

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Thursday, November 21, 1963.

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

**ASSENT TO BILLS.**

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the following Bills:

Electricity Supply (Industries),  
Manningham Recreation Ground Act Amendment,  
Phylloxera Act Amendment,  
Supreme Court Act Amendment,  
Rameo Heights Irrigation Area,  
Renmark Irrigation Trust Act Amendment,  
Rural Advances Guarantee,  
Wheat Industry Stabilization.

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

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Has the Minister of Education a report from the Director of Education regarding Professor Neal's resignation as Chairman of the Public Examinations Board?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: As I informed the Leader when he asked his question a couple of days ago, a special meeting of the Public Examinations Board was called by the Secretary of the board (Mr. Dalziel), and the letter calling the meeting reads:

A special meeting of the board to discuss the recent outcry in the press has been called for Tuesday, November 12, 1963, at 2 p.m. in the committee room of the university near the Registrar's office. I regret this extremely short notice but hope that you will be able to be present at this meeting.

The letter is signed 'L. H. Dalziel, Secretary' and is dated November 8, 1963. In response to the question by the Leader, I inquired concerning the special meeting of the board and have obtained the following report:

(a) The Director of Education certainly suggested to the Vice-Chancellor and others that a special meeting of the board should be called at an early date and that, to this extent, he accepts responsibility for the part he played in the calling of this meeting; and

(b) that apart from receiving the resignation of Professor Neal and electing Professor Cornell as the new Chairman, the meeting was devoted to considering, and after some amendments, adopting the statement which was published in the press on November 13.

**NURIOOTPA HIGH SCHOOL.**

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: The original building, a stone and brick structure, at the Nuriootpa High School was completed in 1937, and it then accommodated about 100 students.

Since then the school population has grown to 665 students, and numerous temporary wooden classrooms have been erected to meet these additional requirements. At present, 105 students are accommodated in the original solid construction building and 550 in temporary wooden classrooms. I understand that of the 19 classrooms 16 are of timber construction of a temporary nature, as well as three laboratories, a library, two art rooms, a needlework room and a woodwork centre. The high school council has been informed on several occasions that it is intended to replace the temporary wooden structures with a solid construction building, and I understand that two or three years ago a sum appeared on the Loan Estimates for the cost of plans for the new building. Can the Minister of Education say what progress has been made with the plans for a solid construction building and when does he expect this building to be erected?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I am sorry to say that little progress has been made; in fact, to coin an expression, I would say that its progress has been gradually receding. Two or three years ago it was intended to commence building this new solid construction building but, unfortunately, so many proposals have been received for entirely new schools in new localities that this proposal has not been able to retain its priority. As the honourable member said, the basic accommodation at Nuriootpa High School consists of three solid construction and 16 wooden classrooms. The current enrolment at Nuriootpa is 676, with an average attendance of 665, and it is estimated that 770 students could be housed without the provision of additional accommodation. It is generally desirable to replace wooden rooms with solid construction buildings as soon as possible, particularly where the proportion of wooden classrooms is unduly high. However, essential new schools in new localities must have first priority in respect of building resources, and the replacement of old-fashioned unsatisfactory schools wholly constructed in timber should come next in order of urgency. I shall continue to give favourable consideration to the claims of Nuriootpa, but bearing these factors in mind, I cannot promise at this stage when the new buildings will be provided.

**PARLIAMENT HOUSE TOURS.**

Mr. HUTCHENS: Members appreciate that recently this Chamber has been remodelled and redecorated at your request and under your

instructions, Mr. Speaker. I think it would be fair to say from my observations of many of the Houses of Parliament in the British Commonwealth of Nations that this Chamber is second to none in beauty of design. In tradition and in displaying the dignity of Parliament it is second only to the House of Lords. I am sure that many of this State's citizens would welcome an opportunity to enjoy conducted tours through the House. Will you, Mr. Speaker, try to arrange for conducted tours during the Adelaide Festival of Arts?

The SPEAKER: I greatly appreciate the honourable member's remarks concerning the design of the Chamber and, in saying that, I point out that we are all grateful to those former members who were responsible for giving us our tradition. I understand the honourable member's question about schoolchildren and the general public enjoying conducted tours of this House during the Festival of Arts. I will have the suggestion examined and, if it is practicable, will post notices in the appropriate places.

#### SUN VALLEY WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Several times this year I have asked the Minister of Works about a water supply for Sun Valley, near Belair, in my district. In the course of conversation he has told me that the pipes to reticulate the area would be laid in November. Last weekend I inspected the area. Pipes are, in fact, in position, but obviously many have not been laid. As it will soon be the middle of summer and as this is an urgent matter, can the Minister say when the area is likely to be reticulated with water?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The work has commenced and is expected to be completed by March, 1964.

#### CONCESSION FARES.

Mr. RYAN: Several times this year I have asked the Premier questions concerning the extension of concession fares to schoolchildren other than when travelling to and from school. During the last few days I have been approached by organizations concerned about this matter. A concession is granted to all children travelling on public transport to and from school, but this school year is almost completed and students over the age of 14 years will soon not be able to enjoy that concession. Will the Government again consider amending the by-laws and regulations of the Tramways Trust and the

Railways Department to enable students aged 14 or 15 years to travel at half normal fare outside of school hours?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I point out that at present our public transport is not profitable. If further concessions are made, obviously additional taxation must be imposed to meet the cost. Children are able to travel to school at concession rates, but this question refers to travelling at other times. I will have the matter examined, but the honourable member should not assume that there is an easy solution to the problem.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT.

Mr. COUMBE: Did the Premier see the report this week of the latest unemployment figures issued by the Commonwealth Bureau of Statistics? If so, will he agree that the new rate of 1.1 per cent, which is the figure reported for South Australia, is an all-time low and indicates the position enjoyed by industries in this State?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: It is a low unemployment figure, particularly when one realizes that many positions are registered as vacant. The unemployment figure of 1.1 per cent does not really indicate the employment position because problems are associated with obtaining qualified people for available work. New Australians are particularly affected, as some cannot take positions because of the language difficulties.

Mr. Fred Walsh: The figure is not an all-time low.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No, because during the war the actual number of unemployed in South Australia dropped to 46 persons, which is probably an all-time low for any country.

Mr. Ryan: Of course we had a Labor Government then, didn't we?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The honourable member would like to attribute it to politics, but it was because Australia at that time was fighting for its existence, and every person was contributing to the national defence. The honourable member is wrong in trying to bring politics into this. The reply to the question is that 1.1 per cent is a low figure, but it is not a satisfactory figure as it indicates that we still have to do more in providing technical training for people so that all jobs can be filled. Many South Australian industries are alarmingly short of skilled operatives. On the one hand people are looking for employment, whilst on the other hand industries are

looking for suitably qualified persons. Incidentally, I noticed that for the first time our figure was not as good as the Victorian figure, which had been reduced to .9 per cent. Previously our figures had been at least equal to the Victorian figures. However, the position is that we are taking in more nominated migrants today than is any other State.

#### AIR SERVICES.

Mr. RICHES: I read in yesterday's newspaper a statement from private airline operators objecting to a recent decision of the Department of Civil Aviation which, they claimed, gave Ansett-A.N.A. an unfair advantage over private operators on intrastate services. Can the Premier say whether State Governments have any control these days over intrastate services; for instance, whether they are consulted in any way when licences are being issued, or whether this is solely a prerogative of the Commonwealth Government?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am not sure that I can give the honourable member a strictly correct legal answer. When the Commonwealth Constitution was drawn up, aircraft were not a feature, and there was no reference in the Constitution to air travel or its control. Logically speaking, it is not a power that is referred to the Commonwealth Parliament, therefore it would still reside in the State. Honourable members will also recall that a referendum was held to transfer powers to the Commonwealth regarding air safety precautions, and that the referendum was turned down. However, subsequently the State Parliaments referred to the Commonwealth the power regarding air safety regulations. Since then, the Commonwealth itself has undertaken commercial air transport and has established a national airline. It has also undertaken the functions of subsidizing air services and of providing landing ground facilities, and, as the honourable member now points out, it has authorized the national lines (and I believe this applies to Trans-Australia Airlines as well as to Ansett-A.N.A.) to compete with the operators flying the small types of aircraft on crop dusting, taxi-work and the like. I would, however, hesitate to say just where the Commonwealth powers on the licensing of aircraft begin and end, but the State Governments have power to tax intrastate air services if they so desire. In fact at least one State is doing so and is collecting taxation on a percentage basis, although I do not suggest that we do this, as I think it would be a retrograde step. Undoubtedly there are in the State residual

powers on air transport, but what they would be, expressed in a concrete form, I should not like to say. I personally would hope that the small operators would not be pushed out of serving the public, because they have served effectively. Having said that, I will refrain from making a precise statement as to where the Commonwealth powers begin and end in this matter.

#### KYBYBOLITE SCHOOL.

Mr. HARDING: I have previously asked questions of the Minister of Education regarding improvements at the Kybybolite school. Has the Minister a reply on this matter?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes. The Director, Public Buildings Department, has advised me as follows:

Additional Classroom: A prefabricated single unit classroom has been requested by the Education Department and appears as item No. 7 on the twenty-ninth priority list for portable rooms. If erected in order of priority, work will not commence on the erection of this room until after February, 1964.

Fencing: This work is programmed to be carried out at the same time as the portable room is being erected.

Shed for Electric Lighting Plant: The school committee has been asked to submit a quotation for the erection of this shed, but to date no quotation has been received from them.

Paving: This department has no record of a request for such work.

#### UNLEY GIRLS TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

Mr. LANGLEY: Recently I wrote to the Minister of Education concerning conditions at the Unley Girls Technical High School and the Unley Primary School with a view to ascertaining the future of the girls technical high school. These two schools are housed in the one area and have little play room because of the presence of so many prefabricated classrooms. Has the Minister anything to report on this matter?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: After the removal of the major portion of Unley High School to its new site at Urrbrae, the question of the transfer of Unley Girls Technical High School to Kyre Avenue was considered, but I am informed that no undertaking was given by the Education Department that this would occur. When the Mitcham Girls Technical High School was established, it was intended that this would be a second girls technical high school to provide for the needs of southern suburbs and that its opening would reduce the size of the Unley Girls Technical High School to more manageable proportions, taking into account its

restricted site. The whole position is being carefully watched, but no final decision will be made until the Mitcham Girls Technical High School is established in a new building at Kyre Avenue and the effect of the opening of the new Adelaide Technical High School at Glenunga on enrolments at the Unley Girls Technical High School becomes fully apparent.

#### MORGAN WEIGHBRIDGE.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: On November 12 I asked the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Railways, whether it would be possible to transfer the weighbridge from Lanosa siding near Morgan to a site at the Morgan railway station, bearing in mind that much heavy freight is shipped from Morgan each year to Adelaide. Has the Minister a reply?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Railways, informs me that the weighbridge situated at Lanosa and referred to by the honourable member is a road and not a railway weighbridge, and because of its not being required, this weighbridge was offered for sale by the Chief Storekeeper, the tenders for same having closed on Monday last, November 18, 1963. No advantage would accrue to either the Railways Department or its customers if the weighbridge at Lanosa were transferred to Morgan. Inwards traffic is weighed at the originating station, and outwards traffic from Morgan—which totalled only 3,005 tons for the year ended June 30, 1963, and 3,770 tons for the year ended June 30, 1962—is weighed either at Dry Creek or at its destination station. It is regretted, therefore, that it would not be an economical proposition to transfer this weighbridge to Morgan.

#### MANNUM FERRY.

Mr. BYWATERS: The Minister of Works is aware that I have constantly brought to the notice of this House and the Minister of Roads the need for an additional ferry at Mannum, particularly at weekends and holiday periods. The Christmas holiday period is approaching and this problem is causing great concern. I was pleased to hear the reply from the Minister of Roads given last week by the Minister of Works that traffic counts had been taken over a period and the possibility of installing a second ferry at Mannum was being considered in relation to the priorities of other important works. Last week, when at a luncheon at Cambrai, I was told that the use of tandem ferries was possible. One expense associated with additional ferries is on the approaches, but tandem ferries would obviate

the need for the costly approaches. Will the Minister of Works take up with the Minister of Roads the possibility of using tandem ferries at Mannum because of the urgent need for an additional ferry there and because the cost could thereby be cut considerably?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member's suggestion sounds interesting, but I am not able of my own knowledge to say whether it is feasible or not. He has suggested a tandem ferry, and I think the Minister of Roads and the Commissioner of Highways would be happy to investigate the possibility and report on it from their own knowledge. It occurs to me that if heavy traffic is involved tandem ferries could be extremely dangerous. However, I am expressing this from the layman's point of view and as a first impression. For light traffic, tandem ferries offer substantial possibilities, but I imagine that is not what the honourable member is mostly concerned about.

Mr. Bywaters: Heavy transports could be placed on the ferry at the rear.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: A driver would have to cross over one to get to the other, so it is a question of having two ferries at the points of loading, which suggests to me that there may be an element of danger. Ferries always have an element of risk, and accidents have occurred. However, I shall be happy to refer the honourable member's comments to my colleague for investigation.

#### GREENOCK OCCUPATION CENTRE.

Mr. LAUCKE: The Barossa and Light Branch of the Mentally Retarded Children's Association of South Australia keenly desires to have an occupation centre established at Greenock, and representations have been made to the Minister of Education in recent months. Can the Minister say whether an occupation centre will be provided at Greenock to serve the Barossa and Light districts?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: In his dual capacity as member for Barossa and President of the Barossa and Light District Branch of the Mentally Retarded Children's Association, the honourable member has been vigorously advocating, by correspondence and personal representations, the establishment of an occupation centre at Greenock. He has stressed to me that Greenock is the most central town in the Barossa and Light district, being four miles from Nuriootpa, eight from Angaston and Tanunda to the east, nine from Kapunda

in the north, eight from Freeling in the west, and 15 from Gawler in the south. He has also emphasized that there is a very active and keen committee that will render every possible assistance to the Education Department if such a centre is established at the earliest opportunity. I am anxious to accede to this request, but responsible departmental officers favour Gawler as the venue of the proposed centre. They point out that it is important to distinguish clearly between retarded children suitable for a special occupation centre and backward children who only require special training in an opportunity class in an ordinary school. Children in opportunity classes are educable in the usual subjects, whereas the type of children suitable for an occupation centre cannot cope with ordinary school subjects. These experts consider that it really requires a minimum of 12 children in a district, with the possibility of an increase in numbers in the near future, before an occupation centre can be economically established and administered. For these reasons they prefer Gawler to Greenock.

However, I share the opinion of the honourable member that the centralization of all types of educational facilities in Gawler is wrong from several points of view. At present a psychologist is investigating the number of children in the Gawler district who may be possible candidates for placement in an occupation centre. She will now be asked to investigate children in Kapunda, Truro, Nuriootpa, Angaston, and other towns in the Barossa and Light district for a similar purpose. As soon as her report is received, it will be examined by the Chief Psychologist and the Superintendent of Primary Schools, who will submit their recommendations to me through the Deputy Director of Education. Without prejudging the issue at this stage, I assure the honourable member that I shall do everything in my power to accede to the requests of himself and his constituents, because I consider that the early establishment of an occupation centre will prove a real boon to these children and to their parents.

#### POINT GREY CUTTING.

Mr. TAPPING: Has the Minister of Marine a reply to a question I asked on November 19 about the new bridge for Torrens Island and any assistance that can be given to professional fishermen?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I said on Tuesday in reply to the honourable member's question that I would try to obtain the clearance

under the proposed open bridge across the North Arm, and I obtained figures from the Electricity Trust this morning. The North Arm will be crossed by means of a pre-stressed concrete bridge that will provide a clearance at mean high water spring tide of 11ft. 6in. and at mean low water spring tide of 17ft. 6in. This will permit smaller fishing boats to pass under the bridge and, if hinged masts are used, much larger boats will be able to pass under it. The General Manager of the Harbors Board, in commenting on these clearances, states that he thought these clearances would meet the needs of most, if not all, fishing boats that use the coastal area to the north of Outer Harbour. I think that may resolve the problem with which the honourable member has been concerned over the last few months.

#### AREA SCHOOLS.

Mr. HALL: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about a problem existing in the Snowtown, Port Broughton and Brinkworth areas concerning the raising of the standard of education in the area schools to the Leaving standard?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: As I told the honourable member at the time, I thought he had made a constructive suggestion that could apply not only to the area schools mentioned by him but to other schools similarly situated. I referred the matter to the Director of Education for report and recommendation, and the Director reported:

I certainly admit that at first sight the suggestion seems an admirable one, and I am particularly anxious to provide the best facilities for education we can for these and other country centres.

The SPEAKER: Order! Is the Minister reading all that document?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: No, Sir; only two or three extracts from it. The report continues:

On the other hand, after a full examination of the position I do not consider that the suggested solution of having teachers travelling between these centres would be satisfactory, and I believe I can suggest a better solution. The Director also reports:

If teachers were appointed to travel between these three places to conduct fourth year classes in each, it is clear that at least three competent teachers would be required to cover the necessary spread of subjects at the fourth year level. The time spent in each school would be reduced by the time required to travel from, say, Snowtown to Brinkworth or Snowtown to Port Broughton unless, of course, the teachers spent a whole day in each school.

The report concludes:

I consider, therefore, that it would be far better in the educational interests of the students to establish a fourth year class for the Leaving Examination at Snowtown and to encourage the parents of any fourth year students at Brinkworth and at Port Broughton to bring their children on a roster basis to Snowtown daily.

The Director has recommended accordingly, and I have so approved.

#### BURBRIDGE ROAD.

Mr. FRED WALSH: The duplication of Burbridge Road westward from Marion Road has been started, but according to the chief engineer of the department it will extend only to Airport Road. Burbridge Road extends to Military Road and carries a considerable volume of traffic thus relieving the heavy volume of traffic on Henley Beach Road, but only a small portion of that traffic uses the road into the airport, and it has been suggested that Burbridge Road should be duplicated as far as Tapley Hill Road. Can the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Roads, ascertain from his colleague whether the extension of the duplication of Burbridge Road is planned as far as Tapley Hill Road?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will submit the honourable member's question to my colleague and ask him to convey this information to the honourable member as soon as possible.

#### POWERLINES.

Mrs. STEELE: Earlier this session I asked the Premier where the Electricity Trust would be siting a powerline through the suburb of Toorak, and he undertook to obtain a report from the trust. Has he received that report?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The General Manager of the Electricity Trust (Mr. Colyer) reports that following further discussions between the trust and the Burnside council, including on-site examinations of alternative routes, the council has agreed that this line should be routed down the southern side of Alexandra Avenue.

#### TILLEY SWAMP SCHOOL.

Mr. CORCORAN: I understand that the Minister of Education has a reply to my recent question about the re-siting of the Tilley Swamp Primary School.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Unfortunately the District Inspector of Schools has not yet had an opportunity to visit the Tilley Swamp and Salt Creek area to make inquiries and submit a report and recommendation concerning suitable land for a new school building. He is expected to do so within the next week or

so, and I shall be pleased to inform the honourable member by letter when a decision is made.

#### INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICITY.

Mr. CURREN: During the Committee stage of the debate on the Electricity Supply (Industries) Bill I asked whether the provisions of that legislation would apply to the local government authorities in my district, namely, the Berri District Council, the Renmark Corporation and the Renmark Irrigation Trust, which now purchase power in bulk from the Electricity Trust. Can the Premier say whether the Bill's provisions will apply to these undertakings?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: There is nothing to stop an industry in the honourable member's district from applying and, if it were an approved case, getting assistance in the circumstances he has outlined. The Electricity Trust provides power in bulk to many places and, if the applicant were an approved applicant and came within the scope of the legislation, I do not doubt that the local government authority would guarantee to pass on the advantage that would be given to it in its charges. I speak subject to correction, but I believe that Port Augusta and Port Pirie still buy power in bulk. If an industry at Port Augusta qualified for assistance I do not doubt that the distributing authority would pass on the concession. I do not think any distributing authority would refuse to do so, because obviously it would be in the interests of the district. We would not be prepared to make a concession in the charges if those concessions were not passed on. Although I do not think that situation would arise, it could be met by a mutually satisfactory arrangement.

#### HOUSING COSTS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Has the Premier a reply from the Chairman of the Housing Trust to the question I asked recently about bricklayers' prices?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Mr. Cartledge reports as follows:

During the last twelve months the prices for brickwork carried out by subcontractors under subcontracts with Housing Trust builders have increased appreciably. The price now being paid by some builders is £17 10s. a thousand bricks and upwards. Even at these rates some trust builders are losing bricklayers.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: In view of the increased costs, will the Premier discuss with the Housing Trust the reintroduction of the negotiated-price system of housing contracts that operated prior to the labour-only system

on contracts entered into by the Housing Trust? This system would be appreciated by contractors who have done a reasonable job and, in addition, it would give an opportunity to train apprentices in the industry. What is the Premier's attitude to the suggested reverting to the former system?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Parliament has provided in many Acts that the Government should call for tenders for work that has to be done. The Auditor-General drew attention to this some time ago in connection with the Housing Trust's activities. Undoubtedly the change-over then to correct tendering resulted in a substantial saving in cost to the Housing Trust. However, in view of the Leader's question I will discuss this matter with the Auditor-General. It primarily concerns the Government and the Audit Department rather than the Housing Trust. The Government is anxious to comply with all the general safeguards provided by Parliament in these matters. I will inform the Leader of the result of the discussions.

#### TEA TREE GULLY SEWERAGE.

Mr. LAUCKE: Each passing month the concentration of housing in the Tea Tree Gully district is being accentuated and the need for deep drainage becomes more urgently apparent. Can the Minister of Works inform me whether there are any plans to meet the need at Tea Tree Gully—a need that will be aggravated with every passing month?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Engineer for Sewerage states that extensions of sewers into the Tea Tree Gully area cannot be made until the Dry Creek Valley trunk main sewer is completed. This work is now in hand but it will be 12 months before it reaches Modbury. After this time it will be possible to make further extensions into the Tea Tree Gully district. The honourable member has inquired regarding availability of sewers for the vicinity of Gregory Street, Tea Tree Gully. I am advised that Gregory Street is about 1½ miles from the present terminus of the Modbury sewer, so that it would be from two to three years before sewerage facilities would be available. I think that the honourable member appreciates the department's problem in reaching this far-flung developing suburb. Inevitably in these cases, although it would be comparatively simple to lay sewers in the subdivision concerned, there is the problem of disposing of the sewage after it has been collected. It must go through a treatment works somewhere, and this invariably involves a long-distance large-diameter pumping or gravity sewer main. That

is the real problem here. The honourable member can be assured that the Engineer-in-Chief will get this work through as soon as possible.

#### COLOURED TISSUES.

Mr. HUTCHENS: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on Tuesday concerning the manufacture of coloured tissues and coloured toilet paper?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Dr. Woodruff, the Director-General of Public Health, reports:

Certain artificial colours, including some aniline dyes, can be harmful when absorbed into the body. A special subcommittee of the National Health and Medical Research Council is at present considering the advisability of prohibiting the use in cosmetics of any colouring substances other than substances approved for the artificial colouring of food. As the report of these discussions has not yet been received, no action has yet been taken by State health authorities to restrict the use of artificial colours in articles other than food or drugs. Toilet paper does not come within the definition of food or drugs under the South Australian Food and Drugs Act.

#### FESTIVAL OF ARTS.

Mr. LOVEDAY: My attention has been drawn, by people in the lower and middle income brackets, to charges for admission to the various entertainments at the 1964 Festival of Arts. The charges range in the main, from 15s. 6d. to 41s., and even 64s. for a seat at the gala opening of the opera and 51s. for the opening of *Macbeth*. As we all agree that one of the main objectives of the festival is to encourage the appreciation of music, theatre and other forms of art, will the Premier say whether, in the event of a future festival, prices can be brought more within the range of the people to whom I have referred, so that they will have a chance to attend such entertainments?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have discussed this matter with the controlling authority of the festival, not so much in respect of this festival as in respect of the last one. The artists attracted to South Australia for the festival are of world class and performances are staged only at great cost, so admission charges will not pay the cost of providing the entertainment. This year the Government is providing £20,000 and private people are guaranteeing about £50,000. I want to refute any suggestion that anyone will make a profit from the performances, as costly arrangements are involved in bringing worthwhile artists to this State. Two years ago I asked that, because the Government provided for the festival £20,000 through a grant approved

by this Parliament, popular items be provided either free of charge or at costs that would not prohibit the attendance of persons of limited means. Those items were provided and were greatly appreciated, and no doubt the same arrangements will apply at the coming festival. Although some admission charges may be beyond the means of the family man, I believe that entertainment will be provided at a price within his financial means. I will obtain a copy of the popular items to be provided so that the honourable member will have full information.

Mr. CUMBE: The Government is providing a grant of £20,000 to the Adelaide City Council towards the Festival of Arts next year. Can the Premier say whether this is a general grant or is it for a specific purpose? I understand that the Government has also offered to contribute towards the building, in future, of a festival hall. Can the Premier say what sum is involved and whether conditions have been laid down regarding site and structure?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The history of the grant provided for the Festival of Arts is that initially the festival authorities asked whether the State would assist with the advertising of the Festival of Arts through the Tourist Bureau. The grant originally was entirely absorbed by advertising—the issuing of pamphlets and so forth. This year the matter has not been specifically discussed from the viewpoint of restricting the use of the £20,000 to advertising. However, it has been made clear to the authorities that any expenditure on advertising must be deducted from the £20,000. In other words, the Government is not paying for the advertising and making a grant of £20,000 as well.

Regarding the other matter, South Australia is in a bad position in not having a general-purpose hall which would enable overseas artists of some importance to come to this State. Some of these artists (particularly members of symphony orchestras and such artists) can be brought to this State only at a financial loss to the Australian Broadcasting Commission or the Elizabethan Trust. The Government has agreed, subject to Parliamentary approval, to provide up to £800,000, provided that £200,000 is contributed from other sources and provided that the other authority controlling the trust (presumably the Adelaide City Council) shall be responsible for the interest payments on £400,000. In other words, of the £800,000, the sum of £400,000 would be an outright grant but the other £400,000 would

be a loan repayable over a period at interest. I believe that one or two sites have been discussed but that nothing has been specified. The Government—and, I believe, the public—would require the site to be in a fairly central position and readily reached by transport from all suburbs. I do not believe, for instance, that a suggested site in one of the extremities of the park lands would be suitable. The site has not been determined; in fact, some sites are being discussed at present.

#### PORT PIRIE DEVELOPMENT.

Mr. McKEE: I have asked several questions of the Premier regarding possible development at Port Pirie. As the House is adjourning today, can the Premier pass on any information at this stage?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No, Mr. Speaker. I point out to the honourable member and to other members that the Commonwealth Ministers at present have other preoccupations.

#### PANORAMA WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: During the last few months particularly, I have made representations to the Minister (and for that purpose I have even enlisted the aid of the Leader of the Opposition) regarding a water supply for the area known as Panorama in my district. Has the Minister of Works any information to give me on this matter?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: This matter is of long standing and, as the honourable member knows and will appreciate, it has been fraught with many difficulties, the main one being that this subdivision was commenced and completed (as far as subdivision was concerned) before the operation of the Town Planning Act. Therefore, as it was not subject to the usual scrutiny by the Engineer-in-Chief and did not require the certificate now required of him in the case of new metropolitan subdivisions, it went ahead as a subdivision, but the department, because of the high level involved, was not physically able to supply water to it. Some development has taken place over the years notwithstanding, and with the advent of the reorganization of water systems in the hills area, the possibility of a service in the area is now coming nearer. This morning I discussed the matter with the Engineer for Water Supply, who has drawn up a backbone scheme to serve the subdivision; that is, the physical aspects of it. He is at present having the degree of development



assessed and the economics of the scheme examined, and if the result of those is such that he can make a recommendation to the Engineer-in-Chief I believe that the item could be included for consideration in next year's Loan Estimates. However, it is a costly scheme: I think the estimate of cost is about £900,000. The high-level trunk main around the foothills has not yet reached this point; it will eventually reach the area and assist it. However, that will not be for some years, therefore a temporary arrangement has been made to come off, I think, the Blackwood main system. As I told the honourable member verbally a few weeks ago, it has now come within the scope of possibility. The matter is being investigated, and I shall be able to tell the honourable member more later. Although we have no funds for it this year, possibly it could be considered for inclusion in the Loan Estimates next year.

#### PALMER-SEDAN WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. BYWATERS: Can the Minister of Works inform me of any further progress in the Palmer-Sedan water supply scheme, which interests both the member for Angas (Hon. B. H. Teusner) and me? If he cannot give me the information now, will he inform us both by letter of the progress that has taken place?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I was sure that the questions asked on water supply today would prompt the honourable member's memory and cause him to ask me about this scheme. Although I do not object to that, I am afraid that little progress has been made in this matter. I was rather keen on this scheme in its early stages, and I think the honourable members concerned know that; but I am beginning to despair of its being a possibility. That does not mean that that is the end of the scheme. However, whichever way we turn we have not been able to progress in making out of it a reasonable proposition that would result in its being of any real service to the people concerned. The cost would be high, higher possibly than would be its real value to the people receiving the service. Because of the problems involved and the fact that the department has spent much time on it without being able to achieve a concrete result, the matter has not been up to my desk for some weeks. However, now that the pressure of the session is off I shall be happy to ask Mr. Campbell to see me again about it and to see what has developed in the meantime, but to my knowledge there is nothing further to announce since I last reported on the project.

#### TRURO CURVE.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: My attention has been drawn by people living in the locality of the number of accidents occurring on the Sturt Highway as a result of motor vehicles running off the road at a curve in the road at the north-western entrance to Truro. Will the Minister of Works refer this matter to his colleague, the Minister of Roads, to ascertain whether the road can be improved at that point so that the risk of accident is minimized in future?

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

#### PENNINGTON SCHOOL.

Mr. RYAN: Has the Minister of Education obtained a report on the likely commencement date, or at least the date for calling tenders, for the new Pennington Primary School, which is considered to be an extremely urgent project?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes. As I previously informed the honourable member, plans and specifications for a new solid construction building at Pennington Primary School are being prepared. The Director of the Public Buildings Department has now informed me that tenders are expected to be called in April, 1964.

#### SOUTH-EAST ROADS.

Mr. HARDING: Has the Minister of Works obtained a reply from the Minister of Roads about the rebuilding and sealing of the Kalangadoo-Glencoe main road and the Penola-Casterton main road to the Victorian border?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I received verbal information on this matter this morning, and the note I have suggests that the Minister of Roads expects the Kalangadoo-Glencoe main road to be completely constructed and sealed this financial year, and the construction and sealing of the South Australian section of the Penola-Casterton road, which is continuing, to be completed next financial year.

#### STURT RIVER FENCING.

Mr. FRED WALSH: On November 12 I asked the Minister of Works a question about the condition of the boundary fence on the Sturt River near the scene of a recent drowning fatality, and the Minister said that he would have investigations made. Has he a report?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: As I told the honourable member when he asked his previous question, this matter naturally caused me much concern. Since he asked his question, I have

received communications from interested people. My colleague, the Minister of Education, has also received communications that he has forwarded to me. I had hoped, because of the circumstances, to go to the scene and look at the site, but I have not yet been able to do so. However, I have seen photographs of the scene of the fatality that the Engineer-in-Chief has produced for me, and I have also received reports from him. I think it will be accepted that fencing cannot be erected along all the hazards, rivers and creeks in the metropolitan area and, frankly, I do not know why this should be confined to the metropolitan area in any case. It is physically not possible to do this because of the nature of the fences that would be required to keep children out if they felt inclined to get in; it would be an extremely difficult undertaking. I agree that, so far as possible, we should protect these areas, and with that in view I have scrutinized the report. I find that the place where the problem exists has been well fenced in the past. A substantial fence (I do not suggest it is manproof) has been erected and re-erected there many times, only to be broken down. Along the bank of the river is a well-worn path, which is obviously used regularly as a footway. I cast about in my mind to discover the reason why people should break down the fence and use as a public thoroughfare what is, after all, private land. I find that at the extension of Pine Avenue a road has been surveyed up to the boundary of the Sturt River but no bridge has been provided across the river at that point. However, pedestrians coming from the northern area may cross over by means of a ford in the Sturt River when it is not flowing. That is apparently the route regularly used by people to get to or from Anzac Highway when the river is not flowing. When the river is flowing, because there is no bridge there they come along the side of the Sturt River, through the fence to which I have referred, and along until they come to a private bridge (which I believe is in the property owned by the Morphett family), cross there, and then go to the Anzac Highway.

I appreciate that where the public convenience is not fully met people will seek alternatives, and with that in view I have asked for an estimate of cost for the provision of a footbridge at Pine Avenue so that when the river is in flood people can cross there instead of being not compelled but at least induced because of circumstances to take the short cut along the river and through the forbidden fence. I will investigate the matter fur-

ther. I do not know whose responsibility it is to see that such a bridge is provided; I think it would be the council's responsibility.

Mr. Fred Walsh: I think the council will say it is yours.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I doubt that it is. However, the first thing is to find out whether it is feasible and whether it will meet the obvious need for some sort of crossing there. I will follow up the matter.

#### HAMPDEN WATER SCHEME.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Will the Minister of Works inquire of the Engineer-in-Chief when the Hampden water scheme will be completed?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes, I will find out and inform the honourable member by letter.

#### WHYALLA SEWERAGE.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Has the Premier further information about the proposed sewerage of the Housing Trust area at Whyalla and whether it is likely to be completed this financial year?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The honourable member asked a question during the debate on the Loan Estimates about this and I have secured the information for him. The £27,000 provided on the Loan Estimates includes £7,000 for extensions of mains and payment to the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited of the annual instalment for taking over the Whyalla waterworks and £20,000 for a service tank and new mains at Whyalla West. No provision is made under "Country Sewers" for Whyalla, as the proposed scheme must be considered by the Public Works Committee. If the committee reports favourably an effort will be made to re-allocate funds so that work may start later this financial year.

#### CAR PARTS.

Mr. HALL: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question about a proposal by the Tariff Board to hear evidence on the possible imposition of higher tariff duties in respect of imported motor vehicle parts?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Prices Commissioner reports:

It is understood that at the beginning of the month the Tariff Board received its terms of reference for a new inquiry into the mechanism of protection for the vehicle and parts manufacturing industry in Australia and that the terms of reference indicated that the Government was seeking to minimize opportunities for bringing in vehicle parts and components duty free under by-law provisions. The

Tariff Board inquiry will cover both new vehicles and replacement parts, on which a number of different tariffs exist. The effects of greater protection for the Australian manufacturer would be: (a) major overseas owned plants would extend their range of production activity within Australia to encompass parts now imported; and (b) locally owned automotive parts manufacturers would benefit by obtaining a share of the shift from overseas supply sources. In the last two or three years there has been a trend away from local manufacture of automotive parts, which, if unchecked, could constitute a serious threat to the Australian industry. There was also evidence that Australian manufacturers were experiencing competition from some imported parts which was causing loss of sales. It appears unlikely that higher import tariffs in categories where they might be applied would result to any extent in higher prices for Australian parts. A number of imported parts are at present cheaper than similar Australian parts. In addition, increased Australian production would help to reduce costs of manufacture. Annual costs of importing vehicle components and parts into Australia have more recently exceeded £100,000,000 and if adjustment of tariffs can reduce this figure then local manufacturing should benefit considerably, in addition to which Australia would become more self-supporting as regards this industry.

#### COTTAGE FLATS.

Mr. TAPPING: I understand that the Premier has a reply to my recent question about the building of cottage flats in the Semaphore district.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Chairman of the Housing Trust reports:

The Housing Trust has nearly 700 cottage flats in the metropolitan area which are let to pensioners and the like. Of these, 53 have been built in Mr. Tapping's constituency whilst 12 more are projected for early construction. In addition, the trust has built nearly 300 cottage flats for various religious and charitable organizations. At the moment the trust holds about 350 applications for these flats from married couples and about 2,500 from elderly women living alone. The waiting time for married couples is from three to four years and for elderly women seven to eight years. Whilst this position is far from satisfactory it is somewhat better than it was some years ago. Cottage flats cannot be let at economic rents, and the trust incurs a loss of about £36,000 a year on these flats. This is in addition to the loss incurred by the trust when letting ordinary houses to such as widows and deserted wives with children, invalid pensioners and the like. This loss is about £37,000 per annum. Consequently, the trust incurs a loss of approximately £73,000 a year on what may be called social housing. In country areas, the position of the trust is different as the grants made under the provisions of the Country Housing Act have enabled the trust to provide social housing without loss.

Losses on social housing must, of course, be met from revenue from other undertakings of the trust. It is obvious that as more cottage flats are built the greater the loss and that there is a point beyond which the trust should not go in providing uneconomic housing. Nevertheless, the trust is extremely conscious that the need for cottage flats in the metropolitan area is great, particularly for the housing of elderly people living alone. As the expectation of life for women who reach the age of 60 is 78 years and for men who reach the age of 60 is 72 years, the problem of housing age pensioners is likely to become more pressing. What the trust has done and is doing has eased and will appreciably ease the position, but I would suggest that the trust should not be regarded as solely responsible for solving this particular problem. Religious and charitable organizations, with the help of the Commonwealth subsidy, are doing a great deal and will, without doubt, continue to do so. As has been said on many occasions, the trust is willing to assist any of those organizations by making available its designs and building organization and, in appropriate cases, by selling land at cost to the trust.

Honourable members will remember that Parliament approved of allocating certain surplus moneys last year for various purposes including electricity and housing. I have told the Housing Trust that I am making available to it, out of those moneys, £50,000 as a free grant for social housing. It may be applied in the metropolitan area, but it must be applied in the same way and on the same conditions as money is applied under the country housing scheme. Up to the present, the trust has taken all responsibility for social housing in the city and will now have available this year £50,000 to assist it in this work.

#### COUNTRY FESTIVALS.

Mr. RICHES: Most members have heard with some interest of the assistance that the Government has given the Festival of Arts in Adelaide. Has the Premier any funds from which he could assist various bodies to hold festivals in country centres? I have in mind such festivals as the Tunarama Festival at Port Lincoln, the Poinsettia Festival at Port Augusta, and similar festivals of outstanding interest held in country centres. If funds are available, can the Premier say to what authority applications should be submitted?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am sure that all honourable members are aware that the Government has endeavoured to sponsor the tourist industry in country areas and that it has provided assistance each year to many centres. Once or twice previously assistance has been given to special festivals but, as

far as I know, it has always been as the result of a specific line on the Estimates. I will examine the matter raised by the honourable member and inform him in due course.

#### MANNUM SEWERAGE.

Mr. BYWATERS: The Minister of Works will recall that recently I wrote asking him whether an officer of his department could visit Mannum to advise the local council on its sewerage problems. Has the Minister taken this matter any further, or has he appointed an officer to visit Mannum?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I cannot answer the question precisely. In the normal course of events I would ask the Engineer-in-Chief to make an officer available. I point out that such officers are not my officers, but his officers. I do not have power, nor do I seek it, to instruct them, but co-operation is always available and I am sure that assistance will be forthcoming in this case. I will check and let the honourable member have a reply.

#### HOUGHTON SCHOOL RESIDENCE.

Mr. LAUCKE: Can the Minister of Education inform me of his department's intention concerning the head teacher's residence at Houghton? This residence requires either extensive alterations and repairs or replacement.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I have been informed that earlier this year, in response to the head teacher's request for several repairs and improvements to the school residence, the Public Buildings Department investigated its condition and reported that as the building was 86 years old and was in a poor state of repair, the cost of necessary repairs and improvements would come to £2,800 and that considerable maintenance would be necessary after these repairs had been done. In consequence it was decided to replace the residence with a new building on a suitable site as soon as possible. It was also decided to arrange for urgent minor repairs to be effected so as to ensure that the residence is in a reasonably comfortable and habitable condition until a new house can be built. A building inspector is to visit Houghton almost immediately to make a start on this work.

#### BELAIR WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: On October 25 the Minister of Works was kind enough to write to me following the receipt by him of an informal petition I had handed to him seeking an extension of a water supply along

Sheoak Road, Belair. In view of the encouragement the Minister has given me in other replies this afternoon, can he also give me encouragement on this matter?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: This question is not as easy as one or two of the honourable member's earlier questions. This request was for an extension of the main in Florence Terrace and Sheoak Road, Belair. The Engineer for Water Supply reports:

The request for an extension of main for 12 allotments in the abovementioned streets has been considered. The properties of seven of the applicants are too high for a satisfactory supply. To supply the remaining five properties would necessitate the laying of 1,850ft. of main at an estimated cost of £2,035. This amounts to £407 an applicant, and if Loan funds are used for this it would have the effect of depriving a supply to approximately four times as many properties in other areas.

I did discuss this matter with Mr. Campbell this morning. We had a plan before us. Unfortunately, some distance of main has to be laid from the Belair tank before any dwellinghouses are reached. At present there is much non-subdivided land on the road along that section and there is no likelihood of development. The subdivision begins some distance from the tank and extends on an upgrade around the corner into the other street. The far corner is too high to be reached, even with a service from the tank. So, I am afraid the proposition is more difficult than usual in the honourable member's district and I cannot offer him bright prospects of extending a service to those residents.

#### ISLINGTON SEWAGE FARM.

Mr. COUNBE: Many questions have been asked this year concerning the future of the Islington sewage farm. The Minister of Works has stated that it may be about two years before the sewage farm will be available for use for other purposes. It certainly will not be available until the Bolivar treatment plant commences operations. This unique area at Islington presents a wonderful opportunity for the Government to plan its future use for industry and for recreational purposes. Will the Minister consider setting up a committee or authority to plan now, well before this area becomes available. Such a committee could function similarly to the authorities that devised the Greater Port Adelaide Plan in respect of which town planners drew up a

good report for future development. As this important matter must be proceeded with soon, will the Minister consider setting up such a committee?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am happy to consider any proposition made in good faith, particularly one submitted by the honourable member. However, although I will consider it and also discuss it with Cabinet, I point out at the outset that I doubt whether such a committee would really achieve the desired result. As the honourable member knows, several industries contiguous to this area may (and I believe they do) desire to expand. The Railways Commissioner is also involved, in a way, as I understand it, that is at present a little indeterminate. I believe that if the standard gauge railway line from Port Pirie to Adelaide eventuates it will be necessary for some extensive industrial development to take place at Islington, and that development will require land. That matter cannot be resolved easily or quickly. In addition, other industries from time to time have expressed an interest in the clearing of this land for industrial sites. In fact, voluminous correspondence between those people and the Government is on file. I refer to industries that at present have no holding in this immediate area. With the best will in the world, I think that it is rather premature to attempt to draw up what could be a final plan for the area. I do not think the honourable member expects any plan drawn to be final, but unless a plan has an air of finality it is rather futile to embark on it at any stage. Having said that, I will refer the question to Cabinet to see whether or not my colleagues consider that what I have said is correct. If a decision is not reached and the matter is put aside, there will be nothing to tell the honourable member, but if a decision is reached I shall certainly let him know.

#### RESERVE BANK BUILDING.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Has the Minister of Works, in the temporary absence of the Premier, a reply to the question I asked some time ago concerning the use of Angaston marble in the new Reserve Bank building?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes. The Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia reports:

It is the bank's policy to use Australian materials as far as possible in its building projects, and Australian marble is no exception to this policy. However, the final decision has not yet been made regarding the materials to

be used on the external facades of the Reserve Bank building to be erected on the corner of Victoria Square and Flinders Street, Adelaide. The Commonwealth Department of Works and the Bank's Advisory Design Panel are aware of the range of South Australian marbles and have obtained samples from the South Australian Mines Department. Naturally, the final choice must depend on architectural suitability for the location, allied with durability, cost and availability in adequate sizes and quantities.

#### PENOLA HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. HARDING: Negotiations have taken place for some time, and are still taking place, regarding the purchase of a suitable building block on which to erect a headmaster's residence at Penola. Can the Minister of Education say what has transpired regarding the acquisition of the block of land adjoining the high school?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The honourable member has made a number of inquiries concerning the purchase of a block of land at Penola for a new departmental residence. Several months ago the Education Department negotiated with the District Council of Penola for the site which he has mentioned, but as agreement on the price could not be reached, no further steps were taken to obtain it. The council has recently offered to sell the land at a lower price. This offer has been referred to the Land Board, and as soon as its advice is received further consideration will be given to the possibility of purchase. I shall be pleased to inform the honourable member when a decision has been made.

#### STANDING ORDERS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Several times this session I have asked you, Mr. Speaker, about a revision of Standing Orders. I understand that the Standing Orders Committee has met and considered the Standing Orders and, as this is the last day on which we are likely to be sitting before Christmas, I ask you, Sir, whether you have anything to tell the House about progress in this matter?

The SPEAKER: The Standing Orders Committee has met on several occasions and has made good progress in its consideration of the report of the Clerk of the House (Mr. Combe) on his visit overseas. We have not yet completed the report, but now that the House is going into recess for a time we will continue our work on it and will have more time to devote to it. The honourable member will appreciate that it takes time to compare our

Standing Orders with those of other Parliaments. Earlier today one honourable member referred to the fact that this Parliament was second to none in many respects, and I hope to show the member for Mitcham that it will enjoy the same distinction regarding its Standing Orders.

#### ISLINGTON WORKSHOPS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Has the Minister of Works a report from the Railways Commissioner on the method of estimating for rolling stock projects at the Islington workshops?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes. The Railways Commissioner states:

When estimating for rolling stock projects and manufactured details at Islington, allowance is made as under:

- (a) material at cost plus 3 per cent interest;
- (b) direct labour at average hourly rate—  
at present 9s. 5d.;
- (c) overhead expenditure, covering indirect labour, material and contingencies—at  
present 108 per cent;
- (d) stores handling—at present 9½ per cent;
- (e) payroll tax—2½ per cent.

The total of direct labour and added charges as above at the present time is 20s. 9d.

Mr. Frank Walsh: That is, 20s. 9d. an hour?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I imagine so.

#### EMPTY FLAGONS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I believe the Minister of Works, in the temporary absence of the Premier, has a reply to the question I asked some time ago concerning empty flagons?

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

The S.A. Food Industry Consultative Council represents many sections of the grocery trade, including privately-owned grocery stores as well as larger stores and organizations. Inquiries have disclosed that the council's decision that retailers should not accept empty flagons after October 26, 1963, was made after consideration of a number of factors which have been causing retailers concern for some time, including the following:

- (a) the valuable space being taken up in  
storing empty flagons;
- (b) costs of handling;
- (c) losses through breakages;
- (d) some flagons were being returned  
after having been used for storing  
strong-smelling liquids;
- (e) many flagons were being returned  
without the manufacturer's label  
attached, resulting in difficulty in  
some cases in having these flagons  
accepted by manufacturers.

With competition in the grocery industry and the consequent necessity that operating costs, particularly those of the smaller grocers, be kept to a minimum, the handling, storing, and returning of empty flagons has presented a

problem for some time. Including the usual charge of 1s. 6d. for the flagon, the price of goods sold in this size container will still be proportionately cheaper than when an equivalent quantity is purchased in three 26-oz. bottles. Empty flagons will still be of some value to consumers, as the council has approached the marine stores dealers and arrangements will be made for them to be accepted. The price to be paid to householders has not yet been decided upon, and the department is looking into this matter. Some manufacturers have indicated that they will continue to accept and make refunds on empty flagons bearing their label. It is felt that the public has had insufficient notice to return their empty flagons to storekeepers and accordingly the department has negotiated with the council and has arranged for the time limit to be extended from October 26 to the end of November. It would appear that South Australia is the only State in which flagons are not already charged for as part of the cost of the goods.

#### DEAN RIFLE RANGE.

Mr. LAUCKE: Can the Minister of Works say what progress has been made in acquiring certain lands near Mount Gawler for resiting the Dean Rifle Range?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am not able to give a comprehensive reply. This matter has been proceeding for some time and so far there have been comparatively indefinite results. I know that the honourable member is concerned on behalf of his constituents in the area, who think that in due time but at a time they cannot at present determine, the land will probably be acquired and they will lose the use of it. I am well aware of this, and so is the Government, but negotiations with the Commonwealth Government have been protracted and are so far undetermined. The value of the land was in dispute between the State and Commonwealth Governments and, in an endeavour to get a positive recheck of the valuations, Cabinet instructed the Land Board to visit the area and commence negotiations with the owners of the privately-owned and leasehold land concerned, which hitherto had not been brought into the matter, with a view to ascertaining their ideas of values, and reporting. The reasons why these landowners were not previously interviewed was that it was a part of the original proposal that the Commonwealth authorities should enter into negotiations with them. However, the Commonwealth Government declined to accept that point of view, and as a result the State Government instructed the Land Board to interview people and make valuations. This is proceeding but I am unable to take the matter beyond that.

## POLICE ACTION.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): I lay on the table the report I have received from the Crown Law Department concerning matters that I promised I would have investigated. I point out to members that I have edited this report to the extent that I have crossed out one name in the report. That does not alter the meaning of the report, but I believe that this is a case where we should not continue to have publicity concerning the character of a person. I have initialled the report where I have altered it. I have merely crossed out a name and substituted a word to make it anonymous. So that honourable members may have a copy of the report, I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion carried.

## SUCCESSION DUTIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

## ROAD MAINTENANCE (CONTRIBUTION) BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

## PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS.

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

That Orders of the Day Nos. 1 to 4 be made Orders of the Day for February 18.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): I ask the Premier to reconsider this matter, as I am happy to continue with Order of the Day No. 1, which is the second reading debate on the Children's Protection Act Amendment Bill. After all, we must wait for another place, and I should like to finalize the debate on this Bill, if possible.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Regarding Order of the Day No. 1, the Leader has moved, or intends to move, an instruction outside the scope of the present Bill. I know this would not be acceptable to another place, so a long debate would ensue. The Leader desires that the House adjourn today. We have much outstanding business, including probably two conferences. In the circumstances, I believe it would be desirable to deal with this matter when we have time to consider it and to reach some finality. I do not want to refuse the Leader the opportunity to move his instruction, but I know that, if it is moved and the amendment is carried in this House, we will be involved

in considerable negotiations with the other place. As the House will be resuming on February 18, we shall be able to clear up outstanding Bills then without this problem. If the Leader desires to deal with the Bill without moving the instruction, there will be no difficulty. However, I know that he wants to move the instruction, and I know that it involves a big and important matter. In the circumstances, I do not think we can logically conclude our discussion intelligently today; that is why I have moved that these Orders of the Day be postponed.

Motion carried.

## ROAD TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL (SEAT BELTS).

The Legislative Council intimated that it insisted on its amendments to which the House of Assembly had disagreed.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (Mitcham): I move:

That disagreement with the Legislative Council's amendments be insisted on.

The effect of the message we have received from the Legislative Council is that the House has only two courses open to it: either to lay the Bill aside, or to seek a conference. This House passed the Bill without a division on the second and third readings, and the Legislative Council's amendments on which it now insists entirely alter the nature of the Bill. Yesterday the House was generous enough to send a message to the Legislative Council disagreeing with its amendments and in doing so it gave me much support. That motion was agreed to without a division and many members were kind enough to speak in support of it. Obviously this House has not changed its opinion, and it would be a great pity if we laid aside the Bill.

Motion carried.

A message was sent to the Legislative Council requesting a conference at which the Assembly would be represented by Messrs. Bywaters, Freebairn, Jennings, Millhouse, and Pearson.

[Sitting suspended from 4.7 to 7.45 p.m.]

## MARINE STORES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

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

## SECOND-HAND DEALERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

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

TOWN PLANNING ACT AMENDMENT  
BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council with the following amendments:

No. 1. Page 2, line 1 (clause 3)—Leave out "The" and insert "Any".

No. 2. Page 2, line 1 (clause 3)—After "amendment" insert "or variation so recommended".

No. 3. Page 2, line 3 (clause 3)—Leave out "it" and insert "such amendment or variation (as the case may be)".

No. 4. Page 3, lines 37 to 41 (clause 3)—Leave out subsection (9).

Consideration in Committee.

*Amendments Nos. 1 to 3.*

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): These are all purely drafting amendments, and I ask the Committee to accept them.

Amendments agreed to.

*Amendment No. 4.*

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: There is some substance in this amendment, but for the reasons I will outline I recommend that it be accepted. Members will recall that in the Bill power was given for regulations to be made and to operate after 14 sitting days, provided that they had not been disallowed during that period. However, a regulation could be made relating to land acquired and providing that the price should not be greater than the price on the day the regulation was made. Members will recall that that regulation was the only one that was to operate immediately. The Council rejected that provision on two grounds. The first was that a regulation could be made but need not necessarily operate for a long time. A regulation could be made that certain land would be set aside for recreational purposes and for no other purposes, but the land might not be acquired for a long time. In these circumstances, the Legislative Council believed that the power to make a regulation that could leave the owner without the ability either to sell his property or to get any amount for it would be bad in itself. The other reason the Council submitted and examined was rather more potent: under the Lands for Public Purposes Acquisition Act, the Government already has power to serve a notice of acquisition in respect of any land it desires. There is power in that Act to acquire land. The date of the notice of acquisition is the date for the fixing of the price. As far as I can determine, if the Government desires to acquire land and is prepared to take action, legislation already exists to protect the Government against any speculative transaction. In the circumstances, I believe we can safely remove this provision

from the Bill. It does not enhance the Government's power to acquire; the Government already has power to do this under the Lands for Public Purposes Acquisition Act. I ask that the amendment be agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

MARKETING OF EGGS ACT AMENDMENT  
BILL (PRODUCER REPRESENTATION).

Returned from the Legislative Council with the following amendment:

Page 2, lines 28 and 29 (clause 4)—Leave out "entitled to vote at that election" and insert "whose name appears in the roll of electors for any electoral district".

Consideration in Committee.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Agriculture): This simple amendment, I consider, improves the Bill. As the measure left the House of Assembly, it provided that a person could stand for an election in an electoral district only if he was on the roll of electors for that electoral district. The effect of the amendment is to provide that any person whose name appears on the roll of any electoral district is entitled to be elected for any district; he does not necessarily have to be resident in a particular electoral district. I ask members to agree to the Legislative Council's amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT  
BILL (GENERAL).

The Legislative Council intimated that it had agreed to the House of Assembly's amendment No. 2, but had disagreed to amendment No. 1.

Consideration in Committee.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): When this measure was before the House of Assembly new clause 10a (which is the subject of our amendment No. 1) was inserted on the motion of the Leader of the Opposition to provide that a council, in cases of necessitous circumstances, could remit rates or certain charges due to it. The Legislative Council deleted this from the Bill. I have consulted the Leader about this matter, and I believe possibly the wishes of the Council could be met if we narrowed down the provision as it left us, because we provided not only for rates and the interest thereon but also for other charges. For instance, there may be a charge in respect of a road moiety or something similar and that could be equivalent to a capital charge. A difference exists



between a road moiety and a charge for rates or interest upon outstanding rates. The Leader suggested that to meet the wishes of the Legislative Council certain words be deleted so that new section 267b would read:

The council may, upon the application of any person who is liable to the payment of any rates in any financial year in respect of any property and who in the opinion of the council is in necessitous circumstances, by resolution, remit the payment of such rates or any part thereof or the interest or any part of the interest thereon. The council may require the applicant for any remission under this section to support his claim by evidence on oath or by statutory declaration, in such manner and with such particulars as may be prescribed or the council may require. Any rates or part thereof or interest or any part of the interest thereon payment of which is remitted by the council pursuant to this section shall cease to be a charge upon the ratable property concerned.

I suggest one further alteration. I believe that the position would probably be clarified if the latter part of this clause were further altered, as that seems to be the part that is giving most difficulty. As an instance, suppose I apply to the council for a remission of rates and penalty interest and the council grants the application. For what period has it granted it? If I make this application and it is granted will there be no further payment while I am in necessitous circumstances? Everyone's circumstances can change but does the remission remain in force; is it subject to review from year to year; or does it continue until it is revoked? Honourable members know that if an item appears on the Estimates it is almost a level bet that without a decision by someone that item, if not watched, remains on the Estimates for the next 20 years. These remissions should not be automatically carried on from year to year. I suggest that the following sentence, or something like it, be added at the end of the clause:

Any remissions that are made shall be examined by council each calendar year and shall not continue beyond a calendar year unless a resolution of the council specifically extends them.

That would tidy it up in a way that would probably solve the present problem.

Mr. Loveday: What is wrong with a financial year?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I was suggesting the idea that the remissions should be examined each financial year by the council and should not continue unless by resolution of the council. As the Leader will want to consider this, I suggest that progress be reported.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

Later:

In Committee.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD moved:

That this Committee do not insist on its amendment No. 2 and that the following clause 10a be substituted in lieu of the original clause 10a:

10a. The following section is inserted in the principal Act after section 267a thereof:

267b. The council may, upon the application of any person who is liable to the payment of any rates in any financial year in respect of any property and who in the opinion of the council is in necessitous circumstances, by resolution, remit the payment of such rates or any part thereof or the interest or any part of the interest thereon. The council may require the applicant for any remission under this section to support his claim by evidence on oath or by statutory declaration, in such manner and with such particulars as may be prescribed or the council may require. Any rates or part thereof or interest or any part of the interest thereon payment of which is remitted by the council pursuant to this section shall cease to be a charge upon the ratable property concerned.

Motion carried.

Later, the Legislative Council requested a conference, at which it would be represented by five managers, on the House of Assembly's amendment to which it had disagreed.

#### PARLIAMENTARY SUPERANNUATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council with the following suggested amendments:

Clause 3, page 2—lines 41-45. Omit subsection (1db).

Clause 6—

Page 4—

Lines 13-15. Omit “, or in the case of a woman member, two-thirds of that amount”.

Lines 27-28. Omit “or, in the case of a woman member, two-thirds of that amount”.

Lines 42-43. Omit “or, in the case of a woman member, two-thirds of that amount”.

Page 5—lines 12-13. Omit “or, in the case of a woman member, two-thirds of that amount”.

Clause 8, pages 6 and 7. Omit clause 8 and insert in lieu thereof:

8. Section 16 of the principal Act is repealed and re-enacted as follows:

16. (1) Subject to this section, on the death of a person in receipt of a pension under this Act, there shall be paid to that person's widow or widower, if any, a pension at an annual rate equal to three-quarters of the annual rate of that person's pension; but, where that person married after his or her pension had commenced and become payable, the widow or widower, as the case may be, shall not be entitled to a pension on the death of that person.

(2) Where, before the death of a person who had become entitled to a pension under this Act which had not commenced or become payable because the person had not attained the age of fifty years, that person had not elected to receive a refund of his or her contributions pursuant to section 18 of this Act, there shall be paid to that person's widow or widower, if any, a pension at an annual rate equal to three-quarters of the annual rate of the pension that would have been paid to that person had he or she attained the age of fifty years; but, where that person married after he or she had ceased to be a member, the widow or widower, as the case may be, shall not be entitled to a pension on the death of that person.

(3) Where a member or a person in receipt of a Parliamentary salary dies after not less than nine years' service as a member and leaves a widow or widower, there shall be paid to the widow or widower a pension at an annual rate equal to three-quarters of the annual rate appropriate to the length of service of that member or person.

(4) Pension shall be payable under subsection (3) of this section notwithstanding that the member or person was under the age of fifty years at the time of his or her death and that his or her total contributions to the fund were less than three hundred and fifty-one pounds.

(5) The widow or widower of a member or person referred to in subsection (3) of this section shall not be obliged, in order to obtain a pension, to pay into the fund the amount by which the contributions paid to the fund by that member or person fall short of three hundred and fifty-one pounds.

(6) Pension payable to a widow or widower pursuant to this section shall cease on her or his re-marriage.

Clause 10, page 7. Omit clause 10 and insert in lieu thereof:

10. Section 18 of the principal Act is repealed and re-enacted as follows:

18. (1) Where a person has ceased to be a member but has not complied with the requirements entitling him or her to a pension under this Act, he or she shall be entitled to receive a refund of his or her contributions without interest.

(2) Where, pursuant to section 14 of this Act a person under the age of fifty years has become entitled to a pension which does not commence or become payable until he or she attains that age, he or she may, within two months after becoming entitled to the pension elect to receive in lieu of such pension a refund of his or her contributions to the fund.

(3) An election under this section shall be made in writing and shall be addressed to and lodged with the trustees.

(4) A person who makes an election in accordance with subsection (1a) of this section shall not be paid a pension but shall be entitled to receive a refund of his or her contributions without interest.

(5) Where a person whose contributions have been refunded under this section subsequently becomes a member—

(a) he or she shall, within three months after his or her re-election, or such further time as the trustees may for good cause allow, repay into the fund the amount refunded to him or her; and

(b) the period in respect of which the refunded contributions were paid shall be counted as service for the purposes of this Act.

Clause 11, page 8—

Line 5. After "widow" insert "or widower".

Line 9. After "he" insert "or she".

Line 10. After "widow" insert "or widower".

Line 12. After "his" insert "or her".

Line 13. Omit "subsection (1a) of".

Line 15—

After "him" insert "or her".

After "his widow" insert "or her widower, as the case may be".

Line 16—

Omit "he" and insert in lieu thereof "that person".

After "widow" insert "or widower".

Omit "his" and insert in lieu thereof "that person's".

New clause—Page 8—After clause 11 insert a new clause as follows:

12. Section 19a of the principal Act is repealed and re-enacted as follows:

19a. Where—

(a) a person in receipt of a pension dies without leaving a widow or widower entitled to a pension or a widow or widower of a member or of a person in receipt of a pension dies after becoming entitled to a pension; and

(b) the total amount of pension received—

(i) by that person; or

(ii) by that widow or widower; or

(iii) by that person or member and that widow or widower together,

as the case may be, is less than the total amount of the contributions paid by that person or member without interest,

the trustees shall pay the amount by which the total amount of such contributions exceeds the total amount of pension so received to the personal representatives of the deceased person, widow or widower, as the case may be, or to any other person or persons to whom the trustees deem it just to pay it.

Consideration in Committee.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): The suggested amendments, although they appear numerous, all have the one purpose, namely, to provide that women members of Parliament be placed on precisely the same basis as the male members for superannuation purposes. Before

dealing with that topic, I should like to refute most emphatically a suggestion that has been made that the Treasury has been involved in some way in the recommendations of the committee in this matter. I assure members that the Treasury had no feelings one way or the other on Parliamentary superannuation. When Opposition members requested that the committee consider superannuation matters I said that I should be happy for that to be done, that I was sure my colleagues would agree to that course, but that it would be for members to make submissions to support any point of view they wished to put forward.

Mr. Fred Walsh: Who made the allegations about the Treasury?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I do not want to go into personalities.

Mr. Fred Walsh: It could reflect on members on this side.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: It does not reflect on any members here. The Treasury did nothing to influence the joint committee that made the recommendations in this matter, and any statement to that effect would be entirely incorrect.

Mr. Fred Walsh: Did the allegation come from a Labor member?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No, it did not.

Mr. Jennings: You are being pretty unchivalrous; it came from a lady member in the other place.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The first few of the amendments are purely and simply drafting ones to provide that women members of Parliament shall be on the same basis as male members, namely, that they shall pay the same contributions and receive the same benefits and their widowers should be entitled to the same benefits as are the widows of male members. I ask the Committee to agree to the amendments suggested by the Legislative Council.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Last evening when I desired to raise certain matters concerning superannuation I was told that my submissions would have to be put in writing and that it would be necessary for them to be referred back to the joint committee that investigated this matter. I think most members on this side, including me, accepted that. I do not dispute the principle of equal pay for equal work, irrespective of sex, and this principle is embodied in the basic salary for members of Parliament. Normally, a female pays for only her own superannuation benefits, whereas a male provides for benefits for himself and

possibly his widow. Can the Treasurer tell me of any other superannuation scheme that provides benefits for the widower of a female contributor? Last evening I was prepared to deal with amendments to this Bill, and I believe I would have had the sympathy of members on them, but the Treasurer asked members who had something they wanted considered to put it in writing and he would take it back to the committee. After considering the matter on a broad basis, and remembering that we had agreed to the appointment of the committee, I considered that we should let it investigate any further suggestions we made. I hope the Treasurer will consider this matter from that angle.

Mr. SHANNON: I have some sympathy for the Leader. After all, this Chamber debated this matter at length and discussed certain aspects of the recommendations made by the joint committee that investigated this fund. I thought there were certain anomalies in the measure, but we accepted a certain approach, and I wish the other place had done that. I think that was the proper way to solve this embarrassing problem. We presented our case to the Treasurer, and he offered to put it to the committee. Had we made out our case for the various changes we thought desirable, when the report of the committee came back again we should have been able to examine what we considered anomalies. When I followed the member for Burnside (Mrs. Steele) in the debate I supported what she said, and her suggestions are virtually embodied in these amendments. I supported her statement that she was just as much a member of Parliament as was every other member, and I do not think anyone could disagree with that approach. The amendments have adopted that principle in relation to women members. I think every member supported the remarks made by the member for Burnside.

I draw attention to new section 19a inserted in another place. Yesterday I said that a member who served for a long time in Parliament and then became entitled to whatever pension his service entitled him to claim might have real difficulty in surviving long enough to get back even his own contribution, let alone the Treasury subsidy. I pointed out that a member who served 30 years and was entitled to draw a pension of £1,500 a year would have to live for nine years after retirement to get his own money back. I agree that new section 19a does some little justice.

Mr. Ryan: He does not pay in order to get it all back, does he? That is not the intention.

Mr. SHANNON: No, but I do not think it is fair for a member to build up a fund for his successors. I am referring only to his own contribution, not to the subsidy; new section 19a deals only with a member's contributions without interest. I favour this amendment, because I think some members would not get back their own money under the original proposal, but they would get back their contributions without interest under the amendment. As the Treasurer said yesterday that he would send any recommendations on to the committee, some members did not contribute to the debate, and it is a pity that another place should rush in where angels feared to tread. This Chamber did not think it wise to vary the recommendations of the independent committee, which investigated a matter so vital to members. Of course, it is not nice to have to talk about one's own affairs and decide what is a fair thing for oneself. I, like every member, have some sensibilities. The Legislative Council would have been wiser to adopt the attitude of this place, and I regret that it did not. In the circumstances, I see no real advantage in fighting the matter, therefore I support the adoption of the Legislative Council's suggested amendments.

Mr. HEASLIP: Yesterday, when the Bill was debated here, I did not speak on it as I was happy with the attitude adopted and the promise of the Treasurer that any representations made would be referred to the joint committee for consideration.

Mr. Bywaters: We all felt that way.

Mr. HEASLIP: However, the amendments from another place put a different complexion on the matter. When I first entered Parliament 15 years ago the purpose of the superannuation scheme was to provide for a member of Parliament. In those days all members were males who, if they served 12 years, would probably have reached the age of 55 years or more. At that age they could not get another job and therefore would have difficulty in earning an income. Superannuation was the means whereby a pension was payable to enable the former member to enjoy a reasonable living.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: He had to be over a certain age to get it.

Mr. HEASLIP: Having given the best years of his life to Parliament, he could then be thrown out not without an income. Another important aspect was that the widow of a member would receive an income after his death. They were the two main purposes of the original legislation. Now, certain amendments suggested by the Legislative Council

alter the provisions of the Bill. We have two female members of Parliament, at least one of whom desires to pay the full contribution and receive the same benefits as a male member, but I point out that the husbands of the female members are working and earning an income.

Mr. Millhouse: So could our wives.

Mr. Coumbe: What about a widow member?

Mr. HEASLIP: If she is a widow she has no husband to maintain. I believe that the husband should be the breadwinner of a family. A female member of Parliament may be earning here and the husband earning outside. If she is defeated at an election why should the superannuation benefit go to the husband who has been earning all the time? That was not the purpose of this legislation as I understood it originally. In this case we should retain the legislation as it was passed here yesterday.

Mr. McANANEY: The matter before us is one of principle that Parliament should decide. I do not agree with statements that we should divide ourselves into male and female members. A member of this Parliament has been discriminated against in this Bill. We, as a Parliament, should make our decision on the aspect that each member is treated alike: the matter should not be referred back to the committee.

Mr. Frank Walsh: You don't know why the committee was set up!

Mr. McANANEY: It could be referred to the committee to be considered actuarially. We do not have the facts and figures on which to make a decision or the book-keeping ability to do so. This is a matter of principle that we should decide, and the actuarial aspect should be decided by the committee.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I sympathize with the Leader of the Opposition and with the statement he made. I know that he had certain claims last night that he considered entirely justified, but he did not make them. It was decided that this matter would not be dealt with piecemeal but that further submissions would be made to the committee. I sympathize with that attitude because I know that the Leader had prepared a substantial number of amendments he believed to be desirable. In this case, perhaps one feature is slightly different from others and I want to state the position fairly. An amendment was made that altered the Act to a certain extent. Previously women members paid the same contribution, but the Bill reduced the contribution that one member had elected to pay and, to

that extent, she was discriminated against. Up to now the contribution has always been a matter of election rather than something that is arbitrarily provided. I know that the Speaker and the Clerk of the House are aware of a further aspect, involving another Governor's message. This amendment introduces a new class of payment that has not been provided for by the Governor's message which enabled this Bill to be considered. A certain procedure has to be followed, and a Governor's message has to recommend the appropriations necessary in connection with this matter. I do not know where His Excellency the Governor is tonight or whether or not I can obtain another Governor's message.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

[Sitting suspended from 9.5 to 9.35 p.m.]

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such further amounts of the general revenue as were required for all the purposes of the suggested amendments of the Legislative Council to the Parliamentary Superannuation Act Amendment Bill.

Consideration in Committee of the Legislative Council's suggested amendments—resumed.

Amendments agreed to.

[Sitting suspended from 9.47 to 10.34 p.m.]

#### STATUTES AMENDMENT (PUBLIC SALARIES) BILL (MEMBERS).

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (GENERAL).

(Continued from page 1935.)

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

That a message be sent to the Legislative Council granting a conference as requested by that House; that the time and place for holding the same be the Premier's room at the hour of 10.45 p.m. this day; and that Messrs. Coumbe, Dunstan, Laucke and Frank Walsh and the mover be the managers on behalf of this House.

Motion carried.

At 10.45 p.m. the managers proceeded to the conference, the sitting of the House being suspended. They returned at 1.5 a.m. on Friday, November 22. The recommendations were:

(1) That the House of Assembly do not insist on its amendment but amend it so as to read:

Page 3, insert new clause as follows:

10a. The following section is inserted in the principal Act after section 267a thereof:

267b. The council may, upon the application of any person who is liable for the payment of any rates in any financial year in respect of any property and who in the opinion of the council is in necessitous circumstances, by resolution passed by an absolute majority of the council, remit the payment of such rates or any part thereof or the interest or any part of the interest thereon. The council shall require the applicant for any remission under this section to support his application by evidence on oath or by statutory declaration, in such manner and with such particulars as may be prescribed or the council may require.

(2) That the Legislative Council agree to the amendment as so amended.

Consideration in Committee.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I move:

That the recommendations of the conference be agreed to.

Several amendments have been made to the original clause. In the first place, the last sentence of our amendment has been deleted. That sentence provided that any remittance of rates should not be made a charge on property. The word "remit" means a cancellation of the debt so it could not be charged in any case. That amendment did not alter in any way the meaning of the clause as it left here. The clause now provides that the outstanding rate shall be remitted only on an absolute majority of the council. That would have been the position in any case. Secondly, the council shall require the applicant to make the necessary information available, whereas the word in our original draft was "may". Those are the material differences, and honourable members will realize that the purposes of the Leader's original clause are substantially achieved. In those circumstances I ask that the recommendations of the conference be agreed to.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I assure members that this matter was carefully considered and the amended clause retains the broad principles desired by members in this place. Many people will obviously need assistance because of their financial hardship. If they make an application substantiated by proven facts, and it is granted, should circumstances remain the same it will be necessary for them to apply again each year. The concession can be granted only from year to year. Concessions may be obtained under other provisions of the legislation, but this provision will solve the problem of immediate hardship to ratepayers who have proved their case to the council.

Motion carried.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL  
(SEAT BELTS).

(Continued from page 1933.)

A message was received from the Legislative Council agreeing to the conference to be held in the Legislative Council conference room at 10.45 p.m.

At 10.45 p.m. the managers proceeded to the conference, the sitting of the House being suspended. They returned at 1.5 a.m. on Friday, November 22. The recommendation was:

That the Legislative Council insist on its amendments Nos. 2, 3 and 4 and do not further insist on its amendments Nos. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, but make the following amendments in addition thereto, and that the House of Assembly agree thereto:

No. 1. Page 1, line 21 (clause 3)—Leave out "31st December," and insert "thirtieth day of June."

No. 2. Page 2, line 14 (clause 3)—Insert the following new paragraph:

"(c) a seat belt suitably placed for use by the driver and at least one other seat belt placed for use by another person sitting on the same seat as the driver or on a separate seat by the side of the driver's seat.

Provided that the requirements of paragraph (c) of this subsection shall not apply or take effect until after a date to be specified by the Governor by proclamation."

No. 3. Page 2, after line 25 (clause 3)—Insert the following new subsection:

"(5a) A person shall not after the thirtieth day of June, 1964, sell or offer for sale a seat belt or fitting to or part of a seat belt which does not comply in any respect with any specification prescribed pursuant to subsection (5) of this section.

Penalty: Fifty pounds."

[Sitting suspended from 1.16 to 2.27 a.m.]

Consideration in Committee of the recommendation of the conference.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I move:

That the recommendation of the conference be agreed to.

I will explain briefly the three main points resulting from the conference. First, anchorages will be obligatory in all cars registered for the first time after June 30, 1964. Secondly, after that date no seat belts may be sold unless they conform to specifications laid down by the Road Traffic Board and published in the *Government Gazette*. Thirdly, belts will be compulsory in the front seats of motor cars on a date to be proclaimed.

Motion carried.

The Legislative Council intimated that it had agreed to the recommendation of the conference.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT  
BILL (GENERAL).

(Continued from page 1939.)

The Legislative Council intimated that it had agreed to the recommendations of the conference.

## ADJOURNMENT.

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

That the House at its rising do adjourn until Tuesday, February 18, 1964.

In moving this motion, I point out that Parliament is not proroguing: it is merely adjourning until early in the new year. In the circumstances, I will relieve members of the obligation of listening to my customary speech. However, on behalf of my colleagues in Cabinet I should like briefly to express to you, Mr. Speaker, to all officers of the House, and to the members of this House thanks for the courtesy and assistance given us and to extend to all the compliments of the season. I hope that when the House resumes all members will be with us again in fighting form and willing to undertake the business of the House.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): In seconding the motion, I am pleased to accept and reciprocate the Premier's good wishes for the Christmas season. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to convey the good wishes of members of my Party to all the officers and staff of this House. Members of my Party will be pleased to return as early as practicable in the new year. When this House resumes, we shall be fighting fit to deal with any legislation concerning the welfare of this State.

The SPEAKER: I thank the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition for the good wishes extended to the staff, which I will convey to those concerned, and for their personal thanks for getting through this session, which has been a mixed one. I will convey members' thanks to the catering staff, which has done a magnificent job, and to the *Hansard* staff, which has kept its reports up to date in an excellent fashion. I extend Christmas greetings to all members, and I hope they have an enjoyable and festive Christmas. I hope all members come back in excellent fighting spirits.

Motion carried.

At 2.32 a.m. on Friday, November 22, 1963, the House adjourned until Tuesday, February 18, 1964, at 2 p.m.

Honourable members rose in their places and sang the first verse of the National Anthem.