not large enough to permit these cars being used on the Eudunda and Kapunda services. However, active consideration is in fact now being given to the provision of an improved type of rail car for use on the shorter country services, including those referred to by the honourable member.

#### LATE SHOPPING NIGHT.

Mr. DUNSTAN: Has the Minister of Education, representing the Minister of Labour and Industry, a reply to the question I asked recently about a proposed late shopping night before Christmas?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The Secretary for Labour and Industry reports:

On October 16, 1963, Mr. D. A. Dunstan, M.P. asked the Minister of Education in the House of Assembly whether the late shopping night which the Government proposes to permit prior to Christmas could be proclaimed either on Friday, December 20 or on Christmas Eve depending upon the wishes of the local trading bodies. Various representations have been made to the Government concerning this matter and it is clear that it will not be possible to fix the late shopping night on a day which will suit everyone. Cabinet has approved of the Early Closing Act being suspended on Friday, December 20, 1963, until 9 p.m. in all country shopping districts in the State. It is anticipated that a proclamation to this effect will be published in the *Government Gazette* next Thursday.

Last year requests were received from a number of country shopping districts for the late shopping night to be on Christmas Eve instead of on the Friday before Christmas and the Government is willing to approve of those alternative arrangements in any country shopping district where the majority of shopkeepers preferred the late shopping night to be on Christmas Eve. So far as the metropolitan area is concerned, there is a distinct division of opinion. The Chambers of Commerce in some suburbs desire the late closing night to be on the Friday, others want it on Christmas Eve, while the Retail Traders' Association and the Retail Storekeepers' Association both strongly favour the Friday night, not only for the city but for all parts of the metropolitan area. The consensus of opinion appears to be clearly in favour of the late shopping night being on Friday, December 20. In any case it would not be practicable to have different nights for late trading in different suburbs.

#### ELECTORAL ROLLS.

Mr. LAWN (on notice): What has been the total cost of compiling and printing State electoral rolls (including cards), for each of the past ten years?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The yearly totals are:

	£
1953-54 . . . . .	13,635
1954-55 . . . . .	7,189
1955-56 . . . . .	23,508
1956-57 . . . . .	7,942
1957-58 . . . . .	10,141
1958-59 . . . . .	23,997
1959-60 . . . . .	16,437
1960-61 . . . . .	13,007
1961-62 . . . . .	24,018
1962-63 . . . . .	16,872
<b>Total cost . . . . .</b>	<b>£156,746</b>

This cost includes £101,773 (as stated in my reply of October 3, 1963, to the question asked by the honourable member for Adelaide) with the additional amount of £54,973 estimated as

being the State's share of the actual printing cost of the House of Assembly roll (joint roll with the Commonwealth) and the necessary forms and cards. No compilation costs are included in this figure. They are borne by the Commonwealth.

#### CEMENT FREIGHT RATES.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (on notice):

1. Has the South Australian Portland Cement Company Limited an agreement with the South Australian Railways which provides special freight rates for carriage on the railways of raw materials and/or products of this company, based on an undertaking to use the South Australian Railways system instead of road transportation?

2. If so, what are the rates and what are the reductions as compared with the usual rates?

3. If such an agreement is in operation, on what date was it entered into?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Railways Commissioner reports:

1. Yes—for the carriage of bulk cement from Angaston to Rosewater.

2. The contract rate is 15s. 8d. a ton. The previous rate was 21s. 2d. a ton.

3. The new rates were operative from June 10, 1963.

#### EYRE PENINSULA WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. BOCKELBERG (on notice):

1. What is the present water supply position on Eyre Peninsula?

2. What is the present quantity held in the Tod River reservoir?

3. What is the present water supply position at Kimba?

4. How long will this supply last?

5. When may those who have petitioned for water reticulation reasonably expect some action in the districts of Kimba, Parla Peak to Collie, and Cleve to Yadnarie?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The replies are:

1. The water supply position on Eyre Peninsula is considerably better than it was 12 months ago. Good intakes have been received into the Tod River reservoir, which now holds 1,700,000,000 gallons. In addition, substantial intakes occurred in the three reservoirs in the Cleve and Cowell districts, viz., Yeldulknie, Ullabidinie and Ulbana, which at present contain approximately 200,000,000 gallons. Polda Basin was brought into operation towards the end of last year and water can now be fed into the Tod River trunk main to augment

supplies to the north of Lock. The water resources in the Tod River Water District are adequate to meet requirements in the district for the coming summer.

2. *Vide* No. 1.

3. The total quantity of water stored in the reservoirs and tanks at Kimba is 11,000,000 gallons, which the department considers should be adequate to meet the requirements of the town for about 18 months.

4. *Vide* No. 3.

5. The District Engineer at Port Lincoln is preparing a schedule of outstanding requests for consideration. Concerning a new source of supply for Kimba, the proposal to lay a pipeline from Iron Knob to Kimba was submitted to the Public Works Standing Committee some time ago, but the committee deferred further consideration of it until something more is known of the potentialities of the Polda Underground Basin. At the present time pumping from the Polda Basin to the Tod River trunk main is being carried out and a geological investigation of the basin is in progress. However, at this stage insufficient information is available to assess the capacity of the Polda Basin.

#### HONEY BOARD.

Mr. BYWATERS (on notice):

1. Was the Auditor-General asked to inquire into circumstances of a deficiency in the financial position of the South Australian Honey Board?

2. Is it the intention of the honourable the Minister to have the report tabled in Parliament? If not, why not?

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

1. Yes.

2. No. The investigation by the Auditor-General was undertaken for the South Australian Honey Board at the board's request. The secretary of the board has stated that the report is a lengthy one and has been available at the board's office for perusal by interested parties ever since it was received by the board. Registered apiarists were informed by circular letter that the report was available.

#### FREEWAYS.

Mr. DUNSTAN (on notice): In view of the proposed new freeways and the need for the acquisition of land therefor, will the Government undertake that owners of such land be given adequate notice of the intended resumption, and the basis of compensation, and that there will be no delay in settlement?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes.

#### FIRE SERVICES VEHICLE INSURANCE.

Mr. CURREN (on notice): Is it the intention to make provision for payment by the Government of compulsory third-party insurance on Emergency Fire Service vehicles?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government is not considering any change in the present system of subsidizing expenditure on the operation and maintenance of Emergency Fire Service units. Under the present scheme, district councils are paid a subsidy of 50 per cent of their expenditure, including insurance premiums on vehicles used for fire-fighting purposes. The Government also pays 50 per cent subsidy on cost of vehicles, and grants free registration.

#### PULPWOOD.

Mr. CORCORAN (on notice): Is it the intention of the Government to give conditional consideration to the application of Apcel Limited for additional supplies of pulpwood and to advise Apcel Limited of what decision it can expect in this matter in the event of Har-mac (Australia) Limited serving notice on the Government that it will not be proceeding with the pulp mill at Mount Gambier?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The matter will be considered if the circumstances described actually arise.

#### DEATH OF SIR SHIRLEY JEFFRIES.

The SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I conveyed its resolution passed on October 1, 1963, to Lady Jeffries, widow of the late Hon. Sir Shirley Jeffries, in reply to which I have received a letter of gratitude and appreciation from Lady Jeffries and her family.

#### THE ESTIMATES.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from October 17. Page 1136.)

#### TREASURER AND MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION.

Miscellaneous, £6,870,440.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): When progress was reported, I had not received the information I sought. I was asking whether the Government intended to accept the decision of the Railways Commissioner on a certain matter. I said I thought it was time serious consideration was given to providing transport for the future, particularly for the area beyond Port Stanvac, where development is taking place at Sellick Beach. If rail transport is not provided, road transport will have to be used, and the roads cannot be



widened sufficiently to enable them to take the increased volume of traffic. Has the Railways Commissioner been asked whether he is prepared to make a further investigation? I do not wish to reflect on railway administration (and the Commissioner is an authority on railway matters), but this investigation should have been made without my having to raise the matter. I am not satisfied that the best is being done to cater for the future development of the State. When, some years ago, I asked about a possible railway extension to Modbury and Tea Tree Gully, it was said that such an extension was not desired. We have to look beyond today's traffic. If the population is to double we must provide transportation to convey these people whence they live to the city and beyond. There will not be sufficient industry either in Modbury or in Tea Tree Gully to absorb the population, and the same thing applies to other areas I have mentioned. Has the Government any real plans, or is this matter left to the Railways Commissioner?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): Experience all over the world has been that the public does not desire rail services for short distances if it can get bus services. Where rail services are already established requests are made for bus services. All members realize that it is impracticable for two competing Government services to operate in the same area. The bus and rail services to Port Adelaide are competing services close together. The consequences are that the State is bearing about £600,000 in losses due to these competing services in the metropolitan area. At the end of the Second World War the Government purchased large areas to be used for future railway service extensions. Since then, on examination, some land has been found unnecessary and has been disposed of. Other land is being held for the purpose for which it was acquired. We have never given publicity to these activities, because immediately a person finds he has a block adjacent to a proposed highway or railway line, the block assumes extraordinary value overnight. These matters were considered recently when general transportation for the metropolitan area was considered by the Town Planning Committee. In general terms, the Government believes, in accordance with transport policy in overseas countries, that for the handling of passengers on relatively short distances there is more flexibility in bus and similar transportation systems than in railways or fixed-line systems. I assure the honourable member

that these matters have been considered, and that the Government will provide for future expansion.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Has the Treasurer the information I requested about tendering for work at Islington? I was under the impression that tenders were calculated to include materials and the necessary man-hours, and then an additional amount from 23s. to 26s. an hour on the man-hours was added.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I point out that the line has nothing to do with Islington. Regarding the tendering for outside work, which is the subject of the Leader's question, the cost of doing the work is computed by the Railways Commissioner at Islington, and the Government does not instruct the Commissioner to include any item that he does not believe to be appropriate. This matter has a considerable history, because when Mr. McInnes (a member of the Leader's Party) was Minister of Railways I understand that he gave an instruction that in computing the price for tenders—by the way, the Railways Department never tenders, it makes recommendations whether we should accept tenders or do the work departmentally—the Railways Commissioner had to include a fairly substantial margin in his tender in order to make it comparable with outside tenders.

My Government has never given the Commissioner any instructions. We have always considered whether the construction would cost more or less if done in our own yard. That is the basis on which consideration is given, with one added consideration: that it would be impossible for us to do certain work in our own yard because we do not have the plant to do it. If we tried to do it, the programme of production and transportation would be affected. Today much equipment for a diesel-electric locomotive is imported, irrespective of the tender. The Government has given the Commissioner no instruction that he should add any item to arrive at his tendered price or the cost of production price. I believe that many years ago there was an instruction to that effect but as far as I know it is not now operative.

Mr. CASEY: I, too, am concerned with the future of the railways in this State. Freight traffic has improved considerably over the past few years, but the figures for passenger traffic have fallen. I have often said that in some cases rail traffic is deteriorating to such an extent that it is hardly feasible to run trains to country areas. I suggest that passenger

traffic is decreasing because of the obsolete carriages that are provided. In order to regain custom on the Broken Hill service, air-conditioned cars should be supplied. Road traffic has attracted almost all passengers from the Broken Hill railway service. This is understandable in view of the poor rail service. During the last holiday weekend, lights went out in some of the railway carriages. On one occasion last year toilet facilities were not provided in some carriages. Passengers expect adequate services, and proper facilities should be provided, especially in holiday periods. The old adage, "Once bitten, twice shy" applies to our railway system. In a few years our present carriages will be so antiquated that they will not remain on the rails. The freight services have been improved, but our passenger services have deteriorated, and unless something is done soon to rectify the situation it will cost much to restore the system to proper standards.

The standardization of the railway gauge will enable a Bluebird service to operate on the Broken Hill line. In time there will be direct through transport from Sydney to Perth. The link from Broken Hill to Port Pirie will, I think, result in the provision of better carriages. The Railways Department is a Government responsibility and it is time the passenger services were improved to the standard required by the travelling public.

Mr. FRED WALSH: The Auditor-General in his report states that the number of passengers carried by the Municipal Tramways Trust last year represented an increase of 89,000 on the previous year. It is pleasing to note that the number of passengers carried is increasing. However, for many years the private bus services in the south-western and north-western suburbs have been expanding considerably, but the trust has not done much apart from extending some existing bus routes. If the trust carried out its original intention it would take over the remunerative services at present conducted by private operators. I can remember when the Public Works Committee was investigating the acquisition of a strip of land to enable the Railways Department to extend its service to Henley and Grange. The then General Manager of the trust (Sir William Goodman) expressed concern that the trust would be faced with unnecessary competition from the Railways Department. The Railways Department did not proceed with that project and the trust extended its service to Grange. I questioned Sir William about the trust's policy on the taking over of private

bus routes and he said that it was the trust's policy to take them over. I mentioned several remunerative routes and he said that the first services the trust had in mind taking over were those to Ascot Park and Edwardstown. The Edwardstown route has since extended to Darlington. If Sir William had remained in office the trust would have acquired these services to the detriment of the private operators but to the advantage of the trust and of the general public. Passenger traffic has increased recently because of the difficulty motorists have in finding parking space in the city. They drive to the fringe of the city, park their vehicles and then travel to work by bus. Can the Treasurer indicate the trust's policy in taking over private bus routes so as to supply a better service to the travelling public and to enhance further the trust's finances?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The honourable member mentioned the increased number of passengers carried by the trust last year. I point out that figures are subject to different interpretations. The honourable member will see from the Auditor-General's Report that the position declined last year. The table at the bottom of page 227 shows the average number of passengers a traffic mile. Whereas for the year ended June, 1962, the number was 5.11, for the year ended June this year it was 5.08. The total number of passengers was greater, but the number of miles run by the trust to obtain those passengers increased to a greater extent than was justified by the increase in passengers.

In Sir William Goodman's time the Government had a Treasury representative on the trust, but the trust itself was an outside authority and was considerably influenced by metropolitan local government bodies, which had a majority of the membership. Speaking from memory, I think all the members except the Chairman came from local government. By Act of Parliament, the trust has control over the operations of private operators in the metropolitan area. From time to time the trust takes over new areas if it considers it advisable to do so. I can assure the honourable member that this matter is not being adversely influenced by any Government policy. If it will help him, I will ask the trust to submit a report on the considerations which it takes into account in determining whether or not it will license a private operator.

Mr. LAUCKE: Where old-established private enterprise is providing a good service to the public, as it does in respect of Tea Tree

Gully, Golden Grove and nearby districts, could more consideration be given to those organizations in recognition of what they have done in pioneering certain routes? The trust may take over such services and provide services that are no better and possibly at an increased cost per passenger carried. Will the Government sympathetically consider retaining those private bus services where the operators give a good service, rather than allowing the trust to intrude on the province of those who have for years pioneered a service for the benefit of local residents?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Two areas are involved in this matter. First, there is the area in which the buses have been licensed by the Transport Control Board and in which case the board has picked out an operator and given him a pre-emptive right to run in that area; and, secondly, there is the metropolitan area where the operator has been licensed by the Municipal Tramways Trust. I know that in some instances an operator may be required to be licensed by both authorities, because he may run not only in the metropolitan area but also further out into the board's area. I have already promised to obtain a report on the motives that actuate the Municipal Tramways Trust in licensing a private operator and in taking away his licence. The Transport Control Board is not involved in this line, and I presume that the board will continue the policy it is adopting at present. It is not in competitive service in any way, because the Municipal Tramways Trust does not operate outside the metropolitan area.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: The Treasurer suggested that, when the late John McInnes was Commissioner of Public Works, his relationship with the then Railways Commissioner (Mr. Webb) was the same as the present relationship between the Minister and the Commissioner. If that was so, I would say that Mr. Webb desired great authority indeed. When the late Sir Malcolm McIntosh was the Minister in charge of this department, I believe that the personnel of the Islington workshops totalled about 5,000, and in those days frames and other parts for diesel-electric equipment were assembled at Islington. That was under a different Commissioner from the present Commissioner. I understood an attempt was being made to revive that type of work at Islington. Can the Treasurer say whether the Commissioner, in making up the estimates of the cost of construction, adds charges that are unknown to the Government?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No; as far as I know, the Commissioner makes the estimates on a basis that the costing would show to be proper. The latest diesels being supplied by the department are being made at Islington on the recommendation of the Commissioner, because he considers the alternative tenders higher than the figure at which he could produce them.

Mr. Frank Walsh: I was aware of that.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Obviously, some things must be imported because they are not made in Australia, nor could we make them in Australia and keep up any schedule of deliveries. I can get the information for the Leader tomorrow. The latest project to come before Cabinet resulted in a Cabinet decision that certain equipment would be purchased abroad and that the fabrication would take place at Islington because the other tenders were higher than the figure the Commissioner considered could be attained in his own workshops. Incidentally, the Commissioner has never been asked to tender. What he is asked to do and what he does is to form an estimate of what this work would cost him, and he then makes his recommendation. If the tenders are lower, he usually recommends that the work be done by tender. There has never been any suggestion that rolling stock can be produced at Islington more cheaply than by tender. The motive power has been the problem. I think the latest diesels have gone to Islington; the equipment has been purchased overseas and the fabrication is done here.

Mr. HALL: The sum of £6,975 is provided for administration expenses for temporary housing accommodation—a decrease of £16,044. I take it that the reduction has occurred because temporary housing is decreasing and will soon be completely removed. Temporary houses purchased by clubs and other organizations, particularly in my district, are serving a useful purpose. The many religious bodies and sporting clubs that have obtained them are grateful for the opportunity to do so. However, hundreds of these buildings that have been removed from their previous sites are now situated alongside the Main North Road, just north of the Parafeld aerodrome. I understand that the firm that has contracted to purchase them and renovate them for sale takes them from the Housing Trust's supply as it requires them.

As a casual observer, I believe that the buildings are moving from the pool slowly and that they will deteriorate rapidly if they

remain there. When they are left vacant on their original sites, within a matter of weeks vandals wreck them, and I have advised clubs purchasing them to remove them quickly from their original positions before they are damaged. I think this vandalism will occur also at Parafield. If they remain there for several years they could become almost a complete loss. Because there are hundreds of them, thousands of pounds is involved. Are these buildings still the property of the Housing Trust? If most organizations and clubs have satisfied their needs, will the Government formulate some plan whereby they can be sold to private purchasers at perhaps the same price as that paid by the contractor? I do not say that private buyers should obtain them at the concession rate applicable to a club, but could the trust arrange to dispose of them at an economic figure?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: When the decision to remove temporary houses was made, the Government called for tenders for their removal and accepted the best offer that could be obtained. The firm now offering them to the public made the best offer. It goes to considerable expense to repair them; in some cases it replaces material, and it sells them on payments extending over a long period. The Government has either to continue to deal with the firm now handling them or to tell this firm that its charter will be finished after a certain time, after which the Government will then sell them at the best price it can get. These houses have moved rather quicker than I expected; many have been sold, and the Government will continue to sell them to any club, welfare organization, school committee or sporting body. The only restriction it has made is that it will not sell them for personal use. I do not know that the Government could correctly enter into competition with its own agent. The purchase price to a club is £50 and, as the erection charge is about £100, a very good clubroom can be obtained for £150. The Government has sold many of these buildings to many organizations in which no single person has a proprietary interest, and it will continue to do so.

Mr. JENNINGS: Although this sum has been decreased severely, almost £7,000 is still involved. I assure the Committee that I sympathize with the member for Gouger (Mr. Hall) about the eyesore created in his district. However, will the Treasurer say whether included in this sum is the cost of administration of the Gepps Cross hostel?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No, that has always been kept as a separate line. The Government has a contract with the Commonwealth Government, and there has always been a balance sheet. I think it shows a deficit of £84 at present. I will find out for the honourable member. That was a service to provide for migrants more satisfactory conditions than they had under the original proposal, whereby they had community services that were conducive of unhappy conditions. The agreement with the Commonwealth Government regarding the Gepps Cross hostel has now been completed. The Commonwealth Government has agreed to a proposal of mine, and many huts that are already empty will be taken down over a period of three years and replaced by permanent housing. The land, which belongs to the State, was leased to the Commonwealth. The temporary housing was never included in the Gepps Cross proposition. Line passed.

MINISTER OF LANDS AND MINISTER OF  
REPATRIATION.

Lands Department, £877,617; Government Motor Garage, £55,902—passed.

Miscellaneous, £343,586.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Where is the caravan park referred to under the grant of £7,500 towards a caravan park?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE (Minister of Lands): It will be in the Belair National Park. The decrepit looking area that used to be there was criticized greatly. The sum of £15,000, in two instalments of £7,500 a year, is being advanced to the commissioners to build a caravan park.

Mr. LAUCKE: I refer to certain land adjacent to Para Wirra National Park and Government forests to the east of the park. I have before me a letter from Mr. Eldred Riggs, of Bentley, Gawler, a keen student of natural fauna and flora, which states:

I feel that the Para Wirra Park will help—  
Mr. Riggs refers to fauna sanctuaries—  
but will have its limitations, owing to its area, and that visitors will be able to roam at will over the entire area. It seems desirable for an area to be set aside for flora and fauna with some restriction on the general public and possibly protection from foxes in particular. As the proposed area is bounded on the north by the park and on the east by a Government forest and with much rough country in its natural state nearby, this area would appear to be one of the last chances of keeping some reasonably large area, where some of our fast disappearing fauna can be provided with a suitable habitat. There is

quite a large area south of this again still in its natural state which could be obtained at a reasonable figure as much will never be cleared at any economic level.

Would the Minister consider this suggestion? The relevant land is outlined in a statement supplied with this letter. This is an opportunity of adding to what is a magnificent asset to this State in a way that would make it something really great.

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: I commend the Para Wirra wild life reserve as an excellent place. It is in its first developmental stages but it is fairly complete and is very nice indeed. Thousands of people already know of it, and have taken the advantage of a trip through extremely pleasant country to visit it. In its original state it was smaller but the area has been increased and land is constantly being acquired. At the formal opening by the Treasurer, he stated that the Government intended to acquire land. We have some willing sellers and some unwilling unless they receive a high price for country that would not keep even a goat. It is Government policy, if land is available that can be obtained reasonably, to obtain it, particularly when the land is suitable for fauna and flora to live in their natural state and not to be interfered with by the public. Natural fauna hidden away in the bush is one thing, but kangaroos and wallabies rapidly become accustomed to people, and where people can travel and see them in their natural conditions they delight many people. There is not much value in their being hidden away. Generally, people are good and do not interfere with the animals on the reserves.

It is not the policy of the Government to interfere with people who want to hold land. Such people are approached and, if they do not want to sell, the Government does not acquire the land compulsorily, unless there are extremely good reasons for so doing. Many people co-operate and do not demand an excessive price for land if it is to be used as a wild life reserve. They are happy to receive a nominal price for the land, contingent upon its being dedicated for the State's use as a reserve. I will take up the matter raised by the honourable member. If land is available at a reasonable price, it would be Government policy to obtain it. Nothing more true has been said than that time is running out for obtaining land that has not been ruined and is still in its natural condition for flora and fauna, which have a natural beauty peculiar to Australian plant and animal life.

Mr. HARDING: Probably the land referred to by the member for Barossa, and other land adjacent to the reserve, is under perpetual lease. If this is so, the Government could control its development and could prevent the destruction of the flora and timber on it. Will the Minister ascertain whether this land is held under perpetual lease and, if so, what rights the Government has regarding its clearing?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: Conditions concerning the use of the land were prescribed when the leases were taken up. The Government has no power to dictate to the leaseholders except on the question of soil conservation. We can recommend that the leaseholder should not further clear the land, but he cannot be compelled not to clear it. A perpetual lease is as sacrosanct as land held in fee simple. Most perpetual leases issued nowadays contain much more stringent conditions than earlier leases. For instance, they contain provisions relating to the compulsory preservation of natural flora where it is considered inadvisable to remove it.

Mr. McKEE: During the debate on the first line I referred to an area near Merriton, on the Port Pirie side of the Flinders Ranges. I suggested that it would be ideal for use as small farms or market gardens.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: How is the land held?

Mr. McKEE: I believe it is Crown land. I know that many people would be interested in acquiring it. Is the Minister of Lands familiar with the area, and will he consider subdividing it into small farms or market gardens?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: There must be a good reason for such an area of land to be retained as Crown lands, but I do not know the reason. I apologize for not having obtained a report, but I will obtain one and supply it in answer to a question at some future time.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Can the Minister of Lands say how the £100 provided in the line "Primary Producers Assistance—Salary of Director (also Local Court Judge, Adelaide Local Court Department)" is to be spent?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: I think the Treasurer might better answer the question. This is a relic of the days when primary producers assistance was provided.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This is purely a nominal amount.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF WORKS AND MINISTER OF  
ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS.

Public Works Department, £8,882—passed.

Engineering and Water Supply Department, £4,509,154.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Lest I be asked to name the line to which I address my comments, I shall refer to that line which includes a reference to the Chief Assessor and Government Valuator. I am concerned with the fact that water rates have been imposed on householders in Sun Valley near Belair. Members may have seen, as I know the Minister of Works saw, an article in the *Sunday Mail* of October 12 headed, "Billed for Water They Don't Get", which stated:

Sun Valley residents have received rate notices for a water supply they are not receiving. . . . This year came the news that the mains would be laid by about the end of November. A few weeks ago came the blow—rate notices for a full water supply starting from last July. Bills around £15 for each home payable this month.

I know that the Minister is investigating this situation with a view to helping those people who have complained, but this has caused me much perturbation because, as the article suggests, people are being rated for water from the beginning of July when they will not have a supply until probably November. This has led me to consider the whole question of our system of water rating. It seems obvious that the present system, based upon the assessed value of a property, must encourage people to waste water, because they are allowed to use water free, as it were, up to the amount allowed them, whether they need to use it or not. It certainly does not encourage them to save water. In the driest State in the driest continent of the world the present system seems to be an unfortunate way of tackling the question of water conservation: there seems to be no logic in it. Furthermore, it means that some people who do not use up to their allowance are subsidizing people who do use excess water, because those who do not use up their allowance pay for it anyway.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: You can always put a hose over the fence.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I wonder how many people are as thoughtful as the Minister is.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: Quite a number.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The cost of administering the present system of assessing and rating must be considerable. I do not know how much money goes on it, but I guess it would be a large amount. The system is laid down

in Part V of the Waterworks Act, section 82 (4) of which states:

The Commissioner may, whenever he deems it expedient so to do, either in addition to or in substitution for making and levying rates as aforesaid, sell or supply water to consumers, who shall pay according to the quantity of water consumed.

To somebody coming fresh into the matter, that would seem to be the obvious way to pay for water. Having stated that case, I hasten to add that I would feel in very great danger of being rubbished for expressing these views—clear as they seem to me—if they were only my own views; but I refer respectfully to a report appearing in the *Advertiser* of September 11 in which the name of the Engineer-in-Chief was mentioned. The article, headed "Waste of Water Criticized", stated:

"By raising annual water rates without a corresponding increase in water prices, Australian water authorities have defeated their own ends." This was stated here today by South Australia's Engineer-in-Chief (Mr. J. R. Dridan) who presented a paper at the National Symposium on Water Resources, Use and Management. In the paper Mr. Dridan says that Australian water authorities have done this by encouraging high consumption and incurring heavy capital commitments on the provision of new supply sources to meet this high consumption.

Then an extract from the paper states:

The answer to this serious economic problem may be to charge for water by measure.

Any alteration in our system of charging for water would obviously create some upheaval, therefore it would not be easy to effect. The problem we are facing, it seems to me, is so serious that we should look at it. I realize fully that the department must have a certain sum, and it is only a matter of how that money is to be raised; but I do think that a more straight-out system of charging by measure would encourage people to save water and to be more careful in their consumption. It would also be more equitable, and I should think that it would mean that administration would be cheaper. If people are not using the water, why should they be charged? It seems to me to be one of the inequities in the thing that many people are charged heavily for water rates, yet they use very little water.

Mr. Shannon: They are glad to have a main.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Quite so. The Minister of Works probably can give a very good answer to this, and I should very much like to hear it because it seems to me to be a serious problem and one which we should consider, either immediately or at some time in the foreseeable future.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Minister of Works): The honourable member has raised a matter that could well be the subject of a three-day debate, but I do not intend to go into it at any length at this stage because I do not think this is the appropriate time to do so. He made several interesting points, and I admit at the outset that those points all have some impact. I think his first point was that we could abolish the expensive system of assessments if we sold water by measure. That was his attachment to the subject matter before this Committee, so I will take that point first. I think the honourable member has forgotten that we also have to provide sewerage services, in the metropolitan area particularly but also in some country areas, and, of course, as there is no possibility of charging for sewerage by measure other means must be adopted to charge for that service. If an assessment of property is the proper way to assess for sewerage charges, then the assessment must be done in any event, so we cannot avoid the cost of the assessments and the preparation of the accounts based on them.

Regarding water supply, I admit that other amenities and services, although not all, are charged for differently. For example, local government does not charge for its services in providing streets and footpaths, beyond the moiety payable per foot of frontage. Local government also rates property for various services rendered, and as I see it there is no alternative to that. Admittedly, electricity is charged for at a cost for each unit, but I think the honourable member will agree that the two services are not entirely analogous. The whole trouble with the cost of water supply and sewerage services is that the huge capital cost involved in providing the service is far greater in its impact on the State's accounts than is the cost of supplying the water within those services. The capital cost of supplying the means of conveying the commodity is huge, and represents a much larger figure in the accounts than does the actual cost of providing the water. Therefore, if we charge for water only at cost and neglect to charge people who have a service, whether they use it to a greater or a lesser extent, it imposes a charge for each thousand gallons which it would be impossible and uneconomic for many people and many industries and many agriculturists to meet.

Water services offer a distinct advantage from an insurance point of view. In fact, they are an inestimable advantage from an insurance point of view, for without the service the

owner of property would be open to serious risk against which he could not afford to safeguard himself in any other way. For example, the business centre in Adelaide contributes in water rating a substantial proportion of the total collected in the metropolitan area, yet the quantity of water used within the city square is extremely small. However, in that respect the centre of metropolitan Adelaide contributes a substantial amount towards the cost of supplying water to the whole community, and not without receiving a service either because the people in that small area have at their disposal an adequate supply of water for fire fighting which demands large mains and high pressures and a very intricate and complete reticulation system.

I have said publicly that I sympathize with the viewpoint expressed by the honourable member, yet its mere desirability does not provide the solution to the problems that arise from it. Some years ago the Government of the day requested the Public Works Committee to inquire into the incidence of water charges and methods used for charging for water. The committee sat for four or five years. I have read the committee's interesting report. After deliberating and taking evidence, this competent group recommended the present system. I have done some homework on this matter as I considered it my duty as responsible Minister to inquire, but my investigations have led me no further than those of the committee appointed for that purpose. Reluctant as I am to say it, I believe that no prospect exists of our getting away from the present system. Until further light is thrown on the subject, I believe that the present system is the best we can devise.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: When extending sewers past vacant allotments, the department makes an extra charge on the person having the connection made. A case in my district involves £80 extra to be paid over five years. Any one of the four blocks past which the connection will be made could be used for building purposes. Someone must pay to pioneer an area, but the extra £80 would be better paid by those holding the vacant land. It would be convenient to have the service, as it would be difficult to install a septic system because of the soil. Under the present system, this landholder has to pay the £80, whereas in fairness the extra cost should be divided between the owners of the vacant allotments. Many years ago the Adelaide Electric Supply Company had a pole charge when the extension went beyond a certain distance and, as the

power was connected for other consumers, the charge was refunded. Perhaps a similar system could be instituted for sewerage?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Providing services for isolated houses in developing areas is a real problem. What the Leader has said is current practice. The department says to the applicant, "We cannot reach you with sewerage at normal rates, because we have to run a considerable length of main to reach your block, and we ask you for a loaded rating." Usually no indications are present of any further development likely in the area for a period of time. In any case, the loaded rating would not approximate the normal return if the whole area were occupied and built on with tenements for rating purposes. The department takes a calculated risk. It observes the rate of development in the area and forecasts what it could be in four or five years' time. It could be three years, as five years is not always the term, and varying terms are considered. According to the observations, the department then considers whether sufficient building will take place in the area to make it an economic extension. Unless some system such as that is adopted the demands on the department for extensions into unprofitable areas will be so great as to require an increased rate for the whole of the metropolitan area. We cannot make unprofitable extensions *ad infinitum* without there being an impact on the economics of the whole scheme. We try to be fair. There are occasions when possibly two-thirds of the blocks in a street are built upon and we say to the occupants, "Will you spread the risk and each accept a share of it?" but the rate can become greater on an applicant according to the development in an area. I do not see how we can overcome the problem unless we have some means of enforcing a share of the capital cost on the owners of vacant land, as the Leader suggests. At present I doubt whether we have power to do so.

Mr. Frank Walsh: You should create the power.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: We can always remove hardship from one person by transferring it to another. In some cases land may be held for speculative purposes. Land increases in value when water mains are laid, and it might be proper to impose a charge upon such land—and legal means might be enacted to enable that to be done. However, in many areas—and I think most areas—where scattered development is occurring, house construction is being delayed because the landholders are young people who are battling to pay for

their blocks. Having done so they pledge the land as security on their houses. To demand of these people a rate for a service that they do not have and are not able yet to use is transferring hardship from one section of the community to another. If we had to choose between the two, I think it is reasonable to assume that those who get the benefit of a service should pay for it. However, I am prepared to examine the matter, and the best way will be by investigating cases in areas where this situation is occurring and by breaking them down to study the effects.

Mr. CLARK: Ever since I have been a member I have been requesting that Gawler be severed. I have recently obtained a copy of a report from the local Health Inspector to the Gawler Board of Health. This report arose from a council resolution that a survey be made of septic systems throughout Gawler. When I first raised this question most of the houses in Gawler were served by the objectionable pan system, but since then many people have gone to the expense of installing septic tanks to get rid of their effluent. The report is as follows:

During the past two months I have inspected septic tank installations in practically every street in the Gawler Corporation area. In almost every street the same situation is occurring—the soakage well is overflowing. The occupiers of the houses in the affected areas are using a great variety of ways and means in fighting the problem. Electric pumps, hand pumps, ejectors and even buckets are used, and in one street the effluent is merely siphoned out of the soakage wells into a gully on the other side of the road. I have interviewed many people throughout the town: most are doing everything in their power to keep the effluent in their own properties, but in many instances this is literally impossible; and then we have the all too common sight of black, evil-smelling, offensive liquid running down the water table.

From the public health point of view the matter falls into two main categories. First, where effluent free from pathogenic organisms has to be pumped out regularly, *e.g.*, daily or weekly, an overflowing soakage well presents a very real problem, and certainly affects the mental health of the people. Families with small children are understandably concerned; the backyards are not fit places for small children to play in; mosquitoes thrive in such conditions; friction is caused among neighbours when effluent seeps in next door; and many people realize that they are liable to be prosecuted if they allow the effluent to discharge into the street. All this is extremely worrying to many people in the Gawler area.

Secondly, where soakage wells are overflowing continuously, the septic tanks are not working properly and, as a result, raw sewage containing many solid particles is discharging on to the ground. In cases where raw sewage is being pumped out, this constitutes a positive danger to public health. I have seen evidence of



extensive fly breeding in areas adjacent to soakage wells where small particles of solids are being ejected. The fly has been rightly called public enemy number one when it comes to the transmission of diseases (and especially with summer approaching).

Later, the report continues—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I trust that the honourable member will not go into this in detail. The line to which the honourable member is referring relates to the cost of materials, machinery hire and general expenses incurred for operation and maintenance.

Mr. CLARK: I recently asked the Minister of Works a question on this matter and he informed me that estimates of cost had been taken out and financial statements were in the course of preparation. A line relates to salaries, and I presume that the salaries of those who took out the estimates of cost for sewerage Gawler are included in that line.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member must confine himself strictly to that line. He is going too far in discussing sewerage for Gawler.

Mr. CLARK: I had almost concluded my remarks. I will not quote further from the report. I have read sufficient to indicate the grave position. I understand that a copy of the report has been forwarded to the Engineer-in-Chief. Possibly the Minister has seen it: if not, I will supply him with a copy. I stress that a real health danger exists in Gawler. Will the Minister do everything possible to expedite this scheme?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I know the urgency of this matter, which is being pressed forward as fast as possible. The honourable member's remarks are duly noted.

Line passed.

Public Buildings Department, £228,639.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I believe that additional senior staff is to be appointed to the department. Will the Minister advise me on progress in this matter? Many quantity surveyors and other officers in similar categories are brought from overseas under contract. Is any period of service to be rendered to the department specified in these contracts? After the contracts have expired, are these men free to advance in the department or go to other employment outside the Public Service?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Regarding the first point, the department is now being studied and a report has been handed to the Public Service Commissioner for the Public Service Board to consider reorganizing the department at top level to provide that under the Director there shall be several sectional heads for various administrative purposes. Regarding the

second point, when officers are recruited from overseas their term of service is normally specified, and they are obliged to serve in some capacity in the Public Service for a definite period. By far the greatest number of people brought out under this scheme honour their agreements without difficulty, although occasionally some seek to break away from the agreements. Recently, an officer was granted a special concession to enable him to go overseas, a condition being that in turn he would give services to the department. Incidentally, he was not an importation from overseas. He declined to carry out the terms of the agreement, and there was no way to enforce it. When a person is outside the Commonwealth there is no way to enforce a contract. In odd cases an officer still within the State wants to leave the department, and frequently, if his request is refused, he becomes most dissatisfied and his service suffers accordingly. However, the incidence of such cases is rather low compared with the number involved, and most of the officers concerned honour their bonds with the department or the Public Service.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Information is circulating that, when such officers have honoured their obligation to the Government (whether for four or five years), they are free to leave the department but, if they are employed by a builder or contractor who contracts for Government work, that builder or contractor will not be considered for further Government work. Is there an agreement between the building fraternity and the Government under which, if a company engages any of these men, it will not be considered favourably for Government contracts?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: After all, it is a free country and, if a professional officer has met his obligations to the department, he is perfectly free to go his own way. I am not aware of any cases, such as those mentioned by the Leader, where a firm that might have engaged the services of such an officer has not been considered for work by the Government.

Line passed.

Government Offices, £288,482.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The sum of £23,521 is provided for office keepers, caretakers, telephonists, and telephoniste-typistes. My remarks will relate to Government telephone switchboards, particularly those with the numbers 8-0355, 8-0471 and 8-0461. It is obvious and almost trite to say that a switchboard is often the first introduction a person has to any person or organization, whether it be a private firm or a Government department, and

that from the switchboard one gets an impression that is either good or bad. In this case the impression is of a Government department and, indeed, of the whole Public Service. Many members use these numbers constantly. I know that many members make their calls from Parliament House and therefore use the direct line, in which case the service is probably not so bad, but those of us who telephone from outside and must dial the number find (at least I do, and I can speak only for myself) that the switchboards often cause a great irritation. I make it clear that I do not blame the operators on the switchboards as much as I blame the system. We have what can be termed a horde of unrelated departments running from the same switchboard. The Education Department, the Attorney-General's Department and the Crown Solicitor have the same number—8-0471. These are departments with no connection whatsoever. Until the last few weeks when a person dialled 8-0471 the girl would say, "Education". What effect that had on the person who wished to speak to the Crown Solicitor, and who was not prepared for it, I do not know. If the person wanted the Minister of Education he would ask for him, and he would get through to the office and then through to the Minister.

I refer to an experience I had with the number 8-0355. On May 9 last I tried, as I try two or three times a week, to ring Mr. Howard Kneebone, the efficient and courteous Secretary of the Minister of Works. On this occasion I ran into trouble, and it was typical of the trouble I have had from time to time with the switchboard. I made a comprehensive note immediately I hung up, whilst the facts were still fresh in my mind. I tried to telephone Mr. Kneebone by dialling 8-0355. I got through on an extension to someone who said, "I'll hang up." I said, "No, don't do that, I'll be cut off. Can't you get back to the switchboard?" He said, "Sometimes I can flash for half an hour and they won't take any notice of me." I said, "It's a pretty appalling switchboard, isn't it?" He said, "You're not telling me anything. In a private concern you could get transferred, but not here." I did not ask the officer for his name, but I thought I would give the example at an appropriate time.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: I thought you were not blaming the operators.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I am giving an example. I was generous previously. It may sound funny, but when a person has to make 20 calls in a short period it is irritating and

a waste of time to be messed about by a switchboard operator. I hasten to say that my own switchboard operator has been by no means blameless, but most switchboard operators can do far better than they do. I think we had a telephone courtesy week only a short time ago. I feel that I would be rubbished by the Minister if I did not have good authority on which to speak. In the March issue of *Public Service* this matter was raised by officers of the Public Service Association. The heading of the article was "Please, telephonists, don't give us a bad name." I think it is not so much the individual girls as the system of having a number of unrelated departments running from the same board. Because this is a serious matter, I ask the Minister of Works whether it has been considered by him and his colleagues, and what has been done. In fairness, I think there has been some improvement in the last few months, but the position is still not good. Can the matter be considered again with a view to an alteration in the system effecting an improvement?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The matter raised is one that is very much in the process of reorganization at present. I am not able to say anything with certainty about all the switchboards mentioned, but 8-0355 is concerned, and there a comprehensive scheme is being prepared. The building is being prepared to receive a new system and soon there will be a complete reorganization of the network. I think the honourable member appreciates that as a department grows and annexes are added to it, as has occurred in recent years all over the city, many difficulties arise. They are met by extensions of switchboards, which end ultimately in a device being put in for the work to be performed. I feel the switchboard the honourable member mentioned is used by me more than by him, and I am satisfied that the girls on the job do the best they can with the equipment they have. The board becomes overloaded at times, particularly during certain hours of the morning and afternoon. Improvements are being made. They are extremely costly and involve long and protracted negotiations with the Postmaster-General's Department in order to get the best equipment, and to tie-up with the P.M.G. network. The matter raised is being attended to and I think the honourable member can expect an improvement soon.

Line passed.

Cemetery, £24,384; Public Stores Department, £123,921—passed.

Department of Aboriginal Affairs, £674,210.

Mr. RICHES: The sum of £500 is voted for a nurse at Umeewarra Mission. Grants are made for nurses at other missions, but in those cases the sum is £1,000. Can the Minister say why, in comparison, the Umeewarra Mission amount should be so low? I cannot think that the other grants cater for more than one nurse because I know of the work done by the Umeewarra nurse, not only in connection with children but with all the Aborigines on the station. The sum of £500 seems a pitifully small amount to be paid for the kind of service I know is rendered there. Maybe the mission authorities have not asked for more, but that would indicate the kind of people they are. I urge the department to ascertain whether this is a reasonable reimbursement for the valuable service rendered on a large scale. There may be an explanation for it.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Minister of Aboriginal Affairs): The note I have indicates that it is a subsidy towards the cost of the salary of a nurse. The honourable member referred to other nurses and said that higher amounts had been allocated. The amount for Yalata covers the salary of a nurse and a subsidy towards the salary of a welfare officer. The amount of £1,000 for Ernabella is for a nurse. I think that probably the lower amount arises from the fact that Umeewarra is near medical and hospital services, whereas the other two stations I have mentioned are isolated and much greater responsibility in the event of serious illness devolves on the nurse concerned. I do not know whether that is the answer; it could be that or it could be, as the honourable member has suggested, that the mission has been modest in its request. I agree that there are people like that who do not ask for more than they really need. I will look at the matter and see what the circumstances are.

Mr. BYWATERS: My attention was drawn this morning to a statement from the Aborigines Department that the Auditor-General had suggested to the department that Aborigines now seeking hospitalization at Tailem Bend should be sent to the Government-subsidized hospital at Murray Bridge rather than to the Tailem Bend Hospital, which is a community hospital and therefore has to seek reimbursement from the department. This morning a deputation waited on the Minister of Health with a request that the Lower Murray District Hospital be made a subsidized hospital. Also, the query was raised whether perhaps in view of this request the Aborigines

Department would take no action to implement the Auditor-General's suggestion. The Tailem Bend Hospital has provided all the necessary facilities for aboriginal patients, and the Point McLeay Mission authorities are happy with the medical services they have had. Patients are transported by bus from Point McLeay to Tailem Bend, whereas no such transport is provided to Murray Bridge and these patients might have to make their own arrangements to travel the extra distance—30 miles there and back. Also, relatives of the Aborigines live close to Tailem Bend, and perhaps the same would not apply at Murray Bridge. Would the Minister take this matter up with his department to see that, in view of the approach by the Lower Murray District Hospital at Tailem Bend to become a subsidized hospital, no action is taken at this stage to comply with the Auditor-General's suggestion?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: One cannot, as the responsible Minister, disregard the points made by the Auditor-General. However, I think there are one or two things of which the Auditor-General may not have been aware, and one of these concerns the additional transport involved to Murray Bridge. This matter has been the subject of some discussion. In view of the honourable member's comments, no hasty decision will be made.

Mr. CASEY: On page 72 appears the line "Nepabunna Mission—Towards Assistance, £1,500." I have spoken at length of my opinion of Nepabunna, and I hope that the Minister will read what I have said. When we look back over the years we find that much money has been poured into Nepabunna. I suggested earlier that perhaps it might be better for all concerned if Nepabunna Mission, as a mission, was moved in towards a centralized point, such as Copley. What information has the Minister about how this £1,500 will be used at Nepabunna? I understand that a bore was placed there recently to obtain water because the previous bore broke down.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The sum on the line is for the purpose of assisting the mission to buy a refrigerator for its dispensary, to provide a workshop for boys' hobbies, and to build dormitories and fences. I did read the honourable member's remarks on the debate on the first line, and I noted the suggestions that he made. I particularly noted with some interest his suggestion that it might be wise in the interests of all concerned to move the mission to Copley. However, the mission authorities have worked very strenuously and

worthily over a long period of years to maintain their mission: the Superintendent and his wife have worked and lived most sacrificially in order to attend to the welfare of the people in that area. I understand that the menfolk are for the most part employed on local stations, and to remove them to Copley would break their employment and necessitate their re-establishing themselves. I have not had any further recommendations from the department either for or against the honourable member's suggestion, so I am speaking personally regarding it. I assure the honourable member that his suggestion will be taken into account. However, I would not be a party to putting pressure on the mission authorities to close their mission at Nepabunna and go into Copley unless there was merit in the proposal and we were prepared to agree to it.

Line passed.

Public Works, £1,834,650—passed.

Miscellaneous, £112,214.

Mr. COUMBE: The sum of £400 is provided under the line "River Torrens (Prohibition of Excavations) Act and River Torrens Protection Act—Administration of." Has the Minister further information regarding suggestions made to him recently on behalf of councils for the control of the River Torrens? Can he also provide information on the move that was made some time ago, following a deputation I introduced to the Treasurer, regarding a weir and lake formation adjacent to Walkerville and St. Peters in a rather large bend of the river which would form a very scenic attraction for that part of the river?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: This matter has been under discussion through the medium of the honourable member and corporations along the River Torrens for some time. The Engineer-in-Chief arranged for the Engineer for Drainage to survey the river and bring down a report. That report and certain recommendations have been considered by Cabinet not fully but on one occasion informally. No decision has yet been made, but we are endeavouring to find a way of giving effect to the corporations' desires as far as we can go. At this stage, the whole matter is complicated by the Town Planning Committee's report, and it is a very complex and difficult matter to resolve. I cannot at this moment tell the honourable member just when decisions will be made, but I will discuss the matter further with Cabinet and let the honourable member know as soon as I can what the feeling of Cabinet is.

Mr. RYAN: The sum of £101,714 is provided for sewerage, water and municipal rates, rental and insurance for certain Government buildings and rented properties. Can the Minister say whether No. 3 Court at Port Adelaide, which was previously a bank building and which is now rented by the Government, comes within this line?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: This line provides for rental of office accommodation and for payment of water rates and insurance. I doubt whether it covers the full extent of rentals. It may or may not, but I am unable to answer the question.

Mr. RYAN: A bank owned a large building at Port Adelaide but, after new premises had been built, it was vacated by the bank and taken over by the Government as No. 3 Court, Port Adelaide. The cost of alterations, maintenance, and rental was almost as much as the Government could have paid for the property when it was first available for purchase. The Government was approached but did not accept the offer, and the building was bought privately. It was then leased to the Government. If the Government had purchased the property it would not have had to pay for the alterations. Can the Minister say whether there is a proposition before the Public Works Committee for the rebuilding of the Port Adelaide police station? Can he say whether the reference to the committee includes housing No. 3 Court in the new building, thereby saving the Government money?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am unable to answer all questions in detail without notice. I think the honourable member has answered his question. If the Government did not contemplate building premises it would not lease the building that he has mentioned. No-one gets anything that is worth having for nothing. I presume that the lease is for a short term to enable conclusions to be reached about a permanent building to meet the requirements outlined by the honourable member.

Mr. CLARK: An amount of £200 was provided last year for the Advisory Committee on Country Sewerage Schemes but the expenditure was nil. The sum of £200 is provided this year. Can the Minister of Works outline this committee's programme for this year, as I was under the impression that it no longer functioned?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I must say as kindly as I can to the honourable member that I have several times in Parliament remarked

that the committee is functioning. It concluded its original inquiry some years ago, but as various country towns requested reconsideration of the priorities because of certain new factors since the original inquiry was completed, I asked the Government to reconstitute the committee on a permanent basis to hear cases from time to time. The committee has been reconstituted on a permanent basis for about two years, and may be called together by the chairman at any time to investigate the claim made by a country town where the local council considers that new circumstances justify a revision of priorities. The committee is in a constant state of preparedness.

Line passed.

#### MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

Education Department, £15,760,200.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: An article in this morning's press stated that a 1,000-student teachers college was planned for Bedford Park, and also that the university's Principal-Designate (Professor P. H. Karmel) and the Superintendent of Recruitment and Training in the Education Department (Mr. A. W. Jones) had discussed quotas for teachers college students, and other matters of interest to the university and the Education Department. Three training colleges operate at present: at Kintore Avenue, at Wattle Park, and at Thebarton. What is to be the link-up with the university at Bedford Park? Will the teachers college be entirely separate from the university? When the university and the teachers college are both established, will the university be used almost exclusively for training the proposed 1,000-odd student teachers? I have previously referred to the expenditure on the Wattle Park and Kintore Avenue teachers colleges. I think that more could be spent on the teachers college at Thebarton. Can the Minister say what is proposed at Bedford Park?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON (Minister of Education): The proposal for the establishment of a teachers training college at Bedford Park is in the planning stage only: of course, it is in the advanced planning stage. It is a long-range project, and it is not yet ready for submission to the Public Works Committee. Architects of the Public Buildings Department are preparing plans, and later they will have to prepare detailed plans and estimates of cost which will be submitted to the Public Works Committee for investigation and report. It is considered to be urgently necessary that some start should be made soon, and, if possible,

that some buildings should be erected during 1966. The project will not come to final fruition for many years. Because of the tremendous growth in school enrolments—departmental and private—and the number of persons it will be necessary to train as teachers in various categories, a large teachers college will be required ultimately at Bedford Park. Wattle Park was regarded as temporary, but it had to be extended out of all proportion to what was originally intended. The ultimate intention is that it might be converted into an in service training institution for teachers. I agree with the Leader that the Western Teachers College should be much improved. Again, that was more or less a temporary expedient because of the large influx of trainee students and the delay in building the teachers college at Kintore Avenue.

It is not intended to supply accommodation at the Bedford Park teachers college in the same way as the university intends to have a hall of residents. This college will be for day students and the trainee teachers will go to the university at Bedford Park the same as students from Kintore Avenue, Wattle Park and Western Teachers Colleges go to the University of Adelaide. It is intended that the Bedford Park students will conveniently take suitable courses in the various faculties at Bedford Park. There will be no unnecessary overlapping or travelling. The students at Bedford Park will take such university subjects as they require at Bedford Park and they will not be coming to Adelaide.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: The press article states that the department has obtained 20 acres of the 370 acres comprised in the whole estate. Those 20 acres front Sturt Road, and that land is possibly the best in the area. It is cleared. What buildings are proposed on that land, and what will be the link with the new university? Is it envisaged that existing buildings at Bedford Park will be demolished, or is it intended to retain the nurses' quarters as accommodation for university students?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: We did seek 30 acres for the teachers college and recreational grounds, but there is a lack of level ground there. As we wanted one of the best spots, when we were offered the 20 acres we accepted them. However, the buildings will not occupy that entire area because they will be of several storeys, and provision will be made for playing fields, including ovals. It is intended that the university will use the ovals as well and, in turn, the teachers college students will use the university ovals: there will

be an interchange that will be mutually beneficial. I am not familiar with what is planned for the existing buildings—their demolition. I know that the university authorities are satisfied that the areas will be made available to them as and when they are required. The university has been in close touch with the other departments of the Government and there is no fear that the areas to be occupied by the buildings will be made available as and when they are required.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I raise two matters, the first of which is serious and, I find, distasteful to raise. It is a general matter arising from the Auditor-General's Report. I refer to the total Education Department line of £15,760,200. That is a lot of money to be spending but I do not begrudge a penny of it on education. Indeed, the Liberal and Country League conference a few weeks ago urged that the Government should spend even more money on education than it does. But it behoves us when there is such an amount of money as this to spend to make sure that it is spent properly. If this Committee is to be the watchdog of public finance, we must take account of what the Auditor-General says in these matters. I have no doubt that the Minister is fully aware of this for it would not escape his attention. On page 59 of the Auditor-General's Report he says some astringent things about the accounting procedures of the Education Department:

In previous reports comment has been made on the necessity for improved accounting and financial control in this department. A thorough investigation of the activities of the Accounting Branch of the department has been long overdue and although the Public Service Commissioner has reviewed some aspects, the standard of work to satisfy audit requirements will not be attained until a full scale investigation is made. Recently the department took action to overcome some of the queries raised by this office resulting from a lack of training and supervision, and some improvement has been noted. Steps have also been taken to make further appointments and re-arrange the duties of some officers. Attention has again been drawn to a number of unsatisfactory matters, some of which are summarized below.

Then four matters are mentioned: cleaning contracts, school-heating costs, house rents, and trade accounts. If one looks at the 1962 report of the Auditor-General, one finds that these very matters were raised then and much the same thing was said about them. If we go back just two pages in the 1963 report, on page 57 under the heading "School Funds" we see that the Auditor-General says, in the second paragraph:

As a result, the Treasurer requested that advice be given to the department by the Auditor-General on the measures necessary for the implementation of proper control over school funds. This advice was given in September, 1961, but the department has not completed the necessary internal investigation. That is just a little stronger than what was said last year. I do not like raising a thing like this but the Auditor-General has said it twice now. In 1961 he referred to it, but not quite so forcefully as he did last year and as he has done again this year. So far as I know, it was not raised last year and I feel, in deference to a Parliamentary officer who has so strongly and forcefully drawn attention to it, that we should have it discussed in this place. As I have said, I do not begrudge a penny of the money spent on education; in fact, I wish we could spend more, and I hope we shall. But we have to see that the money is well spent. It is a little disturbing to observe that the accounting methods of the department responsible for the spending of so much money are called into question by the Auditor-General. I therefore raise this matter with the Minister.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: First, let me say that in my opinion there is no need whatsoever for the honourable member to apologize for raising this matter. It is his privilege and duty, as it is the duty of any member, to raise it, because it is a matter of great public interest. As he has said, it is a large sum, the largest for any department in the whole State, that is being spent. The Auditor-General is indeed the watchdog of Parliament, and great attention should be given to his remarks.

I have been concerned for some time about the matter, because it has been raised with the Treasurer and myself and instructions have been given from time to time to have the matters complained of rectified; but there has been a tremendous increase in the number of teachers, trainee teachers and enrolments in our schools of various categories, but there has not been a corresponding increase in the number of administrative staff; and, in particular, there has not been a sufficient increase in the number of accounting staff. I know the Director of Education has been concerned for some years about the inadequate staff of the Accounts Branch of the Education Department and, as a result of representations made to the Public Service Commissioner, there has been not only an increase in the quantity but also an improvement in the quality of the staff recently.

I asked the Director of Education to give me an urgent report on this matter as soon as it

appeared in the Auditor-General's Report, because I was anticipating something of this nature. One part of the report by the Director, dated October 2, states:

A thorough investigation of the activities of the Accounts Branch of this department was, in fact, undertaken at my direction immediately after the Auditor-General's minute to me on May 3 was received. This investigation was carried out by Mr. Hewett, Secretary of this department, who is himself a fully qualified accountant. As a result of this thorough investigation, immediate action was taken, under my direction, to re-arrange duties, to tighten controls, to ensure as far as practicable that errors were prevented and to correct matters of procedure in the Accounts Branch. The Auditor-General was kept informed by me and by other senior officers of this department of all these steps and expressed his agreement of them. It is recognized that the substance of the Auditor-General's Report was composed, checked and sent to the printer early in August this year. At that time the Auditor-General, through his solicitor, had commented favourably on the very substantial improvements which had been effected, as shown in the check of the July payments, and this favourable position has been continued in respect of the August payments. It is perhaps more significant to note that similar favourable comments by the auditor were made in respect of the June payments. Apart from the comments by the auditor, the Auditor-General has since July 1 acknowledged personally to me that the measures which were instituted have been effective and that he is satisfied. The Assistant Auditor-General has gone out of his way to state categorically that in his opinion there has been a marked improvement throughout the accounts of this department.

That is one part of a lengthy report made to me by the Director of Education on October 2. But I was still a little concerned about the matter and I asked the Director to give me a further report and to see the Auditor-General (Mr. Jeffery) personally and ask him whether he was satisfied, because I anticipated that this matter would arise in Parliament and I wanted to be able to say categorically that the Auditor-General himself had been approached in the matter. So on October 17 I received a further report from the Director of Education, in which he said:

I saw the Auditor-General in his office at the State Bank building last Wednesday afternoon, October 9, and had a full discussion with him on the various points in the report in which he had criticized the accounts and finance control of this department. The Auditor-General drew attention to his statement that "some improvement has been noted" in the keeping of accounts and in the financial control. He said he was fully aware of the very considerable reductions in the number of queries by his audit officers in respect of the work of this department for the months of

June, July and August. He also knew of the considerable improvement that had been effected as a result of the rearrangement of duties and the increased supervision that had been put into operation. The Auditor-General concluded by saying that he was now satisfied that the position in regard to the keeping of accounts and the financial procedure of this department was reasonably satisfactory, and that, provided the improved position was maintained, there should be little if any cause for further complaint on his part.

I am just as anxious as the Auditor-General that that improvement shall continue, and I hope that with the increased staff in the Accounting Branch and the strict control the Director is insisting on, and as the Secretary of the department is a highly qualified accountant, there will be no room for complaint in future. I personally regret that there should ever have been cause for complaint, and I trust there will be no cause in future.

Mr. Jennings: Is this a Dorothy Dixey?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: No.

Mr. CLARK: It is intended that £2,000 will be spent this year on contributions towards bringing teachers from overseas. Does this mean that recruiting of teachers is still going on overseas or that some specialist teachers particularly are required by the department?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The honourable member has really answered the question: this sum is for highly specialized teachers.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: The sum of £577,600 is provided for running expenses and payments under contracts for buses for the transport of students. I appreciate the desirability of providing transport, but why is it necessary to have another line providing £1,500 for the purchase of caravans and cubicles as residences for teachers? I do not think living in caravans is desirable. Are many of these caravans being used by teachers, and are cubicles provided because families have increased in size? We had an example of this sort of thing recently in relation to Government housing.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The Education Department is now providing 545 transport services, 305 contract services and 18 subsidized services throughout the country districts of this State. It has a fleet of 160 departmental buses in addition. The number is continually expanding as additional facilities are made available; that is, we are starting new services and extending many existing services. This is a heavy cost for a comparatively small number of students, but I believe it is one of the best investments in the whole

of the Education Department because it provides for a great measure of decentralization of education, particularly at the higher level. It is the result of the policy inaugurated by the Government years ago (I think in the time of Sir Shirley Jeffries) when there was a consolidation of many smaller schools. We have developed this over the years with the very fine area schools and country high schools. As a result, many thousands of children are being brought into larger schools, and they are not only getting a better education and an advanced secondary education but they are brought into a larger circle every day. Because of this, they are able to engage in organized sport and recreation, and they form many lasting friendships with children from other schools.

Cubicles are provided not because of an increase in the size of a family but for young unmarried teachers who are good enough to go out into outback areas to teach. I highly commend them for their enterprise. These facilities are provided in places where no boarding accommodation is available. This sensible innovation of the Superintendent of Rural Schools that caravans or cubicles (or both) should be provided for these young male single teachers who go into outback areas has proved highly successful. The member for Frome is smiling in admiration, and I know this has happened in one of the newer areas on Kangaroo Island. However, it will be done only in a limited number of cases.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I notice with some surprise that no provision has been made this year for any grant for overseas visits of officers. From this I presume that no officers of the department will be going overseas. Will the Minister explain his policy on this matter?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Some officers go abroad from time to time but most go as a result of Fulbright or Smith-Mundt scholarships, and one or two other scholarships, the names of which I cannot recall. The cost is borne by the authority that grants the scholarship. The Government grants the full salary and other expenses of the officer under the general lines or in the lines relating to specific branches. One or two officers are now abroad, and some have returned recently. Some of the most capable officers of the whole department—the superintendents—have had the benefit of overseas travel in the last few years. I do not know of any officer sent abroad this year for any specific engagement.

Mr. CASEY: At present some schoolhouses in remote areas are occupied by teaching staff

of the Education Department who have to rely on antiquated methods of lighting, such as kerosene lamps. I understand that police stations are equipped with 32-volt lighting where power is not available. In fairness to teachers, particularly young teachers who are studying, better lighting should be provided. I have repeatedly raised this matter with the department and I understand it is the department's policy to purchase new lighting plants. As a single wire earth return service is operating extensively in South Australia, many secondhand plants that are more or less equal to new plants are available and can be purchased cheaply. I believe that in the districts of Angas and Light this equipment can be purchased at a reasonable price. I ask the Minister to see whether places in remote areas, not serviced as are towns, can be equipped with a 32-volt supply.

Last year £2,600 was voted for the purchase of motor vehicles and actual payments were £2,282. This year the figure has dropped to £1,600. I understood that at about this time of the year more buses were to be purchased by the Education Department for extended services for country schoolchildren and I believe the Minister said a few moments ago that more transport would be provided to take children to outback schools. How many vehicles can be purchased for £1,600?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Dealing with the first matter raised, the honourable member has made a valuable suggestion concerning the purchase of some of these secondhand 32-volt lighting plants. I will raise the matter immediately with the department to see what can be done and the honourable member's suggestion may help solve the problem. Dealing with the purchase of motor vehicles, the sum mentioned by the honourable member is for the replacement of two departmental vehicles. The purchase of school buses for the transport of the 20,000-odd country children comes under the Loan Estimates. I believe over £35,000 was included for that purpose this year.

Mrs. STEELE: The question of the Supervisor of School Libraries is becoming a hardy annual with me. I had hoped—and I know that the Minister had hoped—that with the appointment of Miss Baxter last year this problem would be solved for a long time and that the school library system would be expanded and developed under her direction. Unfortunately this has not happened. Since it was pioneered many years ago by Mrs.



Riddle who put it on a good footing, the position has been filled by many appointees for comparatively short periods. There has been some doubt as to who has jurisdiction over the position because the vacancy is always advertised by the Public Service Commissioner, although it seems to come within the ambit of the Education Department. This matter has never been satisfactorily resolved; perhaps the Minister will enlighten members on this point. Since the appointment of Miss Baxter, some doubt has arisen concerning the officer of the Education Department to whom she is responsible. It appears she has had little authority to advise school committees on libraries and the purchase of books and her duties seem largely to have been confined to addressing school committees. I believe she has been disappointed in the role she has played since her appointment.

She came to this State with high qualifications and many people (including the Minister and me) who had been interested in this problem believed she would make a tremendous contribution in this field. I know that various committees have waited on the Minister to see what can be done. I understand that the Minister has received deputations from organizations such as the welfare clubs, the Public Schools Committees Association, and the South Australian Teachers' Institute, as well as from representatives of the Children's Section of the Public Library. Now Miss Baxter has been appointed to another position within the Education Department—at Western Teachers College. Some mix-up has occurred because Miss Baxter saw the position of Supervisor of School Libraries advertised before she had resigned and before she had been notified of her appointment to the position at Western Teachers College. Only yesterday she received provisional notice that she had been appointed to the position there.

Public Service Commissioner's Circular 2951, dated October 15, 1963, invites applications for the position of Supervisor of School Libraries, and the circular states that the position is also being advertised in the press. I was informed yesterday that the position was advertised in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on Saturday last, but as yet it has not been advertised in the South Australian press. The circular calling for applications for the position (and I understand it circulates within the department) set out the duties and qualifications, but in no instance did it say that the applicant must hold a certificate from the Library Association, for which most librarians study. I forget the name of the certificate, but it is granted after

several years' training. No mention was made of it in the advertisement, which said:

**Duties and qualifications:** Advise the Director of Education and the Superintendents on the work in school libraries and the facilities and equipment required in them; assist heads of schools with purchase of books and prepare periodical lists of suitable books for children of various age ranges; assist teacher-librarians in the management and maintenance of school libraries, and advise on their correct use by visits to schools and by assisting at inservice courses; undertake other relevant duties as the Director of Education may require. Applicants should have had teaching experience, experience of library work with children, and have knowledge of the place of books in schools for reference, for projects and for additional reading by children. Applicants should provide evidence of study appropriate to the position.

I bring this matter forward because many people are concerned that the advertisement did not call for applications from persons with the requirements required the last time the position was advertised. The salary range for females is £1,368 minimum and £1,763 maximum. I think that Miss Baxter was paid £1,500. People interested in the valuable service to be rendered consider, as the result of the experience in the past year, that neither the public nor the department got full value for the £1,500. Can the Minister say whether the position is under the control of the department, because there seems to have been friction in the past and doubt as to whether the Education Department or the Supervisor of School Libraries was responsible. Many people are interested in the situation that has developed. It is an unfortunate affair and everybody is anxious to see it resolved satisfactorily.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Nobody in South Australia is more interested in the problem that I am, and I have said repeatedly at various schools I have visited that I consider the library is the most important room in the school. I think the inculcation of the habit of independent reading is the essence of education. We have 385 separate libraries in our schools, 139 library corners and 32 mobile library units. We have 1,034,000 books in our school libraries, according to the latest count I have. I do not think we are getting the best advantage from our school libraries because for one reason or another we have had a succession of Supervisors of School Libraries. I have been concerned about the matter for years. I asked the Principal Librarian at the Public Library to give me a report and a recommendation on the matter. He gave me a valuable report, which I passed on to the Director of Education

for his investigation and comment. I circulated it to the Institute of Teachers, which is vitally concerned in the matter, the Public Schools Committees' Association, the Children's Section of the Public Library, and the Library Association in South Australia. I have had discussions with them at various times. The Director gave me his comments on, and in some respects criticism of, the Principal Librarian's report. Obviously, the other bodies applaud some sections of his report, and some parts of what the Director said, but disagree with other sections. I hope that out of the consultations will come eventually some good and that we shall have a far better system of school libraries.

Answering the specific question by the member for Burnside, it is a Public Service appointment. All the superintendents and assistant superintendents and supervisors of the Education Department come under the Public Service Commissioner, and they are public servants. The Commissioner sets out the range of salaries and the duties after consultation with the Director. I am surprised that the position has been advertised in other States and not in South Australia. If necessary, I will take up the matter with the Public Service Commissioner tomorrow to see whether we can get a uniform advertisement for South Australia and the other States.

Mr. RYAN: On page 57 of the Auditor-General's Report there appears the following:

Following a move by this office a legal opinion was sought by the department as to whether school funds were "public moneys" as defined by section 3a of the Audit Act and should be audited by the Auditor-General. The Crown Solicitor advised that in his opinion school funds cannot be described as "public moneys", but emphasized that these funds should be properly audited. As a result, the Treasurer requested that advice be given to the department by the Auditor-General on the measures necessary for the implementation of proper control over school funds. This advice was given in September, 1961, but the department has not completed the necessary internal investigations. At some schools considerable sums of money are held in school funds which, in terms of the regulations under the Education Act, are "under the sole control of the head teacher who alone is responsible".

It appears from the report that the wheels of government turn very slowly in some matters. I remember that when I first entered this Chamber the same matter was raised by some members. The Auditor-General, on instructions from the Treasurer, reported to the department about the internal auditing of school funds.

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

Mr. RYAN: In September, 1961, the Auditor-General advised the Education Department of the necessity for implementation of a proper system of control over school funds. I said earlier that apparently the wheels of government turn slowly, because that is over two years ago and according to the Auditor-General the department has not yet completed the necessary internal investigation. I remember that the Treasurer ordered that the department should hold such an investigation. The latter part of the report on this matter states that in some instances the headmaster has the sole control of and responsibility for these funds. I think most members would agree with me that such a state of affairs is wrong. Headmasters are appointed mainly for tutoring purposes, and I do not think they should be expected to be financial wizards.

It is my impression that there are too many separate funds. In my opinion, all school funds, with the exception of one working school fund under the control of each headmaster, should be collected and placed in one fund only. Some headmasters and headmistresses give a true and factual report of the state of the various funds, whereas others—although I do not say it is deliberate—do not. I have had experience on school councils and committees, and I know that headmasters and headmistresses sometimes bring down reports on four or five separate funds. Funds are raised for the purpose of assisting schools in providing additional amenities for students. We find that some schools form themselves into really good working committees, and they sometimes feel frustrated because money is placed in some funds that are not available to the committee as a whole and on other occasions the funds are spent not in accordance with the wishes of the people who actually raise the money.

It seems peculiar that it takes over two years to carry out this investigation as directed by the Treasurer, and I think that investigation is long overdue. I am sure that the majority of headmasters, rather than being forced into the position of being the sole controllers of school funds, would desire that there be one working fund only for a school and that all other funds be placed in one big fund. Can the Minister state what has happened regarding this matter?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The honourable member has made some valid criticisms and offered some valuable suggestions. The Director of Education, in a report of October 2, states:

It is not correct to say that the department has not completed the necessary internal investigation. This investigation was, in fact, carried out by the then Secretary, Mr. G. Strutton (now Registrar of Motor Vehicles). It was found that the adoption of the measures advocated by the Auditor-General in compliance with the Auditor-General's request would have involved the appointment of not less than four additional full-time qualified teachers. This was not considered a justifiable use of public funds. In consequence, explicit and precise instructions were issued from me to heads of schools on the procedure to be followed on the keeping of accounts of school funds. I have reason to believe that these instructions have been followed in detail. Early this year the Secretary, at my request, personally investigated the position as regards school funds in a number of schools. In every case it was found that the necessary books were being properly kept and were being audited by suitable persons.

In March this year the Secretary, the Assistan Accountant and the Auditor visited three large schools to investigate school funds. The Auditor (Mr. Penglase)—an officer of the Audit Department—commented that the method of control and audit by senior members of each school staff was good. The Auditor at that stage also expressed the desire to discontinue discussions on this question until he had finished his final audit for 1962-63 and his work on the audit report.

I repeat that I think the honourable member has made some valuable suggestions. I think there are too many individual accounts and that it would be far better if they were consolidated into one proper account. Although I think the vast majority of headmasters do supply information to the school councils and committees and other responsible bodies, a minority of headmasters do not do this. I think they are under the delusion that the money belongs to them instead of to the people who raised it, and probably that contributes to or causes the controversy. I shall be only too pleased to see if I can give effect to some if not all of the honourable member's suggestions.

Mr. LAUCKE: Line 13 on page 77 deals with the contribution towards the publication of *The Children's Hour*. I notice that the amount voted last year was £2,000, the actual payments were £3,065, and this year it is proposed to spend £1,000, a reduction of some £2,000. Can the Minister say whether this reduction reflects any major change in policy concerning the future availability of this time-honoured journal?

The Hon Sir BADEN PATTINSON: *The Children's Hour* has been published by the Education Department since 1899. Its object has been to provide supplementary reading material for children in the lower, middle and upper grades respectively of primary schools.

Over the years, rising costs have led to increases in its price, which at present is 2s. 6d. a year for 10 issues. Even then, it was operating at a heavy loss. Moreover, its usefulness has gradually decreased, not because of any falling off in quality but because of the competition of numerous other children's books and readers and the large number of good weekly periodicals available for children.

Mr. CORCORAN: An amount is provided under the line "Buses running expenses and payments under contracts for transport of students." The Minister may recall that in July this year I asked him a question concerning school buses, and a part of that question was an inquiry about what precautions were taken to ensure that school buses were safe and roadworthy. The Minister in his reply assured me that every precaution was taken to ensure that they were roadworthy, and expressed his personal concern that because they were transporting about 20,000 children every step should be taken to ensure that they were roadworthy. Later he informed me that more stringent regulations had been laid down, not only to ensure that buses were roadworthy and inspections were carried out but that drivers were checked to see whether they were suitable and skilled in driving.

I have been informed by a constituent of mine, who is a parent, that a school bus contractor had gone to Victoria and purchased a school bus that had been rejected by the Victorian department as unroadworthy, brought it back to South Australia, effected some repairs and used it as a school bus. This indicates that the inspections in Victoria are more thorough than those in this State. I believe that school bus contractors in this State are not paid as much money as those in Victoria and this means that, although they are paid sufficient money to maintain and operate the buses and obtain a small profit, it would not be sufficient for them to accumulate enough to purchase new buses. In view of the fairly large increase in the amount voted for school buses (and I hope I will be given some consideration in these expanding services), can the Minister say whether an increase in school bus contractors' fees has been considered?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Not an overall increase to all contractors, willy-nilly. As I pointed out earlier, 545 transport services operate, but applications are being received from time to time for increases and are dealt with, I believe sympathetically, by

the Transport Advisory Committee, and by me when referred to me. I am only too pleased to receive and consider any application from individual contractors.

Mrs. STEELE: I understand that it is the policy of the department, when a new school is completed, that an area set aside for recreation grounds is prepared for sowing. For the preparation of the ground, the department contributes half the cost of reticulation and half the cost of seeding and the school committee pays the balance. This presents some difficulties in new schools, and particularly in areas where the parents are not in a position to pay a great deal towards the necessary funds. A fine new school has recently been completed at Stradbroke, but many complaints have been made by people living near the school because the new school area has been ploughed in readiness for seeding and the prevalent gully winds have caused a bad dust nuisance. Can the Minister say whether the department's policy in providing money for the development of new school ovals could be reviewed, so that perhaps in some instances the areas could be seeded as soon as the school is completed to eliminate such a dust nuisance? This would also assist the parents who, for a considerable period, would have to work towards getting the necessary funds to complete this work.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I find that parents, pupils and teachers in the older schools envy parents, pupils and teachers in the beautiful new schools, and wish they could enjoy all the amenities, whereas people in the new schools envy the established playing grounds of the older schools. I suppose that is due to the divine discontent in men and women. An advance can be made to a school committee or council of a new school. I think I approved one recently for Stradbroke for about £300 to give it something in the kitty, so to speak. I do not know why it wanted it, but I have a distinct recollection of making an advance of about £300.

Mr. Ryan: Does it have to pay it back?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes. I shall be pleased to take up the specific request of the honourable member to see whether I can assist.

Mr. CLARK: Perhaps I could use this as an excuse to say a few words about *The Children's Hour*. As a scholar and a teacher I studied *The Children's Hour* for about 38 years, which is longer than most people did. I have nostalgic feelings about it because I can remember as a little boy in a small school

the arrival of *The Children's Hour*. As a teacher I found the boys and girls really enjoyed this publication. As the Minister said, costs have become high and it has met with considerable competition from excellent children's publications. Perhaps the Minister would agree that it was run on a shoestring, because over the years the editor has usually been an inspector or a headmaster who received little remuneration but did the work for the love of it. The history of *The Children's Hour* in our schools is an interesting one. Would it be possible to have an article in the *Education Gazette* dealing with its history? Perhaps some research would be needed but it would be worth while to celebrate and farewell *The Children's Hour* that was published for so long for the enjoyment of our boys and girls?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: That is a good idea. Perhaps it could be a nostalgic article, and I shall be pleased to approve of it.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I refer to the line "Administration, £176,952". On October 2 it was announced in the press that Messrs. Griggs and Symonds had been appointed as counsellors for holders of Commonwealth scholarships to the University of Adelaide. Subsequently the member for Hindmarsh (Mr. Hutchens) asked a question about the appointments and the Minister of Education expressed his pleasure at them. On October 18 appeared a report of a statement issued by the Director of Education which, in one respect, contradicted the earlier announcement. Mr. Griggs had apparently said that an applicant would need at least three A's in his six Leaving subjects, whereas the Director said that no candidate was debarred from winning a scholarship merely because he or she did not obtain three A's in the Leaving examinations and that in fact many students won scholarships with fewer than three A's and two B's. Apparently the position is confused.

I believe that for some years a scholarships officer has been performing work which the first press report said was in a new field. I understand that this officer of the Education Department has been working closely with the Commonwealth Education Department for the last 10 or 12 years and that Messrs. Griggs and Symonds have been appointed to help with this work. I may be wrong in this, but I am afraid that if I am right the present scholarships officer on reading the first press report must have felt that he had been dealt with less than fairly. Can the Minister clarify

the situation regarding the qualifications necessary for Commonwealth scholarships and also the position of the scholarships officer in his department?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The Director's statement was a carefully considered one made after considerable research and consultation with other officers. It was entirely correct. There has been a Commonwealth scholarships officer for some time and the new appointments have been made at the direct request of the Commonwealth Director of Education to meet an additional need.

Mr. RYAN: In the item relating to office expenses is a reference to Education Week. It is proposed to increase this line by £16,000 this year. Two years ago Education Week was held for the first time, but there was no such function last year. Can we take it that because of the reference to Education Week and the proposed increase in expenditure such a celebration will be held this financial year? Can the Minister indicate when the week will occur?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: No. Line passed.

Libraries Department, £318,525.

Mr. LANGLEY: Several members have expressed pleasure at the establishment of free libraries in their districts. Unfortunately it is difficult to obtain suitable accommodation in the Unley area. At present a circulating library is operating in Unley, and it does not fully occupy the building in which it is located. Can the Minister say whether the present system relating to the establishment of free libraries might not be relaxed to enable them to be accommodated in the same buildings as circulating libraries?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: This matter is being investigated by the Public Libraries Board and by the Council of the Institutes Association. I hope to receive a joint report and recommendation from them soon.

Line passed.

Museum Department, £57,739; Art Gallery Department, £35,633—passed.

Miscellaneous, £4,205,428.

Mr. CORCORAN: The sum of £190,193 is proposed for the Kindergarten Union of South Australia. A modern pre-school kindergarten with excellent facilities is located in Millicent, but at present difficulty is being experienced in obtaining the services of a director. The present director, whilst an extremely capable and energetic person, is a married woman and her other commitments have forced

her to tender her resignation. The kindergarten committee has gone to much trouble to try to obtain a new director—it even made investigations in Sydney—without success. I understand the committee met with the Secretary of the Kindergarten Union to discuss the position, but apparently no satisfactory person is available and it is possible that the Millicent kindergarten will have to close because it cannot obtain the services of a director. I believe that in some city kindergartens more than two persons qualified as directors are employed, but unfortunately qualified people will not go to the country areas: they cannot be compelled to go. I think that Millicent kindergarten receives about £1,500 a year as a Government subsidy. However, unless a director is appointed the subsidy will not be forthcoming. Has the Government any say in whether a director must be appointed before the subsidy can be granted?

I know that before a person can be qualified as a director she must undergo a two-year course conducted by the Kindergarten Union. This seems a long period in which to train a person to care for children whose ages range from three to five years and to organize play, finger painting and a few other activities. In my opinion the girl who has been employed by the Millicent kindergarten for three years would be capable of conducting the school without further training. However, because she has not passed through the directors' course she is not able to do this. I believe that this applies not only to Millicent; there are other schools in the State affected in the same way.

Mr. Freebairn: The same thing applies at Kapunda.

Mr. CORCORAN: The honourable member is evidently experiencing similar trouble. It would be most unfortunate if Millicent kindergarten had to close for any length of time. I have children attending it and it has been a wonderful benefit to them in preparing them for primary education. Will the Minister investigate this matter to see whether anything can be done, and can he at the moment enlighten me on how the Government is connected with the Kindergarten Union and what effect it has on it?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: A very substantial Government grant of £190,193 is made on the approval of Cabinet on the basis of the budget submitted by the Kindergarten Union, which is closely investigated, but we do not intrude unnecessarily into the domestic affairs of the Kindergarten Union.

At present there are 118 kindergartens associated with the Kindergarten Union. Of these, 114 are union kindergartens receiving financial aid towards staff salaries. One is the Lady Gowrie Child Centre, also receiving financial aid, and three are affiliated centres receiving advice and guidance but not requiring monetary help from the union. I shall be only too pleased to take up the specific request of the honourable member with the secretary of the union to see whether anything can be done to alleviate the position. The position in the South-East is not unique: I have had the same requests from the north and elsewhere but I shall see whether it is possible to give them some assistance.

Mr. HEASLIP: I refer to the line "University of Adelaide". During the debate on the first line of the Estimates, certain statements were made by the member for Port Adelaide (Mr. Ryan) about the fourth-year medical student—that any medical student who had not passed in the fourth year had to start all over again; that, in effect, he had lost four years and was forced to go back over them and do his studies again. My information, as a member of the University Council, is that this is entirely incorrect, that, if there is any weeding out to be done the university, if it is deemed necessary, will do it in the first year and thus save a waste of time; but any medical student having passed the first, second and third year and coming up for an examination in the fourth year, and failing, will be given the opportunity of doing the fourth year again and, if he fails again, he will in most cases even be given the opportunity of taking that examination a third time. The policy of the university, in the case of anybody having done four years, is that it will endeavour, to the utmost of its ability, to ensure that that student becomes qualified rather than have him waste not only his own time but the time of somebody who has occupied four years in teaching him, to the exclusion of other students. Can the Minister say what is the present position?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The position is substantially as the honourable member has stated. I forwarded to the Vice-Chancellor of the university the full text of the speech made by Mr. Ryan and I received a reply from the Vice-Chancellor as follows:

May I give you the following information concerning Mr. Ryan's speech made on October 15, 1963, about the results of the Fourth Annual examinations in Medicine held this year? Ninety students sat for the examination. Fifty-six passed outright, three with

"distinctions" and 22 with "credits". Twenty-one failed in particular subjects, and have been allowed to sit for supplementary examinations in November this year. If they then pass, they will proceed with fifth year work in 1964. If they fail again, they will have to repeat their fourth year work only. Thirteen failed to an extent which did not warrant their being given "supplementary" examinations. These 13 will repeat their fourth year work only. No-one will have to repeat the work of all four years of this course. I mention this because Mr. Ryan said, according to *Hansard*:

"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."

In fact, the university does not require students who fail in the fourth year (or any year except the first) to start the course again. They are required only to repeat the work of the actual year in which they have failed.

Mr. HUTCHENS: On page 78 of the Estimates appears a line "Adelaide Repertory Theatre Inc.—£1,000". It seems to be a new line. This company has been in operation for many years and has acted with credit to itself. Are there any conditions laid down in regard to this grant or is it just a grant to be made available to it for the advancement of its work in amateur theatre?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: In opening the theatre, the Premier said:

The arts still had their important place in culture, despite society's increasing demand on the sciences.

He said that he hoped the theatre would produce players of world recognition, and that he would recommend to the Government that a grant of £1,000 for the Adelaide Repertory Theatre be provided, following the opening of its £45,000 Arts Theatre in Angas Street on June 15 of this year. He did so recommend to Cabinet, it was approved and this is the result of it. Although there is no guarantee, I hope it will be a continuing grant.

Mr. COUMBE: I refer to the line "Schools Patriotic Fund Hostels Inc." This line did not appear last year but it is now a line of £4,500. I presume this is the hostel that came into being during the war and made such a marvellous job of raising funds. What is this line for on this occasion?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The honourable member's assumption is correct. A grant of £4,500 has been provided to enable the Adelaide Miethke House hostel premises at Dequetteville Terrace to be put in a good state

of repair. The hostel is under the general control of a board of management, of which the Director of Education is Chairman. It is rented and run by the Young Women's Christian Association, which pays an annual rental.

The hostel is known as Adelaide Miethke House and provides accommodation for girls and young women studying in Adelaide as teaching scholars and teachers college students and for Asian women students studying at the teachers college or the university. Accommodation is provided for 65 girls. The maximum period of stay for satisfactory students is two years and approximately 30 places become available each year. It is a memorial to the children, teachers and parents under the leadership of Miss Adelaide Miethke and serves as a perpetual reminder of the very fine contribution to constructive effort by all those who built up the Schools Patriotic Fund during the critical years of the Second World War.

Mr. DUNSTAN: I rise on the line "University of Adelaide, Additional General Purpose Grant". This is a line under which some moneys eventually find their way to the Public Examinations Board. On this score I should like to ask the Minister what the policy of the Government is on the future of Public Examinations Board fees. Some increases in fees were passed by the University Senate, were approved by Executive Council and then at the request of the Minister the University Council agreed not to collect the fees for this year, but at the same time thought that there should be some information given at some stage of the proceedings, as I understand it, on how they were to recoup the fees to be paid to the examiners. It is necessary to employ examiners at higher fees than the rather miserable pittance previously paid. As far as I can ascertain, there is no answer on this score at the moment. I shall be grateful to be corrected by the Minister if I am wrong in saying that many people who are either employees of, or have grants from, the Education Department and who are examined by the Public Examinations Board do not pay fees. However, an equivalent sum is not paid to the board for the fees of those students, the total number of whom would be about 2,000. If this is so, the effect is that the other students are bearing the cost of these examination fees. If that is the position—and I understand it is—it needs to be rectified. My Party does not believe any charges should be made for public examinations. The present fees are very heavy, and, when the Minister of Education asked the university not to collect them, the

Government clearly believed that additional fees should not be charged. If the basis for existing fees is that there is a subsidy by some students to people under grant from, or employed by, the Education Department, this is an impost that the students should not have to bear, and some provision should be made in the Estimates for a payment to the Public Examinations Board so that it can pay examiners' fees without a subsidy from other students.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Last year the University Senate ratified the approval given by the University Council of an increase in fees for the Public Examinations Board, but I understand it was done by a very narrow majority after a division. Probably the honourable member took a leading part in it.

Mr. Dunstan: I was not at the meeting.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: At any rate, it caused much feeling. My view was that there should not have been an increase. That view was subsequently shared by my colleagues in Cabinet, which asked the University Council not to insist on the increases, and it graciously refrained from doing so. I had discussions with the Treasurer and as a result it was decided that the Vice-Chancellor of the University and the Under Treasurer would go into the matter in the next year when discussing the university's budget for the following financial year and that the whole subject of whether there should be any increase in the future would be thoroughly canvassed. Regarding the other matter, it is true that a large number of Teachers College trainees who are students of the university do not pay Public Examinations Board fees. This loss is borne not by the board but by the university. I think that is wrong, and I have told the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor that I think it is wrong. I shall be only too pleased for the Education Department to pay this sum to the University Council; I think that will be done during the next financial year.

Mr. RYAN: The member for Rocky River (Mr. Heaslip) quoted statements I made in my remarks on the first line. However, if the honourable member remembers correctly, I quoted from a letter I received from a constituent whose son failed in the fourth year medicine examination. Right throughout I quoted from the letter, in which it was said that if a student failed in the fourth year he had to start over again on that year's

studies. I also referred to a letter that appeared in the *Advertiser* from the relative of a student who was studying under a scholarship but who failed in the fourth year. According to the correspondent, he was not allowed to sit for a supplementary examination and lost the benefit of the scholarship. The parents were forced to pay for the following three years of study. I mention this so that it will appear in *Hansard* that I was not giving my own information but was quoting. I am no expert regarding the medicine curriculum. I did not study medicine; if I had, I might have found it more lucrative than this occupation. Being an M.D. does not invite the criticism that is levelled at an M.P. A politician lives to see his mistakes, but an M.D. buries his! Some people wish they could bury us! Last year £35,285 was provided for residential colleges, and the grant this year is £75,000—an increase of nearly 115 per cent. Can the Minister explain the big increase?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I think the honourable member will agree with me that this a commendable increase for a commendable purpose.

Line passed.

#### MINISTER OF LABOUR AND INDUSTRY.

Department of Labour and Industry, £147,777; Miscellaneous, £6,703—passed.

#### MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FORESTS.

Minister of Agriculture Department, £7,357; Agriculture Department, £982,802; Agricultural College Department, £135,972; Produce Department, £278,610; Fisheries and Game Department, £46,303; Chemistry Department, £73,151; Miscellaneous, £517,097—passed.

#### MINISTER OF IRRIGATION.

Department of Lands (Irrigation and Drainage), £501,971—passed.

#### MINISTER OF MINES.

Mines Department, £741,000—passed.

#### MINISTER OF MARINE.

Harbors Board Department, £1,523,000.

Mr. RYAN: During this session I have drawn the Minister's attention to the fact that one of the commissioners of the Harbors Board is due to retire in February, 1964. I asked the Minister whether the Government was considering altering the constitution of the board by increasing the number of commissioners or, alternatively, whether it was considering abolishing the board and creating an administrative post for a head of department who would be answerable to the Minister.

As one of the commissioners will retire soon, the Government must consider now whether the commissioners are to continue in office. Can the Minister give an answer as to the ultimate fate of commissioners of the Harbors Board?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Minister of Marine): True, one member of the board retires in February next. He is Mr. Verco, the latest appointed commissioner on the board, and I have no doubt that, if he is prepared to accept reappointment, he will be reappointed. The other commissioners, Mr. Crawford (Chairman) and Mr. Meyer, are due to retire a year later. I have considered the matter because it has been raised several times and in reply to one or two questions I said that an increase in the number of commissioners and the constitution of the new board would be considered. I have had several discussions with the Chairman. We have not come to a firm conclusion, so I have not yet raised the matter in Cabinet. At present, the matter is being actively discussed by the Chairman of the board and me. Before any action is taken we shall have reached a conclusion and I shall have obtained the views of the Government on the matter. I am unable to say what will be done, but I know many requests have been made by various sections of the community for representation on the board and this will have some bearing on the ultimate result.

Mr. HALL: On page 104 appears the line "Maintenance of wharves, jetties, lights, dredged channels, etc." I draw the attention of the Committee to the need for access to be arranged for trailer boats to the waters of St. Vincent Gulf. I am concerned about the area from St. Kilda to Port Wakefield. Along that stretch of foreshore the tide is nearly always out. In the hinterland lives a large population in Elizabeth and Gawler and in numerous subdivisions. These people are looking for recreation, mainly at the weekend, and are making what use they can of the beaches. More people are acquiring trailer boats and, as most members know, this trend is growing; undoubtedly Australia will follow America's lead where, apparently, pleasure boating is only just beginning. A great demand exists for facilities for trailer boating, and in this area there are no decent launching sites for trailer boats.

Mr. Riehes: At Port Augusta we are putting decent ones in.

Mr. HALL: I know decent facilities are available in Port Augusta and I have no doubt they will be made available in the area I am



concerned with in the future. However, I should like to see them established in the foreseeable future. The area has three or four tidal creeks and it is obvious that these channels should be dredged to give access to deeper water. I know that the Minister is considering a question I asked recently concerning assistance for the St. Kilda area. Only last Sunday I attended a meeting of the St. Kilda Progress Association, which resolved that I should present to the Minister of Marine a request for him to have that locality surveyed in order to decide the best way to provide facilities to enable trailer boats to reach deeper waters. Parliament votes large sums for other forms of public recreation. Earlier today there was a reference to the expenditure of £7,500 this year and £7,500 next year for the provision of a caravan park, and I commend the move. Facilities are being provided at metropolitan beaches, and we have the Patawalonga scheme. Many improvements are taking place in various areas for public recreation. I hope that favourable consideration will be given, and money allocated, for dredging to be done in connection with the trailer boats I have mentioned. St. Vincent Gulf will become a boating playground.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £11,045—passed.

#### MINISTER OF RAILWAYS.

Railways Department, £14,650,681—passed.

Transport Control Board, £19,885.

**Mr. FREEBAIRN:** Perhaps this Transport Control Board has the worst public relations of any State Government instrumentality. The following is an extract from a letter I received from a constituent, in which he describes his own experiences with the board:

In October last year I attended Yelta sale in Victoria and purchased approximately 1,100 woolly lambs, a proportion of them being in very store condition. My agents negotiated on my behalf at the sale with road transport contractors and made arrangements for immediate removal of the stock by road. At 8.30 the following morning the stock were being unloaded on my property on feed and water, the complete lift having been made without loss of one single lamb. This, of course, having been possible due to unrestricted road movement in the State. Last month I instructed my agent that I would sell the tops of this same line of sheep and in consequence I was contacted on the following Wednesday night to have the sheep yarded ready for inspection the following morning for a prospective purchaser from Keith district. This inspection took place and after the necessary drafting a sale of 780 of the tops of the line was effected to my complete satisfaction. Due to the fact that

I could not hold the sheep separate (due to the condition of my internal fencing) and also due to the purchaser's property being 20 miles from Keith, it was resolved we would arrange for road transport the following morning to effect the movement direct to the property of the purchaser. All parties agreed that this would be desirable and the sale was confirmed on these arrangements. My agent arranged carriers and rang for a road transport control permit, but was refused. Subsequently that evening the branch manager of the firm rang both Mr. Bowering and Mr. Holden of the T.C.B. and fully explained the circumstances, but again was refused. After advice to me I myself contacted Mr. Holden and although I spent 12 minutes on the telephone in explanation of the relative circumstances, I again could make no progress.

Subsequently no alternative was left but to order rail trucks for the next train, being the following Tuesday. Fortunately, due to the good neighbourship of a neighbour, I was able to lease a paddock adjoining my property to keep the sheep separate, but I still had to employ a drover to muster and drove the sheep on the following Tuesday to the nearest rail-head, and I presume after much shunting, etc., the purchaser of my sheep was able to take delivery at Keith, load on to road transport and complete the operation. Had road transport been permitted the stock would have been on feed and water at their destination on the preceding Thursday afternoon.

This sort of thing irritates primary producers. I quoted that portion of the letter to indicate the sort of activity that makes the board so unpopular.

**Mr. HALL:** I support the member for Light. What he said indicates the thinking that pervades the board's administration. Some weeks ago I asked the Treasurer a question concerning a local carrier who had thought permits were not available after hours for the transport of lambs to the abattoirs. Accordingly he left word with the local stock agent to get the permit next morning after he had left. This carrier got into trouble. He has since informed me of another pinpricking administrative measure. He had learnt his lesson, so he telephoned for a permit after the specified hours. It was obtained, as it should have been, and he was given the number of the permit. Then he was told he had to apply in writing on the next day. That seems to me to be a peculiar system. He had been allocated a permit and given the number, yet next day he had to apply in writing for the permit. That does not seem good enough. Despite all the complaints, they do not produce greater efficiency on the part of the board. I cannot see why it should be retained, but if it is to be retained I hope it will operate effectively.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Minister of Works): It has become popular and perhaps necessary to frequently criticize the board's administration. As a district member I have encountered problems in matters raised by constituents regarding the board's administration but, in fairness, I doubt whether any Government instrumentality has a more difficult, onerous and thankless task than has the board. I doubt whether members who criticize it would be willing to accept the duties carried out by members of the board. It was set up to achieve an objective and in attempting to achieve that objective it must restrict the activities of individuals. I think that is fair comment. I do not think the board could carry out its primary function without irking somebody at some time. Members are aware that legislation that will have an impact on the problems they raise is being prepared, and I suggest that further comment be deferred until that legislation is before us.

Mr. BYWATERS: On all occasions I have approached the Secretary of the board I have been treated with the utmost courtesy. I have nothing but respect for Mr. Holden and the way in which he endeavours to carry out his very difficult task. He has been put there to do a job, which is to try to protect the railways, and he endeavours to do that in a fair and impartial manner. I think in all fairness members should at least admit that. If it has been at all possible, Mr. Holden has put himself out to try to assist me in helping my constituents. Not long ago I had occasion to draw to his notice the problems associated with the export of eggs to the Adelaide market, particularly because of over-heating and of what happens when eggs are left in trucks on sidings, and without hesitation he made it possible for anyone to transport eggs to Adelaide by road. It is my experience that he is only too willing to try to assist members. As the Minister said, Mr. Holden has a difficult task to perform, and I do not like the way he is criticized in this place by certain members.

Line passed.

**MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MINISTER OF ROADS.**

Office of Minister, £6,978; Highways and Local Government Department, £709,269—passed.

Miscellaneous, £83,388.

Mr. LANGLEY: The sum of £2,975 is provided under the line "Purchase of land for drainage scheme". We know that last year

many drainage difficulties existed in various districts, and certainly that was evident in the Unley district. No expenditure on this line was necessary in 1962-63. Can the Minister say which land is to be purchased?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: No, I cannot say specifically what land is to be purchased. The explanatory note which I have from my colleague shows that the amount is for provision for the purchase of land for future drainage purposes but not at present within the ambit of the south-western suburbs drainage scheme. I presume, without speaking with any authority on the matter, that it is expected that certain ancillary projects will be necessary to complete the scheme and that this amount has been provided in order to make that possible if and when the time arrives.

Line passed.

**APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2).**

The Estimates were adopted by the House and an Appropriation Bill for £75,437,514 was founded in Committee of Ways and Means, introduced by the Honourable Sir Thomas Playford, and read a first time.

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

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

It is for the appropriation of £75,437,514, details of which are set out in the Estimates which have just been dealt with. Clause 2 provides for the further issue of £51,437,514, being the difference between the amount authorized by the two Supply Acts—£24,000,000—and the total of the appropriation required in this Bill. Clause 3 sets out the amount to be appropriated and the details of the appropriation to the various departments and functions. This clause also provides that increases of salaries or wages which become payable pursuant to any return made by a properly constituted authority may be paid, and that the amount available in the Governor's Appropriation Fund shall be increased by the amount necessary to pay the increases. It further provides that if the cost of electricity for pumping water through the Mannum-Adelaide main and from bores in the Adelaide water district, and through the Morgan-Whyalla water main, should be greater than the amounts set down in the Estimates the Governor may authorize the additional expenditure, and the amount available in the Governor's Appropriation Fund shall be increased by the amount of such additional expenditure.

Clause 4 authorizes the Treasurer to pay moneys from time to time authorized by warrants issued by the Governor, and provides that

the receipts obtained from the payees shall be the discharge to the Treasurer for the moneys paid. Clause 5 authorizes the use of Loan funds or other public funds if the moneys received from the Commonwealth and the general revenue of the State are insufficient to make the payments authorized by this Bill. Clause 6 gives authority to make payments in respect of a period prior to July 1, 1963, or at a rate in excess of the rate which was in force under any return, award, order or determination. Clause 7 provides that amounts appropriated by this Bill are in addition to other amounts properly appropriated. I commend the Bill for consideration of members.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): I do not intend to delay this Bill, because the Estimates have been well debated. We have received information that we could not otherwise have obtained, but our function is to question expenditure and to seek information. Provision is made for increases in salaries and wages to be paid; and for the additional cost of electricity for pumping water. The State had a good seasonal opening with excellent prospects. The continued dry spell could mean that we may not be as well off as we expected, as the State needs a good follow-on rain. I support the Bill.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

#### TRAVELLING STOCK RESERVE: HUNDRED OF MANNANARIE.

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

#### EXPLOSIVES ACT AMENDMENT ACT.

Returned from the Legislative Council with an amendment.

#### CITY OF WHYALLA COMMISSION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. LOVEDAY brought up the report of the Select Committee, together with minutes of proceedings and evidence.

Report received and read. Ordered that the report be printed.

#### THE REPORT.

1. In the course of its inquiry your committee met on two occasions and took evidence from the following persons: Mr. J. P. Cartledge, Chairman of the South Australian Housing Trust, and Mr. J. B. Kearnan, Q.C., Crown Solicitor.

2. Advertisements inserted in the *Advertiser*, the *News*, and the *Whyalla News* inviting persons to give evidence before the committee brought no relevant response.

3. The committee is of the opinion that there is no opposition to the Bill, and recommends that it be passed in its present form.

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

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the consideration of the Bill.

Motion carried.

Bill taken through Committee without amendment.

Bill read a third time and passed.

#### PHYLLOXERA ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Agriculture) moved:

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Phylloxera Act, 1936-1948.

Motion carried.

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

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

The amendments are designed to improve the Phylloxera Act. Phylloxera is the worst known disease of vines, and it has been most devastating in countries where it has broken out. The disease originated in the Americas where the vines are resistant to it. However, European vines are not resistant and when phylloxera came to Europe it almost completely ruined the industry for a time. It arrived in England in about 1853 and in France about 10 years later. It did not arrive in Australia until 1899. In Rutherglen, where the first outbreak was discovered in Victoria, 15,000 acres of vines grew in 1900, but by 1915 none of the original plantings remained. South Australia has never had phylloxera in its vineyards. As is well known this State produces about 75 per cent of the wine produced in the Commonwealth and it is the largest State viticulturally speaking.

The Phylloxera Act has been designed to protect our vineyards from the disease. We have close quarantine provisions concerning the introduction of vines and plant cuttings to South Australia. In 1948 the Act was amended to overcome the disability that should phylloxera break out in South Australia and cause much

damage we had no phylloxera-resistant vines—vines with the American type of stock—and it was not possible to introduce them because of our quarantine restrictions. The 1948 amendment provided that under carefully controlled conditions the American type of stock could be introduced. This was done by the Phylloxera Board and the vines were planted on Kangaroo Island, which is isolated from the main vine-growing centres. Unfortunately the nurseries failed, not because of phylloxera but because of virus diseases that were of such a far-reaching nature that it was impossible to continue the work there. Consequently the work was transferred to the Waite Agricultural Research Institute where research was concentrated on getting the full story on the viruses that attacked the vines. As a result of that research, the officers of the institute, the members of the Phylloxera Board and the officers of the Department of Agriculture are satisfied that we should amend the Act by deleting the word “phylloxera-resistant” because the types of vine that are not necessarily phylloxera-resistant are required for indexing purposes in the research work. This is an intricate matter of which I do not understand fully the technical details, but I have no doubt that no-one in the House requires a technical description of it. In effect, this Bill is strongly wished for by those dealing with all aspects of phylloxera legislation, and the Wine and Brandy Producers’ Association of South Australia has given its own approval to the Bill, which has been discussed with it.

This Bill makes several amendments to the principal Act of a varied but generally administrative character. Under section 38 (7) of the principal Act, all vines introduced into the State for planting in nurseries established by the Phylloxera Board must be resistant to the disease of phylloxera. It is considered desirable for the virus indexing of South Australian vines that certain varieties, not resistant to phylloxera, be introduced by the board (under strict controls). Clause 13 of the Bill therefore amends section 38(7) by abolishing the requirement that imported vines be phylloxera-resistant.

Section 23 of the principal Act constitutes a special fund to meet the expense incurred in dealing with the eradication and prevention of phylloxera should an outbreak occur. The fund at present stands at some £50,000, which represents contributions by vignerons, wine-makers and distillers at rates prescribed by the section.

There has never been an outbreak of phylloxera in the State and the fund has been applied solely for meeting the expenses of preventing phylloxera. No levies have been made for some 15 years, nor is there any present need to augment the fund. However, it is desirable that in place of the minimal rates fixed by the section there should be a more flexible procedure so that, should there be an outbreak of phylloxera, the Minister may fix contributions that are more in keeping with present-day costs. The present amount of the fund is more than adequate to meet the expenses incurred in the prevention of phylloxera but would be inadequate to deal with any outbreak of the disease. Clause 6 of the Bill therefore re-enacts section 23 so as to provide for contributions to be fixed by the Minister. Clauses 8, 9, 10 (b) and 14 make consequential amendments. As another consequential measure, clause 7 provides for the repeal of sections 24 and 25 of the principal Act, which deal with the board’s power to suspend contributions to the fund when it reaches £5,000, either generally or in respect of vineyards on which rates have been paid for 15 years.

Clause 4 provides for the name of the board to be formally included in the principal Act. The Reserve Bank has asked that this be done to enable it to deal with the accounts of the board. Clause 5 provides for the fees (now fixed by section 16) for members of the board to be determined by the Minister, so that the fees may more readily be adjusted from time to time. Clause 11 (a) amends section 36 of the principal Act so as to empower the board to quarantine all areas of a vineyard to prevent the spread of disease (without being limited to an area of two chains’ radius, as provided by that section). Clause 11 (b) enables the board to treat vines suspected of disease otherwise than by destroying and burning them. Clause 3 makes a consequential amendment.

Clause 12 re-enacts section 37 of the principal Act so as to enlarge the board’s power of destroying vineyards that are unused or neglected by removing the requirement that they must have been unused or neglected for two years. In the past the board has found it very difficult to enforce the destruction of vineyards because of this requirement. Provision is also made for a maximum penalty of £100 if an owner of a vineyard does not comply with an order for destruction within eight weeks. Clause 15 provides for the repeal

of section 51 of the Act. This section provides a penalty for an inspector who contravenes any provision of the Act. It is considered unnecessary.

Members will perceive that this Bill can be generally supported. I make the general comment that, although phylloxera has been of such a devastating nature in the past, the fact that we have been free of it will probably aid our future measures, should it ever recur. Although it is a devastating disease, I do not think it would break out again in such an uncontrolled way as it did in this country over half a century ago. With the present research and interest of the scientist, with the assistance of all the chemical firms and (probably as important as any other factor) with the enthusiasm of the private vigneron for protecting his own vineyards, I cannot imagine that outbreaks of this disease would swamp the vineyards of the State as they did years ago. On the other hand, we must recognize that it is still the most serious disease of vines, and every provision of the Bill is aimed at improving our defences against this disease.

Mr. CURREN secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE (Minister of Irrigation): I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

It is in three phases. First, it amends the position relating to the supply of water to the Renmark Irrigation Trust area. Secondly, it makes alterations to the conditions of the Electricity Trust under the electricity undertaking of the Renmark Irrigation Trust. Thirdly, it makes provision for a variation in the payments that have been made by the Government to the trust and in the trust's responsibilities in relation to the big drainage schemes now being undertaken.

In explanation of the position that has arisen, I remind honourable members that the great flood of 1956 was held back from Renmark and other towns by the strenuous and devoted efforts of the people of the river and many people outside of the river. It was a wonderful effort that saved those towns, but one thing it could not save was the saturation of the ground, particularly the heavy low-lying soils at Renmark, which are irrigation areas. Although banks of considerable height were

built to hold back the river, nothing could prevent the seepage under the banks that completely saturated and waterlogged the soils of Renmark. Until and since 1893 there has been little need in Renmark to provide for irrigation drainage. As is usual with practically all irrigation schemes there are two first problems: to put the water on and to take it off. In the case of Renmark, the necessity to take much drainage water away by means of tile drainage on various holdings had not been necessary until the flood, which so lifted the water table as to make it absolutely necessary that extensive drainage be undertaken. Such extensive drainage was beyond the financial capacity of the trust; therefore, the Government came to its assistance. Payments are to be made to the trust to undertake this work. Of course, the work is proceeding because some payments have been made.

It was first expected that the drainage would be done over 10 years, but such was the urgency of the work that it became apparent as it proceeded that it was imperative that it be completed in less than 10 years in order to save a big area of plantings that would go out through root saturation and seepage. It was decided that the term of 10 years would be reduced to seven years, so certain variations had to be made in the payments of money by the Government. In other words, to complete work that was to occupy 10 years, advance payments had to be made to complete it in seven years. That, briefly, is the purpose of the Bill: to see that a valuable irrigation area such as Renmark will not fall back in production and an area of great economic value will not be destroyed.

The first of the amendments is effected by clauses 3 and 4, which amend sections 64 and 73, respectively, of the principal Act. The object of these amendments is to empower the trust to supply to ratepayers or other owners or occupiers of land within the district additional water by way of special irrigations. At present, section 64 empowers the trust, with the Minister's written consent, to make special arrangements for supplying ratepayers with excess water, but the Crown Solicitor has advised the trust that it may not lawfully charge for water supplied to a ratepayer except excess water. When section 64 was enacted in 1893, the need for what the trust calls "special irrigations" was not envisaged, it being thought that the cost of supplying sufficient water for irrigation purposes would be covered

by the general rate. With the large increase in the planting of fruit trees, mostly on lighter soils, and the advent of spray irrigation and the tile drainage of soils, the number of irrigations needed to provide a sufficient supply by some ratepayers averages about 10 a year as against four general irrigations a year. Members will see that that necessity has arisen consequential on the wide variation of plantings that now takes place in these areas. Whereas with furrow irrigation it was possible on low-lying soil to saturate the vineyards heavily four times during their growing period with some supplemental irrigation, with spray irrigation the application is entirely different. The applications are limited in quantity, but there are more.

Mr. Bywaters: And this is far more effective.

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: It is a far more effective method of watering. However, there was no power in the Act to charge for this type of watering; this clause enables the trust to do just that. Both the Irrigation Act and the Mildura Irrigation and Water Trusts Act empower the supply of special irrigations, and the amendment effected by clause 3 will confer similar powers upon the Renmark Irrigation Trust. Clause 4 is consequential, since it includes in the regulation and by-law making power of the trust power to fix terms and conditions for the special irrigations to be authorized in pursuance of the amendment made by clause 3. That handles the wider application of water and empowers the trust to charge for it.

Clauses 5 and 6 are designed to remove certain restrictive provisions regarding expenditure of the trust's revenue from its electricity undertaking. As members know, Renmark has an electricity undertaking that lights the area and provides electricity for the pumps; this whole scheme is provided by the trust as a local undertaking. At the moment, section 121o (2) and (3) limits the application of this revenue to the payment of working expenses and maintenance, interest on debentures and provision of a reserve fund to answer any deficiency or meet any exceptional claim or demand arising against the trust in respect of the undertaking. Any net surplus remaining after fulfilment of these purposes is to be applied to lowering the price of electricity supplied by it. This is as it was before. No provision is made for repayment of capital

expenditure on the undertaking. It is considered that the restrictions are unnecessarily restrictive and should be removed. Clause 5 accordingly removes the limitations and substitutes a provision that the trust shall apply revenue from its electricity undertaking in payment of working expenses, maintenance and interest (as before) and for any other purposes of or relating to the undertaking (not as before). This is followed by a provision that without the Minister's approval, given on the recommendation of the Auditor-General, none of the trust's electricity undertaking revenue can be applied for any other purpose. That is the safety clause. It is considered that this provision will give the trust a wider discretion in connection with expenditure of revenue from the undertaking while providing adequate safeguards. Clause 6 effects a consequential amendment to that made by clause 5.

The most important amendment is that made by clause 7, which amends the financial section inserted in the principal Act in 1959. The arrangement then made and embodied in section 123 was that the Government would provide the trust with up to £750,000 over a period of 10 years, of which amount £500,000 would be by way of grant and £250,000 by way of loan. During the same period of 10 years the trust was to set aside the total of £250,000. This made £1,000,000 in all, of which one-half was by way of grant from the Government. This amount was to be expended on works in connection with a comprehensive drainage scheme for the district and its general improvement, or rehabilitation of the trust's irrigation works. It was then envisaged that the work would take a period of 10 years. However, it has now been decided that the work could and should be completed in a shorter period. That is an understatement. The work could be completed within a shorter period, and it must be in order to save some areas of plantings.

The trust has found that its financial position is such that it would be unable to provide necessary funds for the work within a reasonable time. The whole matter has been discussed with the trust and investigated by the Auditor-General and clause 7 will substitute for the original provision the terms of a new arrangement. This is that the original period of 10 years will be reduced to seven, but the trust's obligation for funds lent by the Government will be reduced from £250,000 to £175,000, and the total amount to be set aside by the trust out of its own funds will be similarly reduced. These reductions will now be offset by an

increase in the total State grant by £150,000. Clause 7 makes the necessary technical amendments to give effect to these arrangements. I do not refer in detail to each of the paragraphs of clause 7, but would refer particularly to paragraph (i) the effect of which is to provide for repayment by the trust of the Government loan over a period of 18 years commencing in 1967 or in the year following completion of the works. This means complete repayment in a period of 25 years instead of 40 years.

I draw the attention of members to the fact that the Bill appears to be a hybrid Bill and should be referred, in accordance with Joint Standing Orders on Private Bills, to a Select Committee.

Mr. CURREN (Chaffey): I support the second reading. As the Minister has indicated, the Bill must be referred to a Select Committee, so I reserve my comments on it until the Committee stages.

Bill read a second time and referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon. P. H. Quirke and Messrs. Bywaters, Curren, Freebairn and Hall; the Committee to have power to send for persons, papers and records, to adjourn from place to place, and to report on Tuesday, November 5, 1963.

LAND SETTLEMENT ACT AMENDMENT  
BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE (Minister of Lands): I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

It extends the operation of the Land Settlement Act, which would normally expire in December of the present year, for a further two years. The Bill is in similar terms to that passed in 1961. The Government is still of the opinion that the provisions of the principal Act should not be allowed to lapse and the effect of clause 3 is to extend the term of office of members of the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement until December 31, 1965. Clause 4 amends section 27a of the principal Act enabling the acquisition of lands in that portion of the Western Division of the South-East which is south of drains K and L, up to December 22, 1965.

The Bill is self-explanatory, and for some time now we have had similar measures every second year.

Mr. LOVEDAY secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 9.37 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, October 23, at 2 p.m.