

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, June 10, 1964.

The House met at 12 noon pursuant to proclamation, the Speaker (Hon. T. C. Stott) presiding.

The Clerk (Mr. G. D. Combe) read the proclamation summoning Parliament.

After prayers read by the Speaker, honourable members, in compliance with summons, proceeded at 12.12 p.m. to the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Governor's Speech. They returned to the Assembly Chamber at 12.42 p.m. and the Speaker resumed the Chair.

[Sitting suspended from 12.42 to 2.15 p.m.]

NEXT DAY OF SITTING.

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

That the House at its rising adjourn until Thursday, June 11, at 2 p.m.

Motion carried.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The SPEAKER: I have to report that, in compliance with a summons from His Excellency the Governor, the House attended this day in the Legislative Council Chamber where His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, of which Speech I have obtained a copy which I now lay upon the table.

Ordered to be printed.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1).

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

SUPPLY BILL (No. 1).

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended the House of Assembly to make provision by Bill for defraying the salaries and other expenses of the several departments and public services of the Government of South Australia during the year ending June 30, 1965.

In Committee of Supply.

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

That towards defraying the expenses of the establishments and public services of the State for the year ending June 30, 1965, a sum of £18,000,000 be granted: provided that no payments for any establishment or services shall be made out of the said sum in excess of the rates voted for similar establishments or services on the Estimates for the financial year ending

June 30, 1964, except increases of salaries or wages fixed or prescribed by any return made under any Act relating to the Public Service, or by any regulation, or by any award, order, or determination of any court or other body empowered to fix or prescribe wages or salaries.

Motion carried.

Resolution adopted by the House. Bill founded in Committee of Ways and Means, introduced by the Hon. Sir Thomas Playford, and read a first time.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It provides for the appropriation of moneys so that the public services of the State may be carried on in the early part of next financial year. The Bill is in the same form and for the same amount—£18,000,000—as the Supply Bill (No. 1), 1963, passed by Parliament 12 months ago. Members will be aware that the annual Appropriation Bill does not normally receive assent until about the end of October, and that, as the financial year begins on July 1, some special provision for appropriation is required to cover the first four months of the new year. That special provision takes the form of Supply Bills, and without this Bill now before the House there would be no Parliamentary authority available for normal expenditure from July 1, 1964.

Incidentally, under the present set-up in Australia, the Budget figures cannot be prepared until after the annual meeting of the Premier's Conference and the Loan Council, and it is inevitable that the Budget cannot be introduced early in the session. This Bill will not be the only Supply Bill to be presented to Parliament because, as honourable members realize, our Estimates amount to about £106,000,000 a year. However, the sum provided in this Bill will enable the Government to carry on for a brief period at the beginning of the next financial year.

A short Bill for £18,000,000 without any details of the purposes for which it is available does not mean that the Government or individual departments have a free hand to spend. Clause 3 provides that, with the exception of certain salary and wage increases, no payments are to be made in excess of the rates voted on the Estimates for 1963-64. It follows then that in the early months of 1964-65, until the new Appropriation Bill becomes law, the Government must use the £18,000,000 within the detailed limits set out in the Estimates approved by Parliament for 1963-64. Naturally members will have a full opportunity to debate the detailed 1964-65 expenditure proposals when the Budget is presented.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): I do not oppose the Bill as I believe that the Public Service would be annoyed by such opposition and, possibly, so would many members of Parliament, as everyone knows full well that this sum is needed to provide the services. Because Parliament will probably adjourn tomorrow, the Treasurer could have given more details of the expenditure involved so that we might have had a better idea of the financial matters to be considered from June 30. However in view of the positive safeguards available and of the need for the sum to be provided, I do not object to this Bill.

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

Later, the Bill was returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended the House of Assembly to make appropriation of the sum set forth in the accompanying Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure by the Government during the year ending June 30, 1964, for the purposes therein stated.

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

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply.

Motion carried.

In Committee of Supply.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: On September 3, 1963, I presented to the House Estimates of Receipts and Payments on Revenue Account which anticipated a deficit this financial year of £492,000. I indicated then that a quickening in the rate of economic recovery could work towards reducing the expected deficit but that considerable pressure towards an increased deficit would arise from further awards in relation to margins and to leave. As anticipated there has been a heavy impact on the Budget from a succession of awards increasing the salaries and wages of public servants, teachers, and other Government employees. On the other hand, however, the rate of economic recovery has been so rapid that many major items of Crown revenue have shown increases greater than were anticipated early in the financial year. The upward movement in revenue receipts has been accentuated by the favourable effect of an excellent harvest on railway and harbour earnings. Further, the higher rate of economic activity throughout the State and the growing competition for labour

have made it more difficult for departments to engage and hold the full staff required for the maintenance and expansion of services and this factor has led to a shortfall against estimated expenditure in a number of departments.

Overall it appears that revenue increases, together with savings in departmental expenditure, will have the combined effect of offsetting completely the cost of increased salary and wages rates, and of converting the anticipated small deficit of £492,000 into a modest surplus. When the final figures for the year are known they will be analysed so that I may give to the House the normal detailed information of the finances of the past year when presenting the Budget for the new financial year. Despite the pleasing improvement in the revenue situation it is still necessary for me to ask the House to consider Supplementary Estimates this year. A clause in the Appropriation Bill gives sufficient authority for the payment of practically all of the increased salary and wage rates which I have mentioned, but there are several items of additional expenditure incurred or to be incurred this year for which no such automatic appropriation exists. As members are aware, neither increased revenue nor savings in other departments can offset the need for appropriation in such cases.

Appropriation over and above that provided in the original Estimates must come either from the Governor's Appropriation Fund or from Supplementary Estimates. The £400,000 of the fund will not suffice to meet known requirements for additional appropriation this year, and therefore Supplementary Estimates are necessary for the items on which I shall comment in detail in a moment. Members will notice that as well as several items for large amounts there are a number of lines for relatively small sums. The reason for the inclusion of the smaller lines is that the £400,000 of the Governor's Appropriation Fund includes only £100,000 for "new" purposes, or purposes not mentioned in the Estimates of Expenditure for 1963-64. There is little margin in the fund to meet any large payment which may arise suddenly for a "new" purpose, and therefore it is desirable that some of the "new" purposes be included in the Supplementary Estimates to reduce the impact against the small total of £100,000 available in the fund for such purposes.

For the Hospitals Department £40,000 is provided to meet additional running expenses at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Northfield Mental Hospital and to permit the purchase of further medical and surgical equipment.

Under "Chief Secretary—Miscellaneous" further appropriation of £10,516 is provided. Grants under this heading are a pound-for-pound subsidy of £4,016 to the Little Sisters of the Poor Home for Aged Persons at Myrtle Bank for expenditure on furnishings; £1,000 to the A. J. Ferguson Memorial Appeal to relieve hardship of children of Australian servicemen in Japan; £3,000 to the South Australian Olympic Council towards the cost of sending Australian athletes to Tokyo for the 1964 Olympic Games; and £2,500 to the Distress Fund opened following the loss of H.M.A.S. *Voyager*.

For the Lands Department an additional appropriation of £4,550 is required for development of bores drilled by oil exploration teams. The bores are now to be used to provide supplies of artesian water on travelling stock routes in the Far North and North-East of the State at Witcherie, Pandieburra, and Gidgealpa.

Under "Minister of Lands—Miscellaneous" £96,000 is provided, £11,000 of which is required in connection with the extension of the town of Loxton where more than 50 additional blocks are being prepared. It will cover the cost of roads constructed by the district council and the provision of water services. The cost will be recovered when the land is sold. The sum of £85,000 is for the purchase of land for national reserves. Of this, £25,000 is required for the extension of Para Wirra reserve and to supplement existing appropriation for several smaller purchases of land, and £60,000 is provided to recoup the Highways Fund for part of the purchase price of Arbury Park, Bridgewater. The purchase price of the whole property, £120,000, was met initially from the fund. It is estimated that, had an area sufficient only for freeway purposes been acquired, the cost to the Highways Fund for compensation would have been about £60,000. Therefore the Government has decided that it is appropriate for £60,000 to remain as a charge against the fund, and for £60,000 to be met from revenue as the cost of land for national reserves. The 230-acre property has been placed temporarily under the control of the National Park and Wild Life Commission. When a decision has been taken as to how the new Adelaide Hills freeway will traverse the property the Government will consider the best means of using the remaining area for the purposes of public recreation.

The sum of £145,000 is provided for public works. An additional £45,000 is required for

minor works and general maintenance expenditure upon the upkeep of education buildings. The sum of £100,000 is sought for similar expenditure on hospital buildings. A major part of the additional provision sought for hospital buildings is to cover improvements and purchase of furniture, furnishings, and equipment at mental hospitals, particularly Parkside Mental Hospital. It is a direct consequence of the higher standard of mental health services being provided by the Government. When the sums asked for last year by the Hospitals Department were provided I said that if it were possible to speed up this work I would see that nothing would be delayed for want of an appropriation. Generally speaking, the position is (and this applies to public buildings generally) that it has been possible to do rather more in the way of improvements and maintenance than the Budget allowed for: we have been able to undertake a bigger programme than we had expected when the Estimates were dealt with by Parliament. Therefore, the additional appropriation for public works arises because of additional expenditure in those departments.

A contribution of £10,000 to the Metropolitan Drainage Maintenance Fund has been provided. Expenditure on the maintenance of drains in areas previously flooded by the River Torrens, River Sturt, and Keswick and Brownhill Creeks, is met from this fund. Under the Metropolitan Drainage Act an annual contribution is paid by certain local councils and the Municipal Tramways Trust. Recently contributions to the fund by these authorities have not been sufficient to meet expenditures, and accordingly an appropriation from revenue is necessary to cover the anticipated deficiency. When the scheme commenced many years ago provision was made for contributions by local councils and the Government to meet the upkeep of these drains. However, as time has gone on, and as the value of money has changed, the amounts now provided under the Act are insufficient, and the Engineer-in-Chief has reported that a further sum is necessary for the maintenance of these drains. Cabinet considered the matter, and as it was somewhat urgent we decided that £10,000 would be made available by the Government this year and that we would consider whether or not it was necessary to amend the Act to provide for somewhat higher contributions by local councils. I think it is improbable that legislation will be submitted to tax councils at a higher rate. However, this is a provisional sum to meet the deferred maintenance that has arisen because

the sums provided under the Act have not been sufficient.

Additional expenditure by the Education Department for normal running and maintenance requires appropriation of a further £50,000. The £27,000 provided for primary schools covers principally purchases of school materials and equipment. The provision of £13,000 for area schools and £10,000 for technical schools is partly attributable to a slightly higher enrolment in 1964 than was expected when the Budget was prepared. This latter factor involved increased total payments to students for book allowances and for travelling allowances. Expenditure on school materials and equipment will also be a little greater than originally estimated.

Under the heading of "Minister of Education—Miscellaneous" £285,000 is provided. For the University of Adelaide, as additional general purpose grant, the original provision was £3,275,000. A further £175,000 is now required for factors which were not known in September last. When the Estimates for this year were compiled, provision was included for payments to the University of Adelaide to complete approved grants for 1963 and to provide funds for the first half of the academic year 1964. At that time the report of the Australian Universities Commission, with its recommendations for assistance in 1964, 1965 and 1966, had not been presented, and there was necessarily a degree of estimation about the probable 1964 requirements of the university. Subject to appropriation being approved by Parliament, Cabinet accepted the 1964 budget of the university, which was drawn up in the expectation of grants as finally recommended by the Australian Universities Commission and accepted by the Commonwealth. The university budget includes provision for the expenditure of a special research grant of £110,000 recommended by the commission, and the Government now proposes to pay a grant of one-half of that amount—£55,000—towards the cost of special research projects in the first half of 1964. The Commonwealth's half share of this grant will be paid into Consolidated Revenue as received.

Of the £175,000 appropriation now sought, the remaining £120,000 is required to cover increased rates of academic salaries. When the Commonwealth Government accepted the recommendation of the Australian Universities Commission, it agreed to make funds available towards increased salary rates as from July 1, 1963. The State for its part also agreed to provide its share of funds for

this purpose. The additional cost to the University of Adelaide of salaries at the currently approved increased rates is closely £120,000 a year. The Commonwealth contribution of roughly one-third of the cost of increased salary rates will also be paid into Consolidated Revenue as received. The Commonwealth has recently appointed an authority to advise on the appropriate levels of academic salaries to which the commission might have regard in framing its recommendations for recurrent grants. It is the intention of the Commonwealth that for the purpose of Commonwealth grants the authority's findings should be effective from January 1, 1964. The actual determination of salary rates will still be a matter for individual universities and State Governments, but naturally such determinations will be strongly influenced by the findings of the new authority. When the current investigation is completed, the council of the university may be expected to submit for Cabinet consideration its views as to whether or not any further variation from January 1, 1964, is warranted.

For the general purpose grant to the South Australian Institute of Technology the original provision was £555,000. A further £110,000 is now required, £100,000 being towards the cost of building projects which were still subject to discussion with the Australian Universities Commission in September last and for which progress has since been more rapid than expected, and £10,000 towards salary increases. Of the £100,000 for building projects, £45,000 is towards a new building at Whyalla, and £55,000 is towards major alterations at North Terrace. At Whyalla a major building is being erected at a cost of £452,000. The Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited and the Electricity Trust of South Australia have each offered to contribute £100,000 towards the cost, the Australian Universities Commission has recommended Commonwealth assistance of £121,000, and the State will be required to find the remainder, namely, £131,000. The provision on the original Estimates included £75,000 towards the building, but it is desirable that a further provision of £45,000 should now be made to meet progress payments. The Commonwealth contribution is being paid into Consolidated Revenue as received.

Agreement with the Australian Universities Commission on an extensive programme of building alterations for the Institute of Technology at North Terrace was reached in the latter part of 1963. The cost of the programme is about £120,000. The commission

has accepted half, or £60,000, as being applicable to university purposes and has recommended Commonwealth grants of £30,000 towards the work. Progress to date requires the payment this year of grants totalling £55,000, which includes the Commonwealth proportion being paid into State revenue. The increased salary rates effective for the University of Adelaide have also been applied to comparable staff teaching university-level work at the institute. An additional grant of £10,000 is to be paid on this account.

Further appropriation of £71,400 is required for the Mines Department. Of this amount £24,000 is proposed to cover the payment to the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories in consequence of the organization's taking over from the State Government the liability for accumulated sick leave and long service leave of officers transferred to the laboratories staff from the Public Service. This transfer and the financial arrangement were authorized by legislation passed by Parliament last session.

An amount of £6,000 is provided as a contribution towards the Commonwealth Mining and Metallurgical Congress to be held in Australia and New Zealand between February and April 1965. Such meetings permit Australian mining and metallurgical specialists to meet their overseas counterparts on common ground. Besides considerable technical benefits, advantages may accrue from the opportunity to interest overseas people in Australian developments. All States are contributing to the cost of the congress.

The sum of £2,400 is provided for an overseas visit by the Senior Geologist to examine projects concerned with the development of potash, bromine and phosphate resources. The sum of £39,000 is provided for additional drilling of exploratory bores and testing of mineral deposits as part of an accelerated programme to assess the mineral resources of the State. The increase in the drilling programme now proposed includes work on a stratigraphic bore at Fortville on the Yunta stock route.

A further £22,500 is provided for the purchase of land under the Public Parks Act. The Government assists local authorities to acquire suitable land for parks and open places, usually by contributing one-half of the Land Board valuation of areas to be acquired. The additional provision is required for the Crown's share of the cost of acquiring about 37 acres for the District Council of Tea Tree Gully.

The total additional appropriation sought in these Estimates is £734,966. It is required to enable departments and institutions to continue functioning efficiently, and to meet certain special expenditures to which I have referred.

Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the first line of the Supplementary Estimates.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

QUESTIONS.

ROAD MAINTENANCE (CONTRIBUTION) ACT.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Can the Premier say whether the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act, which was passed last session, is to be proclaimed as from July 1, this year?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: That is the Government's present intention. Administrative difficulties are greater now and one or two problems have arisen in bringing this legislation into force. It is necessary for a rating to be provided concerning the carrying capacity of all vehicles of 8 tons or over and, in some instances, this has involved much work as the original carrying capacity of the vehicles has occasionally been changed by alterations to the vehicles concerned. In one industry it has not been uncommon for a vehicle to have an additional axle fitted to enable it to carry a much heavier load than was originally provided for when the vehicle was built.

MURRAY PLAINS WATER SUPPLY.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Last month I wrote to the Minister of Works stating that I had been requested by the District Councils of Sedan and Marne to see whether he would make available a competent officer of the Engineering and Water Supply Department to visit the Murray Plains areas and discuss with representatives of the councils certain modifications to the suggested water supply scheme for the areas. Has the Minister considered the request and does he intend to make such an officer available to the councils concerned?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I think the honourable member's letter reached my office during my temporary absence, but I also received a communication from the member for Murray in which he made a similar request. The matter was referred to the Engineer-in-Chief for his report and he informed me that Mr. Campbell (Engineer for Water Supply) would make himself available to attend a meeting as soon as possible. It is suggested that the meeting should be convened at the No. 2 pumping station

on or about July 26. I should like to have arranged the meeting earlier, but as the councils wished to confer with Mr. Campbell and he has two interstate conferences to attend in the interim, that is the first date on which he will be available. I had intended to inform the honourable members concerned, but I do it now and will confirm this information by letter.

ELECTRICITY TRUST LOAN.

Mr. HUTCHENS: Appearing in the *Advertiser* on April 1 was a 16in. x 11in. advertisement headed "Electricity Trust Loan Opens Tomorrow", which stated:

Learn how simple it is to invest. Your cash or conversion application will be arranged in a few minutes at—

The Electricity Trust of South Australia—Park Terrace, Eastwood and corner of Rundle and Pulteney Streets, Adelaide.

All branches of the following banks:

The Bank of Adelaide:

The Savings Bank of South Australia:

The State Bank of South Australia:

Australia and New Zealand Bank Ltd.:

Commonwealth Trading Bank of Australia:

The English, Scottish & Australian Bank Ltd.:

Bank of New South Wales:

The Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd.:

The National Bank of Australasia Ltd.

If you wish you can make all arrangements through members of a recognized stock exchange or the offices of the underwriting broker.

On April 3 there appeared on the commercial page a 1½in. single-column advertisement as follows:

E.T.S.A. LOAN FILLED.

The Electricity Trust of S.A.'s new loan was closed fully subscribed immediately after its formal opening yesterday.

The Trust emphasizes that no cash over-subscriptions will be accepted.

It has been reported that many people arrived at the Electricity Trust office early on April 2 and waited for the doors to be opened with cash in hand with the intention of investing in accordance with the conditions laid down in the *Advertiser* advertisement, only to have their money refused. Since that time members on this side of the House have received complaints. Letters, typical of the one I seek leave to quote in part, have been received.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member may quote in part only.

Mr. HUTCHENS: Yes. This letter states:

I have an "A" debenture with the Electricity Trust due to mature on June 1, and which I have converted to the new loan. Two or three days after receiving notification from

the trust regarding the debenture maturity, I received an application form inviting me to increase the amount of the new loan, which I decided to do, and arranged with the National Bank to do the business for me. In a day or two my cheque was returned with the information that the loan had been filled and I was too late. I am a shareholder in several commercial concerns, and when a new issue of shares takes place I am allotted a certain number to accept or reject; you know the usual procedure. Not so with the Electricity Trust. I find it hard to believe that the conversion amounted to the whole of the new loan.

Can the Premier say what amount of new money, if any, was accepted in regard to the new loan, or was this another April fool's day gimmick that created much inconvenience to many people who desired to support a South Australian industry?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The last sentence of the honourable member's question is uncalled for in view of the excellent reputation that the Electricity Trust enjoys in playing fair with investors. Investment in the trust is the most popular in Australia. The trust has been given generous support by the people of South Australia in its requests for money for expansion. I can inform the honourable member from my personal knowledge that the trust was as much concerned as was any honourable member because it was unable to accept all of the money that was offered immediately the loan was opened. The total loan money that the trust can receive is governed by a decision of the Loan Council. At the beginning of the year every local council and semi-government body has to submit its programme for approval by the Loan Council. Such bodies are not permitted to accept over-subscriptions. In this case, because it was a large operation that normally would have required considerable time because of the heavy conversion involved, the trust found that the loan was immediately over-subscribed.

Many people wishing to invest had forwarded their money before the loan had been officially opened. The Chairman of the trust arranged with one or two of the larger subscribers to withdraw their applications so that the loan could be spread over the smaller subscribers as far as possible. (I did not hear of that from the Chairman himself: it was hearsay.) I assure honourable members that the trust greatly appreciates the confidence investors have in it and the popularity of its scrip from an investment point of view, and it does not wish to jeopardize that confidence. The trust could not receive more money than was permitted by the Loan Council, but found itself with a

loan heavily over-subscribed immediately it had opened. The trust closed the loan and had to refuse further contributions.

EGGS.

Mr. LAUCKE: Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether there have been any recent developments concerning the participation by this State in the rationalization plan for the egg industry as proposed by the Council of Egg Marketing Authorities?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: This State has not consented to take part in the plan of the Council of Egg Marketing Authorities of Australia, pending some idea of whether the poultry producers wish to have it. I have now informed the Minister for Primary Industry that this State will not endorse the plan unless a poll of producers is held so that they may indicate their acceptance of it. That implies that there will be a vote of producers, and at present I am considering the method of conducting a poll. It is not an easy matter. As my statement on this matter is of general interest, I ask leave to make a Ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I am trying to ensure that people who will be affected by the plan will have an opportunity to express an opinion upon it. At present little is known about the plan other than from one or two press statements that have come from the Council of Egg Marketing Authorities. Briefly, the plan provides for a tax on the owners of more than 20 fowls aged six months or over. It is to be paid in fortnightly intervals throughout the year and will be a head tax upon the number of poultry owned, although the size of the tax itself is not known. It will be set by the Minister for Primary Industry from year to year, acting on the advice of the Council of Egg Marketing Authorities. Estimates of the tax have varied from as high as over 10s. down to 3s. That is a heavy sum to pay but the theory is that it will offset the losses now being incurred by the organized marketing channels, namely, the State boards, in selling on the unprofitable overseas market the surplus eggs that cannot be sold on the home market. It is hoped that the tax will provide a more stable price for the producer.

I have always had some doubts about the administrative practicability of the plan, and those doubts have been strengthened by the recent producers' poll. Honourable members will recall that Parliament recently altered

the Act to provide for the election of producer members on the Egg Board. When preparing the electoral rolls the Egg Board found that over 13,000 people consigned eggs to the Egg Board in the year 1962-63. Working on a 12-dozen average on the number of eggs is the only way to estimate the number of birds owned by those consignors. Just over 600 people out of 13,000 owned more than 250 fowls. Obviously one must allow for a margin of error in those mathematics but, nevertheless, it indicates more forcibly than anything else the side-line nature of this industry in South Australia. The Egg Board has pointed out that many unknown people send eggs to their agents and 20,000 to 30,000 people in this State might be forced to pay this tax.

We are now trying to devise a means of getting a proper expression of opinion. I am receiving many opinions in the office at present, both for and against the plan but, naturally, those who are interested are generally the big producers. A person with only 30 or 40 fowls may not be interested in such a plan but he would be when he found that he had to pay this tax at fortnightly intervals. Under those circumstances I think it is only fair to follow what we generally accept in this House as a fair deal: namely, that when introducing marketing schemes we should offer the producers concerned the opportunity to express their opinions. I am arranging at present for an expression of opinion in the best way possible prior to the plan's acceptance.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Will the Minister of Agriculture say whether the Egg Board charges a differential levy as between eggs for hatching and eggs for commercial purposes, and, if it does, will he indicate the respective levies and say how the differential is computed?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The honourable member informed me that he would ask this question, and I obtained the following reply:

The board does make a differential levy on eggs for hatching and those used for commercial purposes—otherwise human consumption. Eggs for hatching came under the control of the board when the amendment to the Marketing of Eggs Act was assented to on December 5, 1963. The board has fixed a flat rate of 2d. a dozen for eggs for hatching, either for the production of what is known as meat birds or for the sale of eggs to hatcheries for the disposal of day-old and older stock. The reason for the fixation of the 2d. a dozen is to assist the board in its administration costs and also in the equalizing of egg returns to producers throughout the State. It

is recognized that the hatcheries, for the success of their business, are reliant very largely on the stability of the egg market, and therefore some contribution should be made to the equalizing funds of the board by producers supplying eggs to hatcheries. The rate of levy fixed by the board for all eggs received for disposal through the grading agents, either on the local market or export markets, varies from time to time according to the receipts of eggs by the board and the prices ruling on the available markets. At the present time the amount of pool levy deducted from producers' account sales where eggs are disposed of through the grading agents of the board is 5d. a dozen, and for producers who sell their eggs under permit for the board, 6½d. a dozen. These vary according to the season and the finances of the board from 1d. a dozen to 5d. a dozen for all producers consigning their eggs to agents of the board, and the amount of levy on these eggs is constantly under review by the board.

(signed) C. F. Anderson, Chairman.

BEEF ROADS.

Mr. CASEY: I was disappointed to hear no mention in the Governor's Speech of improving the cattle roads in the Far North of South Australia. Recently this subject was dealt with in the Senate by two South Australian senators, namely, Senator Toohey and Senator Laught, who were pressing for the Commonwealth Government to make a special grant to South Australia for this purpose. I understand the Premier earlier this year made a special trip to Canberra to interview the Prime Minister to obtain a special road grant for these beef roads. Can he say whether those talks were fruitful to the extent that we can expect some improvements soon?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: In the last three or four years the Birdsville and Strzelecki tracks have been greatly improved for communications. However, that has all been effected by moneys provided by this Government. The use by stock of those routes is possible because of heavy expenditure by the State Government, coming from road maintenance moneys. True, I discussed the matter at length with the Prime Minister recently: it was one of a number of matters that I discussed with him—and he stated that he would give me a reply as soon as possible. He said that he believed a recommendation had been made on the matter but whether it was favourable or not he did not disclose. My request certainly has not been rejected since I spoke to the Prime Minister, and I should think that this might be one of the matters to be considered when the Commonwealth Budget is introduced. The State Government has made a number of representations to the

Commonwealth Government for over two years for assistance in improving these roads, which are vital not only to South Australia's industries but to industries in the Northern Territory and Queensland. I hope that the forthcoming decision will be favourable.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

Mr. SHANNON: I am pleased that the Minister of Education's department has arranged to send people away for training as librarians to inaugurate a proper school libraries system in South Australia. However, I am a little perturbed—and I want an assurance on this point—about what plan the Minister has in mind for the maximum use of the existing library facilities, the expansion of which, of course, is a great need. Far from criticizing, I compliment the Minister on the actions he has taken so far in this field, for I realize his difficulty regarding staff. It appears to me that something will have to be done to make greater use of this most important facility for children. If the Minister has any statement to make, I am sure it will be appreciated by all persons who are interested in this important matter.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I do not have any particular statement to make at this moment. Any statement would be premature, because a recommendation is being made to Executive Council on one aspect of this matter and I would be the last to anticipate any decision of Executive Council. However, as the matter has been raised I can say that for a considerable time I have been most concerned about the inadequacy of our school library system and also the long lapses of time during which there has been no Supervisor of School Libraries in office. I have had several discussions with the Public Service Commissioner, the Director of Education, the Principal Librarian of the Public Library, the Institute of Teachers, the School Committees Association and representatives of several library associations: and as a result some few months ago the Public Service Commissioner re-advertised the position of Supervisor of School Libraries throughout Australia at a greatly increased salary and at a higher status. The Commissioner required any applicants to hold a university degree, to have a qualified librarian's certificate, and also to be a trained teacher; he received several applications, and I know he has made a recommendation relating to a person who has all three qualifications. Therefore, I hope that very soon Executive Council will make a decision on this matter, when a

proper statement announcing who the person is and what his qualifications are can be expounded. Concurrently, the Superintendent of Recruitment and Training in the Education Department has set up some inservice training schools for librarians, and I have also approved of the recommendation of the Director of Education to send some qualified teachers to other States to obtain further experience in librarianship. As a result of these concurrent moves, I hope that our school libraries system will soon be much improved.

Mr. RICHES: The last statement of policy that I heard on the establishment of libraries in schools under the control of the Education Department was that the department was providing libraries in new schools but could not consider the provision of libraries in schools that had been long established. That situation has obtained in this State for some schools far too long. Can the Minister of Education say what is the situation today in relation to the establishment of libraries in those schools that have been asking for libraries for a considerable time but do not have them, so that the school committees may be able to prepare for the future?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I would prefer the honourable member to ask me that question later, because the question of school libraries is at present in a state of flux. The honourable member probably heard my reply to a question from the member for Onkaparinga. I expect that tomorrow Executive Council will appoint a Supervisor of School Libraries, and one of his duties will be to advise the Director of Education on the whole range and scope of school libraries, their establishment and their conduct. I prefer to wait until the new person takes over, when I will discuss with him, the Director and other persons concerned the new policy concerning the establishment and maintenance of school libraries, so that this can be publicly announced.

STATE WAR MEMORIAL.

Mr. FRED WALSH: Yesterday morning a prominent member of a Returned Servicemen's League sub-branch in my district drew my attention to the following report, under the heading "Deportations Remembered" in the *Advertiser*:

Members of the Baltic Council in South Australia will lay a wreath at the War Memorial, North Terrace, at 3.30 p.m. on Sunday in commemoration of the 23rd anniversary of the first mass deportation of citizens in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to Siberia. "A service will also be held in the Adelaide Town Hall at 4.15 p.m.," a spokesman for the council

said yesterday. Senator Laught will give an address and there will be a concert of Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian mixed choirs.

I have no comment to make regarding the service at the Adelaide Town Hall, but I am concerned, as was the member of the sub-branch of the R.S.L. to whom I referred, about the laying of a wreath on the War Memorial in commemoration of this event. I have always been under the impression that the War Memorial was erected to commemorate the death of South Australian soldiers in the world wars in which Australia was involved, and I believe, as most of us do, that there are some national groups among our migrants who are using events in their own countries for certain purposes. That is their own business, but I believe they should not use the War Memorial for the purpose of commemorating those events. Will the Premier take up with the Adelaide City Council, which I understand controls the State War Memorial, the matter of its being used for purposes other than those for which it was originally dedicated?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I think that probably the honourable member is correct when he states that the War Memorial was erected by the people of this State to commemorate the deeds and great sacrifices made by South Australians in the world wars. However, I point out that over a period of time the memorial has assumed a rather wider significance, and we quite frequently find that our allies on their visits here lay a wreath upon the memorial to commemorate not only the fall of our South Australian citizens but also a particular event. For example, quite recently we saw the Commander-in-Chief—

Mr. Fred Walsh: I don't mean that.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: —of one of the Allied Forces commemorating the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Mr. Casey: Australians died in that battle.

Mr. Fred Walsh: This is a political matter that I am questioning.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: That was a commemoration of the Battle of the Coral Sea, so it was not completely associated with the fallen of South Australia. Although I have no objection to submitting the question to the Adelaide City Council, I think probably the more appropriate authority for it would be the President of the R.S.L., and I have not the slightest doubt that if the R.S.L. has any feelings on the matter it will take it up with the City Council. I will see that the honourable member's submission is forwarded to both authorities.

SEAT BELTS.

Mrs. STEELE: Recently the National Safety Council inaugurated a Seat Belt Week and, as a result of this and the concern of the public about the increasing number of motor accidents and fatalities on the road, it is obvious that more and more people are installing seat belts in their cars. The high cost of seat belts is a possible deterrent to many more acting in this manner. For a combination lap-sash belt the cost is £5 12s. 6d., plus an installation charge of 15s. a belt. Each belt has about three yards of webbing, an aircraft-type safety release buckle, and three other small adjustable fittings. We must remember that in most cars on the market today anchorages are built in. Will the Premier examine the cost of seat belts to ascertain in the interests of public safety whether or not it is too high?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes.

Mr. LAWN: During the past 12 months accidents have occurred in which some drivers or passengers of motor vehicles who were not using seat belts have suffered dislocated necks. These accidents have been those in which vehicles have been hit from the rear; for instance, chain collisions. It has been suggested to me that if these people had been wearing seat belts, which would have held their bodies in position, they would have suffered broken necks because their heads would have been jolted forward and the belts would have held their bodies back. Will the Premier obtain the opinion of the appropriate experts on whether, in accidents in which vehicles are hit from behind, people using belts could suffer broken necks?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I think the honourable member will realize that no two accidents are alike and that it may be possible in certain circumstances for a person wearing a belt to be at a disadvantage. However, the undoubted consensus of opinion—and it is a strongly held opinion backed by extremely good figures—is that seat belts in motor cars have been a very great factor for safety and that the possibility of serious injury in an accident is greatly lessened if they are worn. No two accidents involve the same impact or produce the same results. When the proclamation was made the other day, commercial vehicles were exempted from having to have seat belt anchorages. This was done on the strong advice of the authorities because there is at present a big division of opinion about whether belts should be installed in commercial vehicles because, if the vehicle

stops suddenly, the load comes forward on to the driver. I do not say that safety belts will not be necessary in commercial vehicles when this matter is cleared up. However, a strong view is held that it would not be good policy for us to compel their installation in heavy vehicles carrying heavy loads immediately behind the driver. I witnessed an accident in which a semi-trailer loaded with sheet steel collided with another vehicle, and without the slightest doubt the driver would have been cut in two if he had been wearing a belt because the steel immediately came forward when the collision occurred. However, there is no doubt in my mind that statistics completely vindicate seat belts in motor cars, and, although there may be a division of opinion (and I have expressed some views about whether we should compel people to wear belts), I recommend anyone who desires the maximum safety in a motor car to wear a belt.

Mr. Lawn: I want to know whether, if I wear one, I shall suffer a broken neck.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I will have the matter investigated.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL GALLERY
SEATING.

Mr. BYWATERS: During the opening of Parliament this morning I noticed that many guests of members had to stand in the space provided in the upper gallery. I have noticed this before, but this morning it was most noticeable because many elderly people were standing. As it is necessary for guests to be inside the Chamber half an hour before the ceremony starts to get into the space provided they must stand for well over an hour, which is not desirable for elderly people anxious to witness the opening ceremony. Will you, Mr. Speaker, take up this matter with your colleague, the President of the Legislative Council, to see whether more seating accommodation can be provided for the guests of members on this very important occasion?

The SPEAKER: I point out that the corridor on either side of the Legislative Council gallery is very narrow and if seating accommodation were provided for all the people who required it many people would be debarred from seeing the opening of Parliament. However, as I realize the importance of the question and agree with the honourable member's comments about elderly people standing, I shall be pleased to take up the matter with the President of the Legislative Council.

SHEPHERDS HILL ROAD.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: A day or so ago I received from the Secretary of the Blackwood Progress Association copies of a letter from the Minister of Roads dated May 29 and the reply thereto by the association dated June 5. The substance of the Minister's letter was that he did not desire to discuss with the association the repair and improvement of Shepherds Hill Road, and he referred the association to the Mitcham council. The association's reply was a protest about his attitude. This exchange of letters followed a letter of April 21 from the association to the Minister, a copy of which I was sent at the time it was sent to him. A paragraph of this letter states:

As the remaking of this road we understand is a co-operative effort between the council and your department, my association seeks your sympathetic attention to the matter, which is one of great concern to all residents of the district with children at the primary and high schools, whether members of the association or not.

I am bound to say that the Minister's reply has not been well received in the Blackwood district and that it has caused me some embarrassment. In view of this, will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Roads to reconsider his decision not to give any information to the Blackwood Progress Association on this matter, and to give an answer to the original letter sent to him?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I think I can appreciate my colleague's difficulties in this matter because, as the honourable member has said, the road work is a joint venture and the Minister would have some difficulty in enunciating a firm proposal to the progress association in the absence of a full knowledge of what the council for its part was prepared to undertake. I speak without book on this matter because I do not know the precise background, but I will take up this matter with my colleague to see whether or not he is able to enter into some further discussions with the council or the progress association, or both, the object being to endeavour to get something done to the road.

ARBURY PARK.

Mr. DUNSTAN: As members will be asked during the next day or so to pass moneys in relation to the purchase of Arbury Park, will the Premier table for the information of members the papers relating to negotiations for the purchase of this property, including the valuations made?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I think members know that if a docket is tabled

it becomes the property of Parliament and cannot then be used for departmental purposes. As it is important that this docket be used for departmental purposes, I cannot agree to table it, but it will be brought here and any member who desires to see it can have it in his possession and thoroughly examine it to see what facts it contains. I do not object to this because I have always thought that public dockets, particularly those relating to land transactions, should be available to members if they desire to see them. However, I do not desire that this docket should go out of circulation because a considerable amount of negotiation between the Government on the one hand and the Highways Department on the other still has to be done. If the honourable member is satisfied with this, I will see that the docket is here tomorrow; in fact, as a line on the Supplementary Estimates refers to this matter, I could probably get it this afternoon.

GAUGE STANDARDIZATION.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Can the Premier say whether any arrangement or agreement has been entered into between the Commonwealth and the State authorities concerning a proposal for a standard gauge railway between Port Augusta and Whyalla?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This proposal, which has been previously considered by the Commonwealth Government and rejected by it, has now been resubmitted to it because the Whyalla project will be much larger than contemplated when the original proposal was made. I have written to the Prime Minister a letter, which has not yet been fully considered by the Commonwealth Government but which I know is at present being investigated. The letter I sent to the Prime Minister contained two alternatives. As this is a matter of some moment to the State, I ask leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I wrote to the Prime Minister and said that, with the completion of the standard gauge railway line from Port Pirie to Broken Hill in 1968 (it was contemplated that we would be able to complete that standardization by 1968), it became urgent that we considered two supplementary matters if we were to get the full benefit of the standardization work being undertaken. The first one was that we desired to have a standard gauge railway line from Adelaide to Crystal Brook. This would involve a new line from Merriton to Crystal Brook of

about seven miles, and would mean that the standard gauge railway would then be available for all lines to all capital cities except Melbourne. The cost of that work, which was not a proposition to be put up in a hurry but was the result of an investigation made by our State Railways Commissioner, was approximately £6,000,000, with the rolling stock that would be necessary to maintain the line.

I also pointed out to the Commonwealth Government that, the larger the programme at Whyalla became, the more necessary it was that a railway line be constructed between Whyalla and Port Augusta, for, if that line was not constructed, Whyalla would be the only large steel-making plant in the world not connected with a railway line to the main centres of distribution. I suggested to the Prime Minister that the Commonwealth undertake the Port Augusta to Port Pirie work as a Commonwealth function, that that should be a Commonwealth line and run by the Commonwealth as part of the Commonwealth railways system, and that it should approve the work from Crystal Brook to Adelaide as a part of the standardization agreement already ratified by Parliament.

But I said that, if the Commonwealth Government was not prepared to do this, alternatively the State Government would have to construct it; that, if the Commonwealth Government would not agree to the standard gauge proposal from Crystal Brook to Adelaide, the State Government would proceed with the work because it was so important; and that we should also proceed with the work from Port Augusta to Whyalla. But, if we did that, we should require a running right over the Commonwealth railways line to enable us to service our railway line from Port Augusta to Whyalla. Incidentally, under the Northern Territories Acceptance Act we have reasonable running rights over any Commonwealth railways line, which would be provided by arbitration.

So, there are two alternative proposals before the Commonwealth Government today. Obviously, I hope it accepts the first one, because it is the more logical. It is a bad thing for a railway if other people have running rights over it, and we do not desire that state of affairs, but it is imperative that we have a railway line to Whyalla and, in the event of the Commonwealth Government's not being prepared to do it, we have no alternative but to consider it as a State work; also the other work of connecting Adelaide through to Merriton and finally Crystal Brook, as a standard gauge

proposal. Incidentally, it would be necessary to construct (if that project were proceeded with—and I have not the slightest doubt that it will be proceeded with as either a Commonwealth or a State proposal) a supplementary line from Salisbury to Adelaide, for it would be impossible to convert the line from Salisbury to Adelaide because of other traffic requirements. It would also be necessary to construct a supplementary line into the abattoirs to deal with the northern cattle, and a supplementary line to Port Adelaide to enable exports to run straight through. But a right of way for those railways is, I think, already secured to the Railways Department.

So the answer to the honourable member's question is: Yes, proposals have been submitted to the Commonwealth Government, which at present is actively considering the two alternatives submitted: (1) that the Commonwealth Government agree to standardization from Adelaide to Crystal Brook and that a new Commonwealth line be constructed from Port Augusta to Whyalla; or (2) that the State do these jobs and that we either purchase or acquire running rights over the Commonwealth Port Pirie to Port Augusta line.

ROAD SIGNS.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: With the improvement of roads on Eyre Peninsula, there is inevitably the problem of the fast-moving car with its driver who has not sufficient time to get to where he wants to go. I have been asked by the committee of the Central Eyre Peninsula Schools Welfare Association to ask the Minister of Education to request the Minister of Roads to have signs erected where the children board and leave buses along these highways in addition to the "stop" signs opposite schools where the children board buses.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: First, I hope the honourable member was not referring to me in particular, because last week I was moving at a very fast rate through Eyre Peninsula. I could not have undertaken successfully my large itinerary unless I had done so, but I was not guilty of moving across any intersection at an unduly high speed. The honourable member has raised an important point and I shall be pleased to refer the matter to my colleague as soon as possible.

ENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. JENNINGS: My question concerns the Enfield High School, about which the Minister of Education, the people of Enfield and I have always felt justifiably proud. I received a

letter from the honorary secretary of the Enfield High School Council dated May 11, which states:

During a recent heavy thunderstorm which, as you remember, caused also a prolonged power failure in our district, the school basement became again flooded up to a height of 4in., due to underground water seepage. Because of the power failure the electric pump did, of course, not operate.

The secretary enclosed a copy of a long letter he had written on March 7 this year to the Director of Education and also a copy of an acknowledgment to that letter dated March 18, which states:

I have to inform you that your communication of 7/3/64 *re* flooding of school basement has been received, and will be forwarded to the Director of Public Buildings for attention.

On April 12, the secretary again wrote about the same matter, but naturally he wrote more fully, and on April 20 he received an acknowledgment, which states:

I have to inform you that your communication of 12/4/64 *re* flooding of basement has been received, and will be forwarded to the Director of Public Buildings for attention.

Nothing has been heard from that day to this. Has this matter been drawn to the attention of the Minister of Education, and if I give him this correspondence will he personally undertake to investigate these justifiable complaints and have them remedied expeditiously?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I can well understand the honourable member's pride in the Enfield High School because I believe it is one of the finest in this State and, indeed, in Australia. I do not think I have seen a better high school and I had the great privilege of officially opening it some time ago in the distinguished company of the honourable member. However, I know nothing about the flooding of the basement and I am sorry to hear about it. I suppose that it would have been dealt with by an officer in the high schools branch or the property branch of the department and that he, in turn, would be dealing with some appropriate officer in the Public Buildings Department. As the honourable member has raised the matter, if he will let me have the correspondence I shall give it my attention immediately.

PULP MILL.

Mr. HARDING: In his Speech, the Governor said that a paper and pulp mill would be established in the South-East. As this will affect the electoral district of Victoria, particularly regarding supplies, I ask the Premier

how far negotiations have proceeded, whether the site previously suggested for a pulp mill will be used, and, if not, where the mill will be established?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government has been conducting many negotiations for an expansion in the use of pulp timber in the South-East. The first mill to be completed—a small one—was an expansion programme at Mount Gambier. The second mill to be completed would be that of Apcel at Millicent. This proposal will have to be ratified by Parliament. At present the company has one machine and is using 40,000,000 super feet a year. The ratification by Parliament is needed for the installation of another machine that will allow the use of timber to rise to 80,000,000 super feet. A third proposal will increase the use of timber to 130,000,000 super feet a year in 1970. If the market expands as expected (I think the market expansion last year was about 40 per cent) it will be sufficiently large to cope with the use by the three machines of 130,000,000 super feet in, probably, 1970. The agreement to be ratified by Parliament is concerned with sundry matters arising from the industry. Two other negotiations are not yet completed and have been held up because it has been necessary to get agreement with private forests about the supply of some of the pulp and timber. As these negotiations have not yet been completed I am unable to make a public statement about them. However, I assure the honourable member that the Government hopes to establish sufficient secondary industry based on South Australian forests to make economic use of all the pulpwood supplies available.

Mr. CORCORAN: When the Premier announced the expansion of Apcel Limited near Millicent, he said the Government had agreed that the Housing Trust would provide about 400 houses during the next three years to accommodate families of the people connected with this development. Can the Premier say how many of these houses will be built in the next financial year, and whether they will be of single-unit or double-unit construction?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The agreement which I made with the company and which I mentioned previously has to be ratified by Parliament. It provides that the Government shall build 400 houses through the Housing Trust for operatives of the mill. No more than 200 will be built in any year, and the rate of construction will depend on

how quickly the company desires the houses to be built. The only restriction on the company is that not more than 200 houses will be constructed in one year. The honourable member should realize that if we pushed for the construction of 400 houses in Millicent in one year we could be disrupting the general building programme in some other places. In answer to the second part of the question, as far as I know they will all be single-unit houses for which land has already been purchased at Millicent.

WALLAROO HARBOUR.

Mr. HUGHES: Can the Minister of Marine supply any information about the deepening of the channel leading into Wallaroo Harbour and say when the work is likely to commence?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: As the honourable member knows, the additional deepening works at Wallaroo, close to the jetty, have been completed and a contract has been let with the Westminster Dredging Company for the dredging of a new approach channel. The Government has been able to secure a good contract from that overseas company because it is well equipped. It was doing work at Whyalla, and as its plant was off Spencer Gulf the Government was able to secure a contract on favourable terms. The necessary corollary of the company's acceptance of the contract on those terms was that the work at Wallaroo should not commence until the work at Whyalla was nearing completion. As I understand that the work at Whyalla is running close to schedule and the company expects to finish its work there soon, it expects to commence operations at Wallaroo about the end of this month.

ARTERIOSCLEROSIS.

Mr. LAWN: In January of this year, on behalf of sufferers of arteriosclerosis, I wrote to the Premier asking whether the Government would consider the importation of two oxygen therapy machines from Germany. In that country this complaint is being treated 100 per cent successfully except in cases where gangrene has set in. In South Australia the only form of medical treatment is an operation. I have the complaint myself and have been informed by the doctor who operates that only two out of five of these operations are successful. If the operation fails the only thing left for the patient is amputation. Can the Premier say whether the Government has considered importing the machines from Germany at a cost of about £150, or whether it intends to take other action in this matter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The health authorities have not approved of the honourable member's suggestion. I have a report that he can read, but it deals with the affairs of private people, and for that reason it is undesirable to record it in *Hansard*. The Medical Superintendent of the Royal Adelaide Hospital would be pleased to discuss this matter with the honourable member if he were prepared to make himself available.

Mr. Lawn: I should be happy to meet him.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: If the honourable member wishes to take advantage of that offer I shall be happy to arrange a meeting.

PORT PIRIE DEVELOPMENT.

Mr. McKEE: Last February I asked the Premier a question about development of Port Pirie. The Premier replied that he had submitted a new proposal to the Commonwealth Government and that the Prime Minister had said that the proposal was being considered. Can the Premier say whether any decision has been reached and is he able to give a report to the House?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Within the last six or eight days I received a reply from the Prime Minister informing me that the Commonwealth Government did not approve of my proposals. At Port Pirie there is a huge slag dump that has a large quantity of zinc in it. To be handled successfully this requires cheap electricity for the material to be processed. The cost of the electricity would be below that which, if charged to industry, would be supplied at a loss, and some other authority would have to make up the difference. I hoped that the industry would have a tremendous export potential and would require a large labour force. The export potential would be about £3,000,000 a year, and the industry would be an advantage to this State. I was hoping that some assistance would be received from the Commonwealth Government, but the Prime Minister has informed me that his Government is not prepared to approve the project.

GOODWOOD ROAD IMPROVEMENTS.

Mr. LANGLEY: Recently surveyors have been carrying out preliminary work along Goodwood Road, which is in my district and divides the districts of the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Mitcham. As the volume of traffic is steadily increasing and as the road is in such poor condition, will

the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Roads, ascertain whether roadworks will be carried out in the near future?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

COUNTRY TARIFFS.

Mr. BURDON: Does the Government believe in extending preferential treatment to the establishment of industries in the metropolitan and adjacent areas rather than to industries in country areas? If not, will the Government take action to achieve uniform tariffs for electricity and water throughout the State?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government does not give preferential assistance for the establishment of industry in the metropolitan area. Quite the reverse: it gives preferential treatment for the establishment of industry outside the metropolitan area. An example of that was indicated here this afternoon when I informed the House that a special Bill would be introduced to assist the establishment of an industry at Millicent. Some of the Government's undertakings for Millicent would certainly not be given for the metropolitan area. The honourable member has an industry in his district that has been functioning for many years under a direct subsidy for water supply; I think it still receives a special subsidy at a rate that has not actually been provided through the Budget.

The Government provided out of State funds a direct subsidy of £1,000,000 to the Electricity Trust in respect of the honourable member's district to enable the trust to lay a supply line to the South-East to ensure not only low tariffs for electricity but further development in that area. Last year the Government introduced legislation, which the House accepted, to provide for preferential tariffs below the metropolitan tariff. That was intended to assist in the establishment of country industry, and I believe that the Government is giving such effective assistance along these lines that an appreciable amount of decentralization is taking place.

RENMARK ADULT EDUCATION.

Mr. CURREN: Can the Minister of Education say what progress has been made in the acquisition of land at Renmark for the establishment of the proposed adult education centre?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I understand that the matter is still in the hands of the Crown Solicitor for the purposes of compulsory acquisition. It has been a long drawn-out process because, among other things, the owner of the land in question has been

overseas for a long time and I understand the Crown Law Office has been unable to make direct contact with him. I have not heard of any progress just recently but as the honourable member has raised the matter I will refer it to my colleague, the Attorney-General, and ascertain whether I can get an up-to-date report.

BEDFORD PARK PIGS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: On May 20 I wrote to the Chief Secretary, as Minister of Health, requesting the removal of pigs from the section of the Bedford Park property at Burbank still being used by the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department. Many houses have been erected in this area at considerable cost and the residents there are complaining about the smell and also the infestations of flies. I know that the Mitcham corporation has made representations for the removal of the pigs. This area is now definitely residential and in the metropolitan area. In the interests of the health of the people there, will the Premier request his colleague, the Minister of Health, to have these pigs removed?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have no previous knowledge of this matter. I will consult my colleague and I hope to be able to give the Leader an answer tomorrow; if I cannot do so, I shall see that he gets a reply as soon as possible.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE VISITS.

Mrs. STEELE: In view of the increasing number of students who visit Parliament House in and out of session, will you, Mr. Speaker, endeavour to see whether a cheaper version of the booklet *The Parliament of South Australia* can be printed so that every student can be given a copy?

The SPEAKER: I have made a suggestion and the matter is under consideration at present regarding the provision of information about Parliament and the people assembled here. I take it that the question also relates to other visitors to the House at any time. I think the honourable member's suggestion is a good one, and I shall be pleased to take the matter up.

MILLICENT SCHOOL LAND.

Mr. CORCORAN: In January last the Millicent District Council was informed that proposals regarding acquisition of land at Millicent North for a primary school site would not be continued because the site, for various reasons, was not suitable. It was stated that

negotiations would continue for the purchase of an alternative and more suitable site. In view of the proposed development and expansion at Millicent, will the Minister of Education do all he possibly can to see that this land is purchased as soon as possible?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am doing so and will continue to do so because I quite realize that in view of the projected development in the Millicent area it will be necessary to provide larger school accommodation than was originally contemplated. I hope also next month to meet the members of the Millicent District Council and the school committees and also, I hope, the honourable member and his colleague in the Legislative Council (the Hon. Mr. DeGaris) on the spot. I think that will be about July 1.

BRANDY EXCISE.

Mr. LAUCKE: It is obvious from the difficulties experienced by wine-grape growers in disposing of their crop at the last vintage, with storage capacity at the wineries taxed to the utmost, that the future stability of the grapegrowing and wine and brandy-making industries will be dependent on very buoyant sales of wine and brandy in both home and export markets before the next vintage. As the amount of excise on brandy and fortifying spirit has a direct influence on sales, will the Premier take up with the Commonwealth authorities the matter of a reduction in excise on brandy and fortifying spirit as a means of increasing disposals of wine and brandy?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: To get a clearance of the vintage, this submission was made very early this year. It has been before the Commonwealth Government, which has pointed out that the brandy industry already has a preferential excise, and it has said that it is not prepared to make any further concessions. The proposal has been submitted to the Prime Minister and considered by the Commonwealth Cabinet, but it has not been approved.

STUDENT TEACHER'S LEAVE.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Some months ago I approached the Minister of Education on behalf of Mr. N. D. Hannaford, who lives in my district. Mr. Hannaford is a fourth-year student at the Adelaide Teachers College who unfortunately towards the end of 1963 was stricken with a serious illness, and whose convalescence will continue during most, if not all, of 1964. Luckily, he is well enough to study and is doing his normal university

and teachers college work by correspondence, but his allowance as a trainee teacher has been cut off from the end of February. On March 25, the Minister of Education wrote to me as follows:

I refer to your telephone request on Monday concerning the possibility of granting leave with pay to Neville D. Hannaford, a B4 student at the Adelaide Teachers College. I have received a report on this matter from the Deputy Director of Education in which he points out that, in accordance with the department's policy, which is based on the education regulations, leave with pay could not be granted in these circumstances. However, I confirm my telephone advice to you, through my secretary, that I intend to refer this question to the Honourable the Attorney-General for an opinion by the Crown Solicitor. When this is received the matter will be considered again and I shall be pleased to communicate with you when a decision is made.

On several occasions I have telephoned the Minister's office, but I understand that he has not yet received through the Attorney-General the opinion of the Crown Solicitor. The cutting off of the allowance has greatly upset Mr. Hannaford, and the delay in reaching finality in the matter may well delay his recovery. Is the Minister of Education yet able to give me any further information, or, if he is not, will he ask the Attorney-General to expedite the Crown Solicitor's opinion?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: First let me say that I was most impressed by and sympathetic towards the case presented by the honourable member, which I referred to the Deputy Director of Education and the Superintendent of Recruiting and Training. They were equally sympathetic, but recommended to me that, because an important principle was involved, I should not depart from a long-established departmental policy and that if I did so I would be creating a precedent that would be rapidly acted upon by others in similar circumstances. However, I was not entirely satisfied, and I referred the matter to my colleague, the Attorney-General, for the advice of the Crown Solicitor. Only this morning I received advice, dated yesterday, from the Crown Solicitor, which I have hurriedly read. He says that as Minister I have a discretion to grant the privilege if I feel disposed to do so. In view of the reports and recommendations from some of the principal officers of the department, and because I am at liberty to exercise this discretion, I feel in duty bound to refer the opinion to them first and get their advice. As soon as I am able to do so—which I hope will be soon—I will inform the honourable member.

WHYALLA RESIDENT MAGISTRATE.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Will the Minister of Education refer to his colleague, the Attorney-General, the matter of a resident magistrate at Whyalla, or, alternatively, one who would sit frequently in the cities of Port Pirie, Port Augusta, and Whyalla, and would he emphasize the great need for a magistrate in that area? I have discussed this matter previously with the Attorney-General. There has been some difficulty in providing a resident magistrate. Has any progress been made lately in the matter?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I shall be pleased to refer this matter to my colleague. I did so on a few previous occasions at the honourable member's request and I understood that the Attorney-General was having discussions direct with the honourable member. However, in view of his question, I will take it up with my colleague immediately and see whether I shall be in a position to reply to him or whether my colleague will do so by letter or in personal discussion.

KAPUNDA HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Will the Minister of Education inquire of the Public Buildings Department when the new science block at the Kapunda High School, which has already been approved, will be constructed?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes, I shall be pleased to do so.

MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN.

Mr. BYWATERS: On October 2 last, the Minister of Education in replying to me stated that the Government intended purchasing a house for mentally retarded children at Cypress Terrace, Murray Bridge, and that he hoped that this would be in operation at the beginning of the school year in February of this year. We were all pleased to hear that and thought that that would be the result. The house was purchased readily enough, but since then no work has been done on it to make it suitable as an occupation centre.

Naturally the people are disappointed that this has not been done; it is now well into the second term and they cannot see just when the work will start. I have made some representations to the Public Buildings Department, so far without result. Will the Minister take up this matter with his department or the Public Buildings Department to see whether this work can be expedited to overcome this lag and so fulfil the wishes of the people concerned?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes, I shall be pleased to do so. Honourable members have long since realized that I am a poor prophet because I make these prophesies of when certain things will commence, on the best advice I receive, but unforeseen circumstances prevent them from being finished on the due dates. I am sympathetically disposed to this scheme because on several occasions I have stated that the education of mentally retarded children should have precedence and the highest priority even over the education of primary, secondary and tertiary students who enjoy good health and sound mentality.

FRUIT FLY.

Mr. RICHES: My question concerns fruit fly at Port Augusta. I think the Minister of Agriculture and his department will agree that on the occasion of the last outbreak they received the utmost co-operation from the people of the city of Port Augusta, with the result that the eradication measures proved completely successful and the outbreak was confined to a limited area; there has been no repetition of it. But this week I have been told that some of our people are much concerned at an edict issued in respect of oranges and the quarantining of all citrus fruits now. It is difficult, for the layman at any rate, to understand the need for this restriction. No outbreak has occurred since the summer. Much citrus fruit is grown in our area and is now approaching ripeness but householders have been advised (so I have been informed) that this fruit is still under quarantine, and that it is an offence to remove oranges or lemons from their properties. Will the Minister get a report on that, unless he has the knowledge at his finger-tips, to see whether this ruling is necessary or whether it can be relaxed?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I prefer to get a statement and produce it tomorrow because, although I have complete confidence that the action of the department in these matters is justified, I am also confident that it will be able to show that it does nothing that is not considered necessary in the interests of safety. I would rather talk to the horticulturist concerned before I give a full answer to the question.

KAPUNDA-TRURO ROAD.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Will the Minister of Works be so good as to ascertain the plans of his colleague, the Minister of Roads, for future work on the Kapunda-Truro main road?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes, I will get a report on that matter.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the following reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence:

Fulham Gardens and Henley Beach Floodwaters Drainage Scheme,
Maitland Area School,
Police Training Academy, Fort Largs,
Port River Deepening and Improving,
Seaview Downs Water Supply and Sewerage Scheme,
Semaphore Park Sewerage Scheme,
Sewerage System for Grange (East), Henley Beach (East), Seaton (South), Fulham Gardens and Kidman Park (South).
Ordered that reports be printed.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

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

That a Standing Orders Committee be appointed consisting of the Speaker, the Hons. P. H. Quirke and B. H. Teusner, and Mr. Frank Walsh.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I ask that a ballot be held in accordance with Standing Order No. 371.

The SPEAKER: A ballot having been called for, members will now be given ballot papers and will indicate their preference by crossing out the names of the three members they require to act on the committee. The Speaker's name need not be crossed out as he is a member *ex officio*. I ask the Premier to act as scrutineer.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I ask that all ballot papers be segregated to indicate formal and informal papers.

The SPEAKER: That will be done.

While the ballot was being taken:

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I desire your ruling, Mr. Speaker, on a ballot paper before me, which has four names indicated, including your name. As you are a member of the committee *ex officio*, is this ballot paper formal?

The SPEAKER: Yes.

The ballot having been taken:

The SPEAKER: As a result of the ballot the Hons. P. H. Quirke and B. H. Teusner, and Mr. Frank Walsh have been elected to the Standing Orders Committee.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

Sessional Committees were appointed as follows:

Library: The Speaker, Messrs. Clark, Nankivell and Ryan.

Printing: Mrs. Steele, Messrs. Corcoran, Hall, Harding, and McKee.

JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEE.

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

That it be an order of this House that, in view of the creation of the Joint House Committee under the Joint House Committee Act, 1941, a Sessional House Committee be not appointed under Standing Order No. 404.

Motion carried.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

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

That a committee consisting of Messrs. Bockelberg, McAnaney, Laucke, Hall and the mover be appointed to prepare a draft address to His Excellency the Governor in reply to his Speech on opening Parliament and to report on June 11.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.22 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, June 11, at 2 p.m.