

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, July 29, 1964.

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

QUESTIONS.**STURT RIVER.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Last Saturday, in company with the Minister of Education and members of the Marion council, I visited the area where work is being carried out for the impounding of water in connection with the Sturt Creek flooding. The contract for the foundation is proceeding by the use of pneumatic tools rather than by blasting. We were told that the men were unable to do blasting because cranes and certain other equipment had already been installed in readiness for the pouring of concrete. With a view to speeding up this work, which is vital to the success of the south-western suburbs drainage scheme, can the Minister of Works say whether this matter could be reviewed so that heavy explosives could be used? As my information discloses that it will be some time before the foundations are ready, will the Minister investigate this matter?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I shall be glad to discuss this matter with the Engineer-in-Chief and to raise the points the honourable Leader has mentioned.

KEITH MAIN.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Can the Minister of Works indicate the programme of work to be carried out on the Keith water main this coming year?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Preparatory work has been done towards making a start on this project and a camp has been established at Coonalpyn in readiness for work this financial year. I am not able to anticipate the Loan Estimates debate, nor do I think it would be proper to commence to answer a series of questions based on the Loan Estimates at this stage. However, the honourable member can be assured that provision has been made for work to be done on this project, and the programme will be available to him, as well as all interested parties, a little later on.

ALCOHOLICS CENTRE.

Mr. HUTCHENS: Yesterday in the *Advertiser* a letter appeared concerning the proposed £97,000 to be spent on an alcoholics rehabilitation centre at Yatala.

The contents of the letter seem to be in line with a number of statements that have been made by people concerned with the treatment of alcoholics. The letter stated that a special staff would be employed to treat people who were in the centre compulsorily, but it did not say whence the staff was to be recruited. Can the Premier say what type of staff will be employed and what special qualifications they will have to possess?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I could not completely answer this question off-hand. My information is that this centre would be regarded not as a prison but as a rehabilitation centre, and that a specially qualified staff would be appointed to it. The Public Service Act provides for certain methods the Government must use in enlisting staff. For instance, it may not appoint staff from outside the Government Service unless a certificate can be given that no person in the Government Service is capable of doing the work. I do not believe we have the competent staff available in the Government Service, and I believe that that certificate would have to be given and that staff outside the Government would be enlisted. I point out that the actual selection of staff is a matter for a qualified board appointed under the Public Service Act: the questions of qualifications of staff and the actual staffing are in the hands of that board, which will do its utmost to get qualified staff. Incidentally, this institution will deal with people who are committed by a court to the custody of the department: it is not a rehabilitation centre, in the fullest sense of the word, to which people would go voluntarily. The Public Works Committee has had a reference before it on this question, and I believe the committee has had great difficulty in getting a clear picture of where the actual control of that institution should be, who should be the people in charge of it, and what its purpose should be.

Mr. Shannon: It certainly recommended caution.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I understand that. I believe that there was much conflicting evidence on that matter. I will see if I can get supplementary information for the honourable member.

HONEY.

Mr. FERGUSON: Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether renewal of the Honey Marketing Act, 1949-1959, will be contingent upon a favourable vote expressed through a poll of growers, and whether such a poll

will be conducted according to conditions laid down in the old Act?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: A Bill in respect of the renewal of the Act is being prepared. The details of the Bill have not been finalized, but I did indicate to the Apiarists Association that in any event I would recommend continuation of the board to be contingent on a poll, because there had been a tremendous controversy in the industry about the board's future. Just prior to the lapsing of the Act a petition was received from many growers seeking a poll, and in the circumstances I did not hesitate to suggest to the industry that any Bill for the renewal of the Act should include a provision in respect of the contingency of the poll.

ROAD GRANTS.

Mr. RICHES: Has the Premier the information he promised me yesterday concerning road grants to country councils in the northern areas of the State?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I thank the honourable member for repeating this question. Looking at the *Hansard* proof today, I can see that what I said yesterday is capable of misinterpretation. Although possibly my reply could be said to be precisely accurate, it could be easily misinterpreted and I wish to make a rather more comprehensive statement than I made yesterday in connection with this matter. It is true that the sum provided to the department this year is greater than that provided last year. However, the sum that can be spent by the department this year is about £1,000,000 less than that spent last year, because last year the department had in the Main Roads Fund a fairly large surplus of, I think, £1,800,000 at the beginning of the year; at the end of the year that surplus had been spread so that at the beginning of this year there was only a nominal carry-over. In other words, last year the department spent not only its revenue but also some money in the fund that had accumulated from a previous year. Therefore, last year the department spent £13,800,000. This year it will have available to it about £12,800,000.

In answer to the honourable member's question, the original allocation of grant-in-aid to councils last year was £1,485,000; the original grant-in-aid this year is £1,545,000, a slightly larger sum than the original allocation last year; but as funds were available last year, during the year additional allocations of grants were made to the councils, with the result that the total expenditure

through grants to councils for 1963-64 was £1,939,000. The honourable member also referred to grant-in-aid and Commonwealth aid grants. Grant-in-aid to the Corporation of Port Augusta for 1963-64 was £756 and for 1964-55, £669. This small reduction is because portion of the grant-in-aid is divided between councils pro rata with their rate revenue, and other councils had a greater increase in rate revenue than the Corporation of Port Augusta. Commonwealth rural areas original allocation to the Corporation of Port Augusta for 1963-64 was £3,000 and, for 1964-65, £2,850. As I have stated, additional funds became available in 1963-64 and an additional £6,000 was allocated to the Corporation of Port Augusta.

OIL SEARCH.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Has the Premier a reply to my question yesterday regarding an oil search proposed by Mr. Jergins, a Texas oil magnate?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: An oil exploration licence has been issued to a company called Outback Oil N.L., with Mr. A. A. Jergins as principal, over an area of 49,000 square miles covering the Eucla Basin and portion of the Great Australian Bight. The term of the licence is for five years commencing January 20, 1964, and in each of the five years the licensee is obliged to carry out a specified investigatory programme to the satisfaction of the Minister of Mines.

EGG MARKETING.

Mr. FREEBAIN: Can the Minister of Agriculture say when he will be able to conduct a poll of egg producers in connection with the plan of the Council of Egg Marketing Authorities of Australia?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: For the poll to be held under the C.E.M.A. plan, preliminary investigations indicate that about 20,000 or 30,000 people would be eligible to vote, at least 95 per cent of whom possess small numbers of poultry. The provisions of the plan require them to vote on the questions of whether they favour a tax being levied on the number of fowls over 20 they own; the tax to be prescribed each year (this is to be variable and would probably be about 5s. to 8s. a bird); and whether they would have to pay the tax by instalments 26 times a year. In the circumstances, I thought that it was so impracticable not only to hold a poll, but also to expect the small producer with just a few birds to agree to a scheme such as this, that I wrote to the council and suggested that two things should be altered. First, I suggested that the council further consider the minimum number of birds

to be affected. I said that at least some objections to the scheme would be eliminated if the limit were raised to 100 birds as this would reduce by many thousands the number of people who had to vote; and it would, I think, eliminate the small producer from the levy scheme. Secondly, I suggested that the council should examine the number of payments to be made during the year in an attempt to reduce them from fortnightly intervals to less frequent periods. If these two matters were finalized it would not only be easier to hold a poll but would make the scheme more practicable to administer. Without arranging those things it would be most difficult. I think the answer from some people involved in the industry may be that the small producer produces a large percentage of the eggs that come onto the market. That may be so, but if a scheme depends for its success on catching a person with perhaps only 30 or 40 fowls, the cost of administering that scheme will be out of all proportion to its benefit. Therefore, I now await a reply from the Council of Egg Marketing Authorities to see what advice I get from it.

Mr. BYWATERS: How will a poll of producers be financed?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I suppose that the honourable member expects me to say that the Egg Board is to pay for it, but I am not going to say that. This question affects the poultry producers in South Australia generally, whether or not they trade with the Egg Board. Possibly, if there were some easy method of raising the money from them, one might envisage that they could pay for it, but there is, of course, no easy method of raising such money and I think we would be justified in asking the Government to provide the money and not expect the Egg Board to do it.

NAZI ACTIVITY.

Mr. CORCORAN: Yesterday the member for Norwood (Mr. Dunstan) directed a question to the Premier regarding Nazi activities in this State. Has the honourable member any further information he wishes to disclose?

The SPEAKER: Does the honourable member for Norwood desire to reply?

Mr. DUNSTAN: Yes. I appreciate the chance to do something to clear up this matter at the earliest possible opportunity. Yesterday when I asked the Premier my question I carefully did not identify, except to him privately, the house concerned in this matter, because I thought that investigations should be made before anybody was publicly identified. However, this morning, to a number of newspaper reporters, three young men identified

themselves as being tenants of a house at which the things that I described to the House yesterday had occurred. They have said that this occurrence was in the course of a party at their house and that it was entirely without any malice or sinister implication. They also intimated that in the course of these parties the cries of "Sieg Heil" were made and the Horst Wessel song was sung. My first reaction to that was that this was a fairly unusual sort of light-hearted party activity, but one of the young men concerned has been to see me at the House and, after conversation with him, I am entirely satisfied that there is nothing sinister or untoward in this matter and that, in fact, these people have no unusual proclivities of any kind. I am quite certain they have appreciated for the first time that their activities, in fact, did upset local residents, and I am also certain that they would not upset those residents similarly in future.

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT BUILDING.

Mr. COURCE: The Highways Department is building a large multi-storey headquarters at Walkerville. Will the Minister of Works ascertain whether this building is proceeding according to schedule and will he say when the building is likely to be completed and available for occupation by the department?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I shall inquire and report to the honourable member.

ANGLERS CLUBS.

Mr. BURDON: Late last year I took up with the Minister of Agriculture, on behalf of the Mount Gambier Anglers' Club, the question of providing a subsidy for stocking certain lakes in that area. The Minister, in his reply, said:

I shall have to examine this matter more closely. It does affect tourism, but it would be necessary to see whether it is possible to obtain the funds. The matter would have to be given further thought before I could give a considered reply.

Has the Minister a further reply to my previous question?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I cannot encourage the honourable member in this respect, I am afraid. Over the past three years the Government has given a small subsidy amounting in total to just over £2,000 to the South Australian Fly Fishers' Association, which stocks streams throughout the State. As distinct from that, of course, the Mount Gambier club's interest is in the lakes there. I think it is impossible at this stage to extend the subsidy any further. The honourable member will appreciate that, under the present financial conditions, it is not feasible to widen

the scope of our subsidies. Therefore, at least for this year, I am unable to recommend a subsidy to the Mount Gambier club. On the other hand, I suggest that this should not be a permanent situation and I should be happy to receive evidence that that club is a lively and go-ahead organization and that it is actually doing some work in stocking the lakes. I should also like to have evidence that it is thereby influencing the tourist trade in the Mount Gambier area. If the club can bring along a case such as that I shall either deal with it myself or refer it to the Tourist Bureau. In one way or another I should be glad to help the club's investigations.

EMERGENCY BRAKES.

Mr. HARDING: A press statement was made in the *Advertiser* on July 16 to the effect that the Premier had made a statement about new emergency brakes invented by a Strathalbyn man named Mr. Shand. The Premier had stated that he hoped these brakes would find a ready acceptance for introduction on heavy vehicles. Can he report on this new invention and does he visualize any Government or semi-Government vehicles, such as the Municipal Tramways Trust passenger buses, ever being fitted with this device?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The problem of transport vehicles that require emergency brakes, if I may say so, is rather more closely connected with long distance transport vehicles, particularly where the vehicles are running to a schedule. In fact, legislation may be introduced concerning the schedules connected with such vehicles. Experience has shown that vehicles leaving Melbourne or Sydney come right through almost to Adelaide uninterrupted during hot weather, but by the time they reach the Adelaide Hills their brakes are not reliable in some instances and, as a result, accidents have occurred through brake failure. The accidents occur not because of negligence on the part of the people operating the transport vehicle but, rather, because of the conditions under which the transport is working.

The emergency brake that I advocated for transport vehicles to use has been tested and has been found extremely effective and reliable. It is not costly and is capable of being transferred from one vehicle to another when a change of ownership occurs. I believe that the time may come when this type of emergency stopping equipment will become popular on heavy transport vehicles, especially those travelling over high grades. I do not believe that it is necessary for the Tramways Trust to install this equipment as the trust's vehicles

run only short distances and are under constant supervision. As far as I know, no accidents have been caused through brake failures on trust vehicles.

WINDY POINT.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: On February 27, in answer to a question which I asked regarding the proposal for a new restaurant at Windy Point, the Premier said that the Government intended to call for applications to run the venture. Can the Premier now say whether applications have been called (as I believe they have), what replies have been received, and whether any decision has been made on the matter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Applications were called and some were received, but the one that looked as though it would give the best return was withdrawn. Taken by and large, the applications did not show that there would be sufficient profit return for the expenditure involved. Incidentally, I have rather had news for the honourable member: owing to difficulties of the Budget this year, I have had to eliminate this item. A large sum is involved (about £75,000 or £80,000) and, frankly, I cannot fit it into the departmental estimate for this year. I have told the Director of the Government Tourist Bureau that it will have to be deferred for this year, particularly because the replies we received regarding taking over the conduct of the establishment were not satisfactory as regards return for the large expenditure involved.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The information that the Premier has given is grim indeed, not only for the residents of Mitcham, but for the whole State, because of the attractions of Windy Point as a tourist resort. That information must be accepted. However, I point out to the Premier that the little kiosk at Windy Point is in a very dilapidated condition: the whole area is run-down, which makes it extremely difficult for Mr. Marshall, the present proprietor of the kiosk, to make any sort of a living at all. As there is now to be a delay in the reconstruction and beautification of this area, will the Premier discuss with the Director of the Tourist Bureau the question of making some minor improvements—running repairs, so to speak—to make the area in the intervening time more attractive and to help Mr. Marshall, who has carried on under great difficulties for many years?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I shall be pleased to do that and will ask the Director whether some useful work can be done as an interim measure.

FESTIVAL HALL.

Mr. LAWN: My question relates to the concert hall proposed by the Adelaide City Council, toward the cost of which I understand the Government intends to make a grant of £500,000 and the loan of a further £400,000. The front page of the *Advertiser* of June 9 last and page 3 of the *News* of the same date stated that a concert hall site had been chosen and reported a decision of the finance committee of the Adelaide City Council regarding the hall. One of those reports stated:

This report (of the finance committee) would include details of building and the holding of an Australia-wide architectural competition which had been recommended by the cultural committee.

The *News* carried comments by Mr. Krips and other people on this matter, and Mr. R. V. Boehm, the President of the South Australian Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, regarding this competition, is reported as having said that it was the only way to get the best solution to the problem of getting the very best building on the site. I understand that the City Council has authorized the cultural committee to commission an architect to do the job, without having any regard to the Australia-wide competition, which has been hailed as the only way of getting the best design. As I mentioned earlier, the State is up for £500,000 and has promised to lend more money. Will the Premier investigate this matter to see whether the competition is to be held or whether it has been abandoned, together with what the City Council intends to do in the matter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I do not want to anticipate a matter that is the subject of legislation, but I think I can answer the question without getting into trouble under Standing Orders. When this project was first placed before me, as a request for financial assistance, it was stated to me that the proposal was that there would be a competition for a competitive design in accordance with the articles laid down by the institute. I expressed the view then (and I repeat that view) that the Government would not be doing the job and I did not desire to undertake control over it. I went on to say, "But if you take my advice it will be the last thing on earth you will start to do." I have seen some of these competitions, and they have never worked out extremely well: in fact, rather the opposite. An outstanding example of this is in another State which I will not mention. However, my advice at that stage was not taken, and negotiations proceeded and reached the stage

where the Government said that subject to Parliament's approval it would make a grant of £400,000 for the festival hall and grant a loan to the Adelaide City Council of £400,000, provided that £200,000 was raised in addition, and that the Government would provide £100,000 towards the cost of the site. I repeat that the Government's obligation in this matter was limited to £800,000 in respect of a building of £1,000,000, with a *pro rata* reduction if the building did not cost that much, and a limit of £100,000 on the purchase of the site. The moment I made a public statement that under no circumstances would I recommend to Parliament one penny more than that, the suggestion of a competitive design seemed to fritter away, and I understand that that competition is not to be proceeded with. The problem is that a competitive design is never mainly related to the design of the building to be erected; the competition is held merely to select an architect. Incidentally, an architect is selected not by the people who hold the competition but by the institute, and the architect who is selected for the festival hall in Adelaide might reside in England, Western Australia or Queensland and have no organization here at all. This frequently happens. In the case of another place that I will not mention, I believe the man who was appointed was an oversea architect who had no architectural establishment in Australia at all. Incidentally, the competition that we held here as an experiment, on the recommendation of the Public Works Standing Committee of the day, was in respect of the Adelaide Boys High School. It did not turn out well for the simple reason that the architect that was selected was from another State and that meant he had difficulty in controlling it in this State. The answer to the honourable member's question is that, as far as I know, competition for the selection of the architect will not be proceeded with. It is a matter to be decided by the Adelaide City Council, but if the City Council does decide to have a competition for an architect it will do so at its own risk.

Mr. Lawn: Can you tell us the name of the architect selected to do the job?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I do not think any architect has been selected. I should think that, if the council had decided on an architect, it would have submitted his name to the Government. My opinion is that the probable origin of the idea of having a competition was to avoid complication in selecting an architect. I believe the proper way.

to go about this would be to call on three architects to submit plans and to choose the best.

RISDON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. McKEE: I understand that over the past 18 months an exchange of correspondence has taken place between the Risdon Park Primary School Committee and the Education Department about toilet facilities and shelter accommodation at that school. I believe that in November, 1963, the department informed the committee that the position would be reviewed when a decision had been reached regarding the erection of a new school at Airdale. Can the Minister of Education say whether a decision has been reached about the erection of a new school at Airdale and, if no decision has been made, can he say what consideration has been given to the expansion of facilities at the Risdon Park school, as I understand they are unsatisfactory?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: No final decision has been arrived at as yet, but I hope it will be made soon and I shall then advise the honourable member.

TELEVISED LESSONS.

Mr. RYAN: In the *Advertiser* of May 28, 1964, appeared an article headed "New series of T.V. lessons" and quoting the Minister of Education as saying that the first direct teaching by telecast in South Australia would begin on the following Monday and the courses would be for the Leaving Honours class in mathematics and physics, and second year technical high school social studies and general science. Another article appeared in the *Advertiser* on June 13, 1964, where the Minister was quoted as saying that the telecast lessons had been well accepted and had proved of great value to the department and that more than 6,000 students from 50 departmental and private schools had viewed the lessons. After reading the articles, I believed, as did most parents, that this was an innovation established by the Education Department. However, much to my alarm at a subsequent school council meeting I was informed that it was left to the schools or the parents to provide the necessary equipment and if they did not buy it the school would receive no benefit from this innovation. At the time inquiries were made and there was much doubt whether there would even be a subsidy for the purchase of television sets. I ask the Minister of Education whether the Government will install this necessary equipment, which is of great advantage to the schools concerned, at the expense

of the department or, alternatively, whether the department will at least pay a subsidy on equipment bought by the schools. It will only be used by a small section of the schools concerned and I fear that some parents may object to their money being used for the purpose, even if a subsidy is provided, as this innovation will not be available to the whole of the school.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The direct telecast lessons were established on an experimental basis by the Education Department with the full co-operation of the Australian Broadcasting Commission and I think that, by and large, they have proved a great success. However, this involves great expenditure by the Education Department in providing equipment and also the services of our best teachers. In the last few days I have discussed this matter with the Director of Education because we are considering it amongst a wide variety of topics in relation to the preparation of the departmental estimates for the Budget. We have not yet decided how far we are going to continue this experiment, however successful it may be, because the Education Department, like other departments, is necessarily limited in funds. However, I can definitely say that the Government does not intend to provide the receiving sets, if that is what the honourable member is referring to. It is doubtful whether we will be providing even a subsidy on any large scale. I cannot give a definite answer because we have not yet decided what will be done this year.

GAWLER ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE.

Mr. CLARK: Will the Minister of Works say whether the contract for the Gawler Adult Education Centre has yet been let or, if it has not been, when it is likely to be let?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Speaking from memory, a recommendation has not yet come to me for acceptance of the contract, but I shall check up for the honourable member and let him know the exact position.

RENTAL HOUSES.

Mr. CURREN: Will the Premier ascertain from the Housing Trust the number of current applications for rental houses in the areas of Renmark, Berri and Barmera, and also the waiting time for applicants?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I shall do so, subject to the qualification that even where there are vacant houses in an area there are frequently applications for Housing Trust rental houses because of rentals

charged. I will ascertain the number of applications and the number of houses that are required in the areas, and then inform the honourable member.

SEAT BELTS.

Mr. LAWN: Has the Premier an answer to my question on June 10 about seat belts?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Chairman of the Road Traffic Board has forwarded a report by the Executive Engineer, which states:

Attached are reports of Messrs. Park and Gray, which may be summarized as follows:

- (1) Injuries to the neck involving both dislocation and fractures are caused in accidents usually by contact of the head against the roof of a vehicle. This would be unlikely to occur if a person was wearing a seat belt.
- (2) The statistics based on an urban accident survey by the Road Research Laboratory in England show that of the 837 occupants of cars who were wearing seat belts at the time of accidents, 277 received injuries of varying degrees, amongst which there was only one case of displaced neck vertebrae. No broken necks were encountered. However, of those injured there were 12 instances of strained neck muscles and 23 of stiff necks. This is considered extremely minor to what may have happened.
- (3) If only injuries to the neck are considered it can be seen that there is only a very small probability of receiving an injury very much more severe than a stiff or strained neck whilst wearing a seat belt during an accident.
- (4) Generally it may be said that there is a possibility of a severe neck injury to a person wearing a seat belt resulting from an unusual event occurring during a particular accident. However, based on past results such a happening is most unlikely, and in any case a neck injury, if it occurs, is likely to be much less severe. Furthermore, the over-all advantages to be gained from wearing a seat belt far outweigh the disadvantages, that is, if a person is involved in an accident he has a much better chance of suffering less or no injury if he is wearing a seat belt.

KAPUNDA RAIL SERVICE.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: My question is prompted by a letter appearing in last Saturday's press about the poor rail service for commuters between Kapunda and Adelaide. On October 22 last year, I was informed by the Minister of Railways that the Railways Department was actively considering the provision of an improved type of railcar on this service to

replace the existing "75" model railcars. Will the Minister of Works ask his colleague, the Minister of Railways, when this improved type of railcar will be introduced on the Kapunda run?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will ask for a report and inform the honourable member.

SCHOOL BOARDING ALLOWANCE.

Mr. CASEY: I have been informed that many families in the Far North of the State have no direct facilities for schooling and that this results in children being sent either to large country towns or to the city so that they may obtain the necessary education. Can the Minister of Education say whether the Government grant of £25 a term is available to the parents of these children attending private schools in the metropolitan area because no direct educational facilities are available to them in the country?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The relevant regulation states:

Boarding allowances for schoolchildren in primary grades: The Minister may approve of the payment, in the case of a child in the primary grade whose family lives more than 25 miles from the nearest school or school bus route and who in the opinion of the Minister is compelled to live away from home in order to attend school, of a boarding allowance at the rate of £25 per annum for the period during which he has to live away from home to attend school.

On the spur of the moment I am not sure whether that provision applies to a private school. However, in the regulation that I quoted there is no definition of "school" and it has been presumed in the past that it applied only to departmental schools. A limited number of applications have been received this year for the boarding allowance to apply to schools other than departmental ones, and the department sees no reason why, if all the terms and conditions of the regulation are complied with, the allowance should not be granted. However, I will consider the matter and give the honourable member a final reply tomorrow.

KAPUNDA HOUSING.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Will the Premier obtain from the Housing Trust the number of applications for rental houses and pensioners' houses at Kapunda and for details of the trust's building programme at Kapunda during the coming financial year?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I will obtain the information for the honourable member.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on the motion for adoption.

(Continued from July 28. Page 89.)

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): Before dealing with the financial proposals contained in the Governor's Speech, it is with deep regret that I must refer to several members of Parliament who have recently passed away. I refer in particular to the late Sir Walter Duncan; Sir Shirley Jeffries, a former member and Minister of this House for many years; Mr. W. W. Jenkins, a member of this House for ten years; and Mr. J. O. Critchley, a former member of this House and a Labor Senator in the Commonwealth Parliament. These men all served their State well in public life, and on behalf of the Parliamentary Labor Party I have already conveyed messages of sympathy to their respective families, but wish to join with His Excellency in placing on record our tribute to these gentlemen for their diligent service to the State.

In complimenting the mover of the Address in Reply, the member for Eyre, for his effort, I hasten to assure him that it being his longest speech on record he also gave some very valuable information concerning the district that he represents. He mentioned that until 1915 when the railway line was first laid there was no direct link between Port Lincoln and Ceduna on the far west coast, and then went on to mention the improvement that has taken place in wheat, barley and wool production and the increased sheep population. I would have really expected him to have paid a tribute to the railway workings, particularly as regards the last harvest, which I believe was a record, and that the wheat had been conveyed to silos prior to the seeding. This undoubtedly is a grand tribute to the efficient working of this isolated railway system. In addition, I believe the honourable member could have also mentioned that the future of this railway system has been seriously challenged by road transport and the obligation is upon him and the party he represents to pay some more positive attention to how best they can retain this railway system that has proved so valuable to the people on the West Coast.

In his introduction the seconder of the motion, the honourable member for Stirling went out of his way to further pat his Ministry on the back but most of his compliments were without foundation and I shall elaborate on this matter at a later stage. The comments made on the returns received from primary production, namely, that the 1963-64

harvest was the best on record, highlights the fact that the vagaries of this sector of the economy have a large influence on the prosperity or otherwise of our community. Our present favourable position particularly as regards overseas funds is, I believe, not due to any particular evidence of planning by the present Government. We were fortunate in our primary producers having comparatively high yields at the same time that world prices for these products tended to recover. There is some talk now that we are again approaching inflationary conditions and, whilst I would be the first to admit that skill is required to keep an economy in balance at or near full employment, this Government must be adamant in its dealings with its counterpart in Canberra that any policy approaching that of the early 1960's which destroyed business confidence and resulted in widespread unemployment is unacceptable to the South Australian people. On this occasion, the Government must realize the importance of each of the various sectors of the economy and encourage enterprise in order to provide a basis for continuing development. We must not be afraid of full employment and buoyant business conditions because these are the signs of a vigorous and advancing community.

I was pleased to see that the Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the Education Department, had introduced a weed control training course. This is certainly a measure that is long overdue and I have no doubt it is highly desirable for any person associated with agricultural and pastoral pursuits, but I should be greatly surprised if we were the only State in the Commonwealth to have such a course. I understand that 60 persons have enrolled for this particular course and this should provide for a more intensive investigation of noxious weeds in the future, but we must also deal with the present and the only way to do this, I believe, is by intensive publicity campaigns to ensure that all primary producers are weed conscious. For example, wide publicity was given to the infestation by noogoora burr and Californian burr in this State in the last five years, and much additional expense was incurred because these weeds obtained a very substantial hold before they were widely recognized.

I believe there is still a serious infestation of noogoora burr in the Mid North and infestation from Californian burr has moved down the Murray from the South Australian border to as far south as Swan Reach. The Minister of Agriculture's Report for the year ended

June, 1963, states that there has been a small outbreak of mesquite infestation near Cockburn and that this weed is a serious problem in North America, where it has taken control of 70,000,000 acres of grazing country. These are all immediate problems facing the primary producers in this State but no mention has been made in His Excellency's Speech as to what immediate action the Government is taking. There are many other weeds causing problems and financial loss to the State but I have only mentioned these three by way of illustration and to emphasize that we must grapple with the problems of the day rather than paint rosy pictures for the future.

In regard to water supply, His Excellency said, "My Government has continued its active policy in connection with water supplies." I remind members that in 1952, Parliament was advised that a further dam was being planned for the River Torrens. A period of 10 years elapsed before the Public Works Standing Committee heard evidence and issued a recommendation for a reservoir together with ancillary work to be carried out at an estimated cost of £2,650,000. A further two years have now elapsed and His Excellency has stated that it is expected to call tenders very shortly for the Kangaroo Creek dam. This is a scheme that was mentioned in 1952 and one has to stretch one's imagination a great deal to accept this as an active policy in connection with water supplies.

Whilst I realize that we have engineers in the Highways Department with outstanding qualifications, I am inclined to the view that there has to be a halt on the question of expenditure that is being involved in carrying out some of their ideas. I refer in particular to the very long median strips and safety bars that are placed at some intersections and seem to lend themselves to cause accidents rather than prevent them because they are unnecessarily long. The traffic islands that have been constructed in many cases are occupying too much land and have caused unnecessary expenditure instead of the additional funds being applied directly to roads.

During the session of Parliament held on June 10 and 11, I asked a question concerning the widening of the junction of the South Road, Shepherds Hill Road, and Ayliffe Road. For too long this work has been held up concerning the road widening that is necessary and, whilst the answer was given by the Minister that it was expected to be done in the 1964-65 period, I again stress the need for an immediate start

on this road widening programme. In addition, the Minister intimated that the Shepherds Hill Road at the Blackwood end would be improved from Blackwood to a point near the Blackwood High School. I agree that this is a vital necessity, but in addition I again draw the attention of the Minister to that portion of Shepherds Hill Road from the South Road to Blackwood which is a must for reconstruction. I consider that the bus operator has provided a very good service but on account of the bad condition of Shepherds Hill Road, his buses are deteriorating very quickly, and I believe that the Highways Department itself would be better engaged in providing a suitable road in this area rather than spending money unnecessarily on long median strips and traffic islands, as it is doing at present.

During the forthcoming financial year it is expected to spend approximately £13,000,000 on roads and two of the jobs mentioned were the development of the main South Road to Reynella and the Reynella by-pass. With the amount of traffic travelling on this road, there is certainly a need for this additional work, but we have had similar announcements for many years from the Government, whereas the South Road still contains several serious bottlenecks which hinder the safe and free flow of traffic. I believe the road in the vicinity of Tonsley Park is one such serious bottleneck and whilst the Government may have plans on the drawing board for duplicating a multi lane South Road highway, it should keep its feet on the ground and deal with the bottlenecks in the existing highway. Another serious bottleneck and danger is the narrow bridge over the Sturt Creek on the South Road on the approaches to Darlington. In addition to creating a traffic hazard for the motorists, the residents from the Burbank area on the east side of the Sturt Creek face considerable danger whilst walking to and from the shops at Darlington. These are every-day dangers that confront the residents in this area and I have no doubt that other members can cite many similar instances in their districts. That is why I say that the Government should keep its feet on the ground and solve these problems before committing itself to further heavy expenditure in other directions.

Portion of paragraph 11 of His Excellency's Speech stated that 10 new diesel-electric locomotives were placed in service. I believe it would be more correct to tell the House that, concerning diesel-electric locomotives, one unit was completed at Islington and is ready for service, whilst two others are waiting for

motors from the United Kingdom. It may be that this equipment will arrive some time this year; it certainly appears that the other seven that were placed in service may have had some attention given to them at Islington workshops, but not to the extent that they were totally assembled at the Islington workshops, which is the impression that is left in the public mind.

During the last session, mention was made of the new rolling stock that was to be constructed at Islington for a new train to be placed in commission between Adelaide and Port Pirie. I am somewhat concerned that there was nothing in His Excellency's Speech concerning this matter, but rather than attempt to ask a question on the matter, probably the Minister representing the Minister for Railways may desire to inform the Premier just what the position is concerning this new rolling stock. Could he report on the matter, as silence on it could mean that none of this rolling stock is completed. Perhaps the Premier is not even interested in this matter. It could be held up because of the materials, or it may be that the electric motors that are imported from the United Kingdom have not yet arrived. It may also mean that there has been a number of delays in connection with the construction of these units because the materials were not available to enable the men engaged upon this work to continue with the construction of the equipment. Of course, if this is the case it may be necessary to ascertain from the Railways Commissioner whether the material for all the units was to be delivered at the one time, or whether sufficient of the material would be ordered to coincide with the progress of construction so that there would be no hold-up. Of course, if it so happened that the head of the Stores Department, having accepted the necessary orders from the Chief Mechanical Engineer for the quantity of materials needed, omitted to ascertain from the suppliers details of the progress being made on delivery, this then could interfere with the continuity of construction, and on this point it may be as well to obtain a full report. Whilst I know that certain of the apprentices that have been trained at Islington have left for other industry, this has not altered the fact that the men who are engaged at the workshops are doing a splendid job, and I believe they have proved that, on a competitive basis, the quality and quantity of their work is better even than that which may be obtained from sources outside the Islington workshops. In order to permit the

men to maintain this high standard of efficiency, those responsible for the ordering and maintaining of the supply of materials should and must pay special attention to their responsibilities, and while on the matter of the particular type of train to be used on the Port Pirie run, they might also ascertain the delivery of electric motors.

Whilst speaking of Islington workshops, it is indeed pleasing and refreshing to know that the men engaged in the industry, through their consistent efforts, have proven to the Government that they are able and capable of doing the work that is required of them. The Premier may desire to give some further enlightenment concerning the joint rolling stock that I understand is used particularly on the Adelaide to Mount Gambier service. Some of my colleagues in this House will confirm that the sleeping accommodation on this service leaves much to be desired. First, are there any special representations that must be made to Victoria concerning this type of rolling stock? Is it owned completely by the South Australian Railways, or is it owned partly by the Victorian Railways? If it is entirely South Australian owned, I believe that it could be reconditioned to such an extent that it would be a paying proposition in that it could also be air-conditioned, with amenities similar to those provided on the existing Overland train. Whatever may be said of this type of rolling stock, at least we can rest assured that, with the necessary overhaul and improvements, it will hold its place amongst the rolling stock generally in South Australia.

I believe there should also be a further inquiry to ascertain why the suburban coaches, that is, the end-loaders which have been stored at Penfield and other places, are being brought into Islington, mostly to be destroyed and the timbers burnt. These end-loaders also have a division in the middle of the unit for ingress and egress. I believe that if these were reconditioned they would still provide a very useful service and comfortable seating for many of the people who now have to stand in the inadequate provision that is made on much of our suburban railway system, particularly at peak periods.

I have here a cutting from the *Advertiser* of Monday, December 18, 1911, setting out a detailed list of work in progress, including quantities and values, at the Islington workshops at the end of the previous August, and whilst it is not my intention to detail this work today, if comparable information were made known to personnel within the railways

service at the present time, I believe it would create added interest. Details of this work were included in a paper laid on the table of this House by Mr. Rudall (as he then was), and that information firmly indicates the importance of the railway workshops at that period. No information is given today of what the Government intends from time to time on these important matters. Surely the personnel within the railways service should be told what work is likely to be done, and perhaps the Government itself might be prevailed upon to request the press to publicize these things.

It was stated in His Excellency's Speech that the Electricity Trust had had a record year and that the Thomas Playford Power Station at Port Augusta was now completed to its full design capacity of 330,000 kilowatts. This would indicate that the Government's vicious opposition to equalized tariffs throughout the State was ill founded because, as a compromise, the Government reduced country tariffs to within 10 per cent of metropolitan rates without harmful consequences to the finances of the trust. In view of the record year, perhaps the Government will reconsider the suggestion from this side of the House to equalize tariffs throughout the State without any increase being made to metropolitan rates. The completion of the Playford Power Station at Port Augusta took 14 years, which indicates that progress will have to be much better on the Torrens Island proposal if we are to continue to satisfy power requirements. Why was the power station that is being built at Torrens Island not built at Wallaroo? Perhaps the Premier will tell us one of these days.

Whilst mentioning the Electricity Trust's Torrens Island project, I would like to make a comparison between the Government's thinking on transmission costs in this State as against that in Canada and America. I noticed an article in the *Financial Review* of March 3, this year which contained the following comments:

Broadway stars in the near future may see their names lighted by Canadian power generated more than 1,100 miles away in Labrador . . . After a year of negotiations and experiments, it was announced in New York recently that the Consolidated Edison Company was deferring its plan to build a nuclear generating plant in the city. Instead the company said it would buy its power from Labrador from the British Newfoundland Corporation.

It seems strange to me that there are no insurmountable problems in those countries to high tension transmission lines extending more than 1,100 miles, whereas here the present

Government was overwhelmed with problems when it considered the possibility of transmission lines extending only 100 to 200 miles. Eventually it decided to foster further concentration of industry and population by choosing a metropolitan site for the next proposed major power station.

Another item mentioned in His Excellency's Speech was that it was hoped that a 33,000-volt cable for the supply of power to Kangaroo Island would be completed within the next twelve months. In 1962, His Excellency made this statement in regard to this powerline:

At the request of my Government the trust will construct a transmission line to join Kangaroo Island with the mainland grid.

I had hoped that this project would have been completed before this and no doubt many of the people on Kangaroo Island would have had hopes in the same direction.

As regards housing, it was mentioned that the trust expects to build about 3,000 dwellings bringing to over 52,000 the total number completed. The officers of the trust are to be highly commended for their devotion to duty and achievements over the last 20 to 25 years, but under the direction of this Government it is losing ground with the housing problem in this State. On a per capita basis, the expected completions this year are approximately 20 per cent less than five years ago. I drew the attention of the Government to this matter last year but apparently there has been very little improvement. There was adequate finance available for housing last year and therefore it would appear that the Government's method of contracting is at fault. It is all very well to call public tenders in order to obtain lower prices but if the contractors are unable to complete their contracts because of bankruptcy or even if the contracts are extended for any reason—the additional supervision and inspections, the idle capital tied up in incomplete or unoccupied houses, as well as the expense caused by shoddy workmanship—all tend to outweigh the savings obtained from the original cut-throat prices. Perhaps the Government is finding that the system it has imposed on the Housing Trust is not as efficient as the previous method which catered for the adequate training of apprentices to continue in their respective skilled trades as well as provide houses of high standard.

At Forbes school, there are 1,611 children. Yesterday, in reply to a question by Mr. Hughes, the Minister of Education said:

The newspaper I saw some time ago rather loosely used a nought: it referred to a school for 600 instead of for 60.

I have a letter that was forwarded to me on July 24 and I quote from it to show the inaccuracy in the figures. The letter bears the signature of the Minister per his Secretary (Mr. Combe). A report accompanying the letter, reference 658/1/30, states that primary enrolments for the Forbes school were 1,209 and infant enrolments 575, making a total of 1,744 in August, 1961, whereas I point out that the correct total of the figures supplied is 1,784. In August, 1963, the primary enrolments are stated to be 1,207 and the infant enrolments 475, making a total of 1,652, whereas the correct total is 1,682. As the Minister complained yesterday about the inaccuracy of certain figures on education when replying to the member for Wallaroo, I now draw his attention to these inaccuracies and I am sure that he will be eager to correct them after reading *Hansard* tomorrow.

It is confidently expected that at the Forbes school there will be six classes in each grade for some years to come. There are many instances of teaching duties being performed under unsatisfactory conditions. For example, at the present time a class is being taught in what used to be the office of the Infant Mistress. An application for a classroom was made two years ago, but nothing has been supplied by the Government. Student teachers attend this school. Recently, 12 were there for two weeks; on one day there were 20, and it is expected that there will be at least 30 at the end of the year. Facilities are very inadequate for these people. Attached to what used to be the Infant Mistress's office is the staff room, and 19 female teachers are expected to share this room which normally would be overcrowded with only six persons in it.

Earlier this year, I complained about the unsatisfactory position of heating arrangements in this school, as well as that at three other schools in my area. At Forbes 22 classrooms were involved, and portion of the reply agreed that most of the rooms complained about were fitted with "Mistral" heater fans or the old type wooden stove. The Minister knows, as well as I do, that this type of heating is ineffective for large areas. It is the responsibility of the department to remedy these deficiencies. How much longer is it going to take the Minister to make up his mind on a two-storey solid construction building, to give the children at this school sufficient playing

area, and to give the headmaster an opportunity to visit both the teachers and children during school hours.

I have complained about this school year in and year out, but I am not getting anywhere with my complaints. The Minister has informed me about a section of land in Raglan Avenue in Edwardstown held by the Minister of Railways, and perhaps if this were available the Government could erect another school to relieve the congestion at Forbes. The Minister states that he does not want large schools. I agree, but if no suitable land is available what is to be done? At Forbes school the distance from the farthest classroom to the toilet is a quarter of a mile. That is not good enough, and it is not good enough to ask the headmaster to travel a quarter of a mile from his office to the farthest classroom. Surely it is possible to build schools upwards. I travelled through part of the Minister's district last Saturday and also through Blackwood, and there seems to be much difference between the schools in those areas and those in the area about which I am complaining. The people living in the Ascot Park subdivision of the State Electoral District of Edwardstown are entitled to the same treatment as those living in other areas, and their children should not have to continue under these conditions. It should not be necessary for me to complain continually. I want something done.

I visited Forbes school with the Minister and we discussed the problem; it would be solved by the erection of a multi-storey building. I understood the Minister was going to ask the Public Buildings Department to consider this matter. I understood the problem would be solved if the Minister of Education obtained land held by the Railways Commissioner. I am not an authority on what land is required for school purposes, but this long narrow section of land is near the Edwardstown oval. Why isn't the Minister of Education, representing the Government, prepared to tell the Railways Commissioner that this land is wanted for a particular purpose? Something should be done immediately for approval to be given for the erection of a multi-purpose school at Forbes. The Minister can do one of two things. He can tell the Railways Commissioner that he wants the land for the erection of a new school, or he can tell the Government that he wants better treatment for the children at Forbes. I am sure the Minister will reply to me later on these matters.

When the Minister has remedied these matters, he will have made some approach towards the assessments made by His Excellency that the provision of new buildings and the renovation of old buildings is proceeding vigorously. When referring to education, His Excellency also said:

The number of pupils in the primary and secondary schools of the Education Department is now 193,500 and there will be 5,000 more with the intake of beginners at the end of June. Secondary pupils, at present nearly 54,000, are more than double those of seven years ago. The supply of teachers for these rapidly increasing numbers is being well maintained.

I have often said that His Excellency is very generous to his Government and attempts to portray its achievements in the best light. Whilst we all like to see this State developing, I believe we are doing it a disservice and an injury if we do not attempt to rectify maladministration when we know it is occurring. I contend that we have over-crowded and unheated classrooms, lack of teachers, lack of modern facilities, and, on numerous occasions, I have produced facts and figures to this House to verify my contention.

On this occasion, I wish not to repeat that proof, but to support it by information from another source namely the report on the annual conference of the International Federation of Teachers Associations held in Edinburgh in July, 1963, and in particular the commentaries made on the resolutions carried at that conference as they applied to the situation in South Australia, namely:

Though every Australian State including our own is increasing the number of its teachers' colleges, in no case has there been sufficient places to allow of all suitably qualified applicants being enrolled. In South Australia large numbers of students offering for Leaving teaching scholarships have had to be refused though we are still short of teachers. . . . Class sizes remain a problem which must be tackled more vigorously and with an understanding that in the very near future a shortage of classrooms will have become an even more important factor than the teacher shortage.

In the *Advertiser* of Wednesday, July 15, under the heading "Need to Reduce Class Sizes" when the Deputy Director of Education (Mr. J. S. Walker) gave evidence before the Public Works Standing Committee, it is reported that he said:

Wattle Park was unsuitable as a permanent teachers college because of the restricted site, wooden buildings, and absence of playing fields. It was always intended as a temporary expedient.

How many more of these temporary costly expedients in the Education Department, and I suppose for that matter other departments, are going to be continued by this Government? To illustrate this point a little further, how much has been spent on trying to recondition the Foy & Gibson building which, again, was a temporary expedient? The same could apply to Simpson building, and how much was involved in the other temporary expedient of moving the Minister of Works and his staff from Victoria Square to Waymouth Street? From my knowledge of the area that is to be reserved for the new teachers training college at Bedford Park which, according to the evidence, should be ready by January, 1967, I hope that the Highways Department will give immediate consideration to the re-siting of Shepherds Hill Road and the Sturt Road junction long before any building or work on the preparation of the site is done for the erection of the new teachers training college.

The views of the interested groups, namely, the Government and the educationists could hardly be more in contrast and it would appear that we have a great way to go before we can say that we have an educational system adequate for our needs which is capable of training children to the ultimate of their abilities. I believe this to be the basis of a continuing community and until we have adequate educational facilities we cannot hope to achieve a community consisting of individuals who are able and willing to undertake self-criticism and be capable of creative thinking. Until the Government can honestly say that its educational system accomplishes both these objectives and fosters every branch of knowledge, then the progress and prosperity of this State is being hindered and no matter how strongly the Government attempts to mislead us, it will not alter the fact that the rate of advance in our community will decline. The problems associated with education require to be tackled with more vigour than has been displayed by Government members. It appears that they are bereft of ideas of how to improve the system, for we have been informed year after year how the Government should be praised for its achievements, but we still have over-crowded classrooms, lack of facilities and teachers, and the shortcomings are apparent to everyone except the Government that is responsible for the bottleneck.

In discussing the activities of the Government in relation to Mental Health, I will relate my remarks to paragraph 15 of the Governor's Speech, namely:

In the field of mental health, I refer to the provision of funds to the States by the Commonwealth Government, the total amount received by this State by the end of the current financial year being approximately £750,000. My Government will give its mental health programme the utmost priority,

and see how this assessment of the position compares with similar statements made by the Treasurer and the Chief Secretary during the last few years! During the presentation of the Budget in 1962, the Treasurer made the following statement in relation to mental health:

The Director of Mental Health, in cooperation with officers of the Public Buildings Department, is examining the requirement for new buildings and services in the mental institutions, and just as soon as firm proposals can be determined the Government will make every effort to allocate sufficient Loan moneys to enable work to go ahead. The Government has already accepted a number of recommendations from the Director of Mental Health involving re-organization of these services, which are now being planned with all possible speed for eventual submission to the Public Works Standing Committee.

In view of this, I, like my colleagues, mentioned in Parliament at that time that we would refrain from being really caustic concerning the Government's neglect in retaining such obsolete conditions as exist in most parts of the Parkside Mental Hospital. Two years have elapsed and there has been little progress, but apparently the Government decided that the time was opportune to make a few more announcements on mental health care for the future, because in the *Advertiser* of May 28, the Chief Secretary said that at that time between 11 per cent and 15 per cent of all patients admitted to the State's mental hospitals were over 65 years and that it therefore seemed both desirable and imaginative to replace run-down buildings with new buildings designed for the care of infirm and aged people. The publicising of these views is all very well but has it obtained for South Australia any more beds in the last two years or is it something similar to a gramophone record on which is being played the old tune of what is desirable mental treatment in South Australia? As the Chief Secretary is the Minister in charge of mental health, he may be a little disgruntled (and rightly so I should say) because he has had to play second fiddle to the Premier, who rather stole his show when he made similar announcements two years earlier. In any case, let us get some modern accommodation before there is any more kite-flying about the progressive treatment the Government will provide some time in the future.

Much earlier than the announcement made by the Premier, two years ago, we were aware of the shortcomings of our mental health treatment in this State. A comprehensive report was compiled by Messrs. Stoller and Arscott for the Commonwealth Government in 1955 dealing with the mental health facilities and needs of Australia. It was a complete condemnation of mental health treatment throughout Australia, and South Australia fared no better than the other States. From that report the minimum standard was four beds per 1,000 population, and on that basis we require more than 4,000 mental hospital beds at the present time, but we have only about 2,700. Consequently, a mentally sick person has only two chances in three of obtaining hospital accommodation of any sort to commence medical treatment, and in many cases it is not adequate accommodation.

I said in this House two years ago that I would not attempt to go into detail on what I saw when I visited the Parkside Mental Hospital in the company of members of the South Australian Association for Mental Health. Whilst there has been some improvement concerning the bed and toilet accommodation since then, there is a need for improvement, particularly to assist the very willing staff that is doing its utmost for the care and attention of these patients, and to demolish old buildings and erect new ones. This would enable the staff there to carry out their responsibilities to the patients with that degree of assistance that is needed in these modern times. Messrs. Stoller and Arscott had this to say about Parkside in their 1955 report:

This hospital was in an excellent position to serve the population of Adelaide and it could easily become a more vital centre in the medical service of South Australia. Of prime importance was the need to cut down overcrowding and step up the levels of psychiatric treatment, including social therapy and individual and group psychotherapy. An outpatient clinic was a vital necessity. The hospital could become a training centre for professional staff and for community education. It was close enough to the university to be the obvious mental health research centre in South Australia if its resources were developed.

They had this to say about Northfield:

This hospital had not yet developed an entity of its own, but had exercised a mixed role, devised largely on a custodial pattern. The establishment of a T.B. ward, senile blocks, and mental deficiency blocks might still further affect the lack of definition of role. It was in an increasing centre of population and, if more closely integrated with the community, might easily become the mental health centre for the northern suburbs of Adelaide.

It is clear that the committee recognized that Northfield and Parkside were two mental health centres which were suitable for development as training centres, but we are still waiting for tangible results from this Government nearly 10 years later. In the same report, Dr. Birch commented:

Some years ago, it was decided to build a mental deficiency hospital within a few miles of Adelaide within the next 10 years, and set up a diagnostic and therapeutic outpatient unit for mental defectives in Adelaide, the hospital and outpatient centre to act as one unit.

I understood the Government had great confidence in Dr. Birch as a Superintendent, but the record of this Government has not put that confidence into effect. On page 190 of the same report, the proposed capital works for 1954-55 were stated to be worth £1,189,738, but it is doubtful whether this promised programme has been completed, despite the fact that nearly 10 years have elapsed. Under the State Grants (Mental Institutions) Act, 1955, this State was eligible for a grant of £895,000, but because of the cheeseparating methods of this Government we have received only £718,904. In other words, this Government was instrumental in losing £176,000 for the people of South Australia.

New legislation has operated since July 1 this year, and the Government will certainly have to improve on its past performance if it is to obtain adequate subsidy from the Commonwealth Government in the next three years and measure up to the predictions made by His Excellency. The Chief Secretary made some predictions that were recorded in the press on May 28 this year about two hospital training centres planned at O'Halloran Hill and Northfield for the intellectually retarded, to give the opportunity to provide specific care and training of the handicapped people, but I point out that the Director of Mental Health, Dr. W. A. Cramond, reported in 1962 that the buildings erected at Parkside late last century would be pulled down. It would appear from the recent announcement by the Government that we are still being promised something for the future regarding the improvement of our mental health services, but nothing actually tangible for the present. It is all very well to speak of the new centres that are planned for Northfield and O'Halloran Hill. I do not know how long such projects will take, but I know that it will certainly take at least three years to adequately train the necessary staff, and at the rate this Government is going it will be far behind. In fact, we may even reach the

stage where it is possible to have the centres erected yet we will not have the staff to look after the people that should be admitted. A word of warning at the right time might encourage this Government to move a little faster. According to the press announcement, the Chief Secretary has mentioned that the plans for the Northfield block have now been prepared and submitted to the Public Works Standing Committee for investigation; but even at this stage it certainly appears that it will be into next year before the tenders are finalized for the construction of these buildings. In fact, it is not very helpful to Dr. Cramond, as his big desire is to have reasonable accommodation for the treatment of persons who, unfortunately, have to receive his medical attention. Consequently, it is not unreasonable to ask whether we accept the Government's efforts in these matters as just another kite-flying episode.

Paragraph 26 contains the information that amongst further proposed legislation is a Bill to amend the Local Government Act to enable councils to contribute towards the purchase of land for redevelopment for housing purposes. I was under the impression that legislation had been on our Statute Book for 25 years which empowered the Government to undertake rehousing schemes if it felt so inclined; but nothing worth while has eventuated. With a view to trying to follow the Premier's thoughts on these matters, I point out that the passing of this amending legislation will not provide for more funds under his method of financing for housing, and I do not imagine that he will be so generous as to make an allocation available to the various local government bodies desiring to proceed with a rehousing development programme. The past record of the present Government shows that the mere passing of suitable legislation does not ensure that efficient rehousing schemes will be proceeded with.

Paragraph 32 contains a reference to Revenue and Loan funds which indicates that the Government did not achieve its objectives during the recent financial year because it was admitted that there had been some reduction in the rate of progress on Government projects, and that the balance of Loan funds to be carried over to the next financial year was larger than normal. Whilst we are so desperately short of so many public basic essentials, it is a condemnation of the Government's administration that it has allowed funds to remain idle in the Treasury coffers.

Since the Speech by His Excellency has been printed, the foreshore at many of our suburban beaches has been severely damaged by very high seas as a result of the inclement weather that we experienced during the first couple of weeks in July. Indications are that this Government will be called upon to provide financial assistance towards the cost of restoration. In 1954-55 considerable sums were voted for the restoration of the foreshore, and I said on that occasion that I believed it would be necessary to construct groynes to assist in the preservation of our beaches rather than depend entirely upon the work that was undertaken at that time. Whilst I am in agreement that the beach front must be restored, I also believe that the use of heavy stone as groynes or breakwaters will be the only permanent solution to retaining our foreshore.

In the absence of the Premier, I address the following comments to the Minister of Works, as Acting Leader of the Government. Will he accept as fair comment on an important policy matter which was mentioned during the Government's election campaign of 1962 and which has not been given effect to, that it would be reasonable to remind him of it so that he would give his members an opportunity to deal with it as I assure him that it was accepted publicly as policy of his Party at that time and I assume it would be his policy for at least the life of this Parliament. Does the Minister agree with that?

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: I await the interpretation of the honourable member.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I refer to paragraph 31 of His Excellency's Speech, which states:

My Ministers are also considering representations from various quarters along with the report of the Betting Control Board following its investigations into the operation and effect in Victoria and Queensland of the system of off-course betting commonly known as T.A.B. Among other problems is that of the winning bets tax which does not exist in the other States.

Mr. Speaker, probably you were present yesterday when a "Dorothy Dixer" was asked by the honourable member for Gouger and answered by the Premier. I will quote that from *Hansard* presently. Regarding the term used ("the system of off-course betting commonly known as T.A.B.") let me remind members opposite that it may be as well to turn back to this State's last election campaign when there was no mention of T.A.B.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: The honourable the Leader himself mentioned it.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I didn't mention T.A.B.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: You mentioned it, if I am not in error.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: No. In broad principle I said the Betting Control Board could introduce a plan.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: I accept that, if you say so.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Mr. Speaker, I now quote the Premier's reply to the "Dorothy Dixer" I referred to earlier:

I expect I shall have a report ready for Cabinet consideration probably next week (the week after at the latest), so that, if Cabinet accepts my submissions, the Government's decision should be known before the Address in Reply debate is completed.

That is an excellent example of shadow sparring on this subject, and the Premier is an expert at shadow sparring. If I were to make any criticism of that answer I should say that if the Premier desired to make a favourable comment about this, the Cabinet would back him up. I will only believe it when I see the Premier introduce something on this matter.

I indicated at a public meeting held in Renmark that whilst betting came under social legislation, which our members were free to support or reject, I believed the Betting Control Board could introduce a plan that would provide for off-course betting without establishing betting shops as we knew them when they came into operation as a result of the Act that was proclaimed on December 5, 1933. According to records, a Royal Commission had been appointed by the Labor Government which, in turn, reported in principle the licensing of bookmakers on race courses and a State-wide totalizator with a minimum of 1s. investment, but the Liberal and Country League Party that came into power in 1933 with a five-year Parliament also provided the licensing of bookmakers as we know them on courses and there is a special provision which reads:

The registration of premises upon which licensed bookmakers may bet and the terms and conditions of registration and the duration, suspension and cancellation thereof.

This provision of the Act that was proclaimed in December, 1933, established betting shops as we knew them. That was an L.C.L. Government who were not prepared to recognize the recommendations of a Royal Commission which had been appointed by a Labor Government. But undoubtedly the Royal Commission of that period favoured the provision of off-course betting by way of a totalizator.

At an election meeting at Unley on Monday evening, February 26, 1962, the Premier is reported in the *Advertiser*, under the heading of "Premier States Party Attitude on Betting," as having said:

The Liberal attitude to off-course betting was that every member was responsible directly to his electorate.

I have been forthright publicly on this matter of T.A.B., and in addition have mentioned that it is entirely a social question and that our members are free to support or oppose these matters. I have also indicated that whilst I am the Leader of the Opposition, I will not introduce any matter for the establishment of T.A.B., but that if and when T.A.B. is established and one or more agencies are opened the winnings tax on investment would have to be abolished. To make that clearer, I have always been opposed to taxing the investment, which I have defined as "The Playford Tax" on many occasions, as I believe we have already paid sufficient taxation per medium of income tax without taxing people in the State over and over again.

I further illustrate another social matter, the Licensing Act. Section 189 of the Licensing Act provides for trading hours, the subsection stating "between the hours of five in the morning and six in the evening", but section 198 also further provides for the supply of liquor with meals. The Premier, I assume with the consent of his Ministers, introduced an amendment last session for a service that becomes an extra charge on those desiring a drink after the normal closing time by providing for a light meal at a cost of 7s. 6d. This, of course, meant an extension of hours but at a price. It seems that the Playford Party is having it both ways. To one section of the community it protests that this State is wedded to 6 o'clock closing, and implies that it will not interfere. To another section, the Playford Party says, "You can be supplied with drink until 10.45 p.m. providing you pay 7s. 6d. for a meal." In other words, this clearly demonstrates that it is backing each way this issue of social legislation. But what of those who, by their industry, cannot avail themselves of the privilege of the 6 p.m. closing and cannot afford to pay 7s. 6d. for the meal? The question of 7s. 6d. for a meal could be considerably improved by providing for refreshments at a minimum charge of 2s. 6d. a person after 8.30 p.m.

Having reminded the Premier and his colleagues of the extension of licensing hours, under privilege, I wonder just how long the Premier and his Ministers will keep the public

in suspense concerning the question of making provision for off-course betting in this State? I repeat what the Premier has already publicly announced:

The Liberal attitude to off-course betting was that every member was responsible directly to his electorate.

That public announcement of February, 1962, must be the same today, because there does not seem to have been any change made to L.C.L. policy about their members elected to this Parliament. That being so, then the Premier, to keep faith with the announced policy, must of necessity consult this Parliament and introduce the necessary legislation so that both he and the members opposite can demonstrate their responsibilities to the electorates they represent.

Mr. Speaker, I move to insert in the Address in Reply the following new paragraphs:

2a. We express regret at the failure of Your Excellency's advisers to make any reference to the upward spiral of prices and the inflationary cost of living.

2b. We desire to inform Your Excellency that in the opinion of this House, a committee of five (comprising the Deputy President of the Industrial Court and Public Service Arbitrator (Judge L. H. Williams), as Chairman; the Auditor-General (Mr. G. H. P. Jeffery); the Prices Commissioner (Mr. E. A. Murphy); one member nominated by the Trades and Labor Council and one member nominated by the Chamber of Manufactures) should be appointed to inquire into all aspects of price increases in South Australia since July 1, 1963, and to report to this House on Tuesday, October 6.

Members on this side have continually advocated for price control legislation in this State to be permanent legislation, but the Government continues to pay lip service to any system of price control, for it has legislation on the Statute Book but the Minister has seen fit to exempt many avenues of production. Therefore, the system in this State, if we can call it that, is to have control of wages by means of Commonwealth and State awards and determinations, but to allow so-called freedom of enterprise to determine prices in the community. The difficulty is accentuated because we have a rapidly increasing population and consequently increasing demand, with the result that suppliers are able to increase prices but still maintain turnover. This has the effect of employees on wages gradually having a lower standard of living imposed upon them, and it becomes necessary for them to combine and approach a wage-fixing authority for wage justice. We have always maintained that there should be automatic quarterly cost-of-living adjustments to overcome, as far as possible, the gradual whittling away of the value of the

basic wage. It should then be necessary only for the Arbitration Commissioners to undertake at fairly lengthy periods an overall review of the economy and the capacity of industry to pay, so that both employers and employees could share equitably in any increases in the productivity in our community.

In February this year, the Australian Council of Trade Unions, on behalf of unions who are parties to the Metal Trades Award, made application for restoration of the quarterly cost-of-living adjustments and an increase of 52s. a week in the basic wage. Employers, on the other hand, made a counter offer ranging from an increase of 6s. a week at the basic wage to an increase of 8s. a week for a person having a wage margin of £5 6s. a week or more. In other words, the employers were attempting to establish the introduction of a total wage rather than a basic wage with certain allowances for skill. As members are all aware, there are two completely separate approaches as regards wages: first, the basic wage of all employees based on the needs of the employees and the capacity of industry to pay, and secondly, the award of a special margin for skill to reward employees for their skill as well as to attract a continual stream of skilled replacements to particular industries. As I have mentioned, these are completely separate approaches and I was pleased to see that the commissioners rejected the employers' agitation for the determination of a total wage including any allowances for skill.

The increase of 52s. a week sought by the unions was made up of two items, namely an increase of £1 a week to restore the real basic wage fixed in 1953 by making adjustments in accordance with the C series index until June, 1961, and by the consumer price index since that date. In addition, it sought to obtain for employees some reasonable proportion of the increased productivity that has occurred since 1953, which figure was established at 32s. a week. The Premier of this State, along with the Governments of other States, has claimed substantial increases in productivity in recent years. Most informed opinion seems to agree that the increase is about 2 per cent. As soon as employees, however, seek a just proportion of the increased productivity, all the difficulties in the world are brought forward. For example, it is claimed that the figures do not represent an exact measurement or that the increases are due to external factors such as high primary yields and higher prices on the export markets. Nevertheless, it is my firm

contention that employees are eligible to share in increased productivity that occurs in our community, and in any case the unions based their claims on a productivity increase of 1 per cent a year since 1953. Therefore, this would appear to be a conservative calculation and would have represented an increase of 32s. a week to each wage earner in addition to the £1 a week cost of living increase.

The commissioners in their wisdom refused the reintroduction of the quarterly cost of living adjustments but granted an increase in the basic wage of £1 a week, and on June 11 this year His Excellency the Governor gazetted a proclamation applying the Commonwealth decision to the State awards as from June 22, 1964. The employers' representatives presented a weak case but this was to be expected in view of the buoyant conditions. A matter that gives me grave concern is that the Governments, both State and Commonwealth, do nothing to ensure that wage earners retain their real standard of living. Whilst the wage case I referred to above was before the commissioners this year, there were substantial increases in the consumer price index. For the March quarter of this year the increase was 0.7 per cent and for the June quarter it was 1.3 per cent, and Adelaide had the greatest increase of any capital city in Australia.

Thus South Australia achieves another first under the Playford Administration, namely, first with the price increases. This is in direct contrast to what the honourable member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney) would have us believe, that the Ministry in this State has the "vision and capacity" to overcome its problems and meet the requirements of a rapidly expanding economy. As from the beginning of this month, even further increases have occurred or are proposed. Bus fares have been increased—100 per cent for school children and pensioners on short journeys, and up to 33½ per cent for adult passenger journeys. Meat and vegetable prices have increased substantially and the price of men's haircuts has increased by nearly 10 per cent. The Government is sounding out public opinion in relation to increased water rates, and increased passenger rail fares are imminent.

I have no hesitation in stating that any special cases of exorbitant charges that I have referred to the Prices Department have been handled promptly and efficiently and considerable reductions have been obtained in many instances, but I still believe that many more cases of excessive charging are not brought to light. Members will notice that many of

the increases that I mentioned just recently are governmental or semi-governmental, and I have no doubt that private enterprise will not be slow to follow the Government's lead in this matter. Therefore, I believe a thorough investigation of all prices by a competent committee is vital for the continued advancement of this State. We can achieve advancement, expansion and increased productivity only if the utmost co-operation exists between the employees and the employers, and this can be achieved only if legitimate wage adjustments that have been awarded by Commonwealth arbitration commissioners after due consideration are not immediately swallowed up by price increases.

Members will appreciate the balance I have attempted to achieve in the constitution of the committee I have recommended. The Deputy President of the Industrial Court and Public Service Arbitrator (Judge L. H. Williams) has a wealth of knowledge about industrial negotiations and arbitration and the interrelation of wages and prices, together with wage structures, both State and Commonwealth and I recommend that he should be Chairman of the committee. The Auditor-General (Mr. G. H. P. Jeffery) is a financial investigator of long standing who has given valuable service to this State. Of course, the Prices Commissioner (Mr. E. A. Murphy) is another most efficient public servant, and it is logical that he should be a member of an expert committee to investigate spiralling prices. Further, I believe that the balance of the committee is strengthened by provision being made for a representative from both the Trades and Labor Council and the Chamber of Manufacturers. In view of the indications I have given this afternoon, that price rises in this State are already outstripping the most recent and modest increase in wages, I recommend the adoption of the Address in Reply as amended.

Mr. COURCEL (Torrens): I have not yet had time to consider the amendment suggested by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Ryan: You will support it, though. It has much merit.

Mr. COURCEL: Quite frankly, I do not understand some of the phrases used by the Leader.

Mr. Frank Walsh: That is not my fault.

Mr. COURCEL: I do not suggest for a moment that it is entirely my fault, either. However, it is with pleasure that I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I formally add my congratulations and expressions of loyalty to those already

expressed by other members in this debate, and although my expressions may be brief, they are none the less sincere. I regret the passing of several former colleagues in this House who over the years rendered outstanding service to the State. Indeed, the State is much the poorer for their passing. I congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion on their valuable and informative contributions to the debate. I suggest that some points that they put forward are worthy of consideration by members at their leisure.

The session that concluded in February of this year was unusual in that for the first time, at least since I have been a member of this House, the session was carried into the next calendar year without a formal prorogation, and during that session more than 100 Bills, many of them of major importance, were considered. I suggest that this could well be a record for this House, and that it could well indicate the increased activity in this State and the need for more and more legislative measures to assist and promote the expansion that is taking place.

Mr. Ryan: You agree that the Parliament should meet more often, do you?

Mr. COURCEL: As far as I know, the Government introduced more legislation last year than ever before in one year.

Mr. Ryan: In two sessions!

Mr. COURCEL: As the honourable member well knows, it was the second session of this Parliament. Obviously, it is the Government's policy to introduce legislation to give effect to new laws to keep up with the expansion that is going on and to bring old laws up to date, so that we can advance with the times.

I turn now in this formal debate, as I must, even briefly, to His Excellency's Speech. To my mind, two of its features are outstanding: first, its brevity and, secondly, its certain note of optimism. Although concise, it contains a great deal of information. I consider that in some of the comments made in the Speech there is a certain amount of under-statement. It certainly adequately covers most of the Government's activities in the last year and foreshadows some of the legislation to be introduced for our consideration this session. It contains brief references to some other quite real achievements, which, in my opinion, are under-stated and very modestly set out. At the same time, running right through the Speech—and this is apparent at first glance and is undiminished when one reads it more thoroughly—is a note of quiet and solid confidence in the future. This

has not always been the position. We have some fairly solid achievements behind us in this State which have been built up and finalized and put into operation over the years, and the State appears now to be poised ready to go forward to greater achievements. I suggest that there will be more and more expansion and development of our various State organizations and activities, as well as expansion of many of the activities of the private sector of our community.

It was not very surprising to me and to my colleagues that the Leader of the Opposition had some difficulty in criticizing the Speech, and could hang his argument only on very minor matters. I did hear him flirt somewhat briefly with the subject of the totalizer agency board system of off-course betting and the liquor laws, but once again I should like him to clarify this a little because I was not sure of what he was alluding to exactly in his suggestions, and I should be happy to see some subsequent speaker from the Opposition side outline more precisely what the Leader's suggestions regarding T.A.B. and the licensing laws really meant. I may be a little dense but, frankly, I did not quite follow the Leader's points.

Mr. Ryan: Can you follow the Premier in these matters? Do you know what his policy is?

Mr. COURCE: I cannot deal with the Leader's amendments because I have not had time to consider them, but I shall be interested to hear some of his followers provide more detail. After all, this is a serious subject with which we are all concerned. I will not comment at this stage on the merits of the amendments.

Mr. Ryan: What about telling the Opposition what the Government intends to do on these matters?

Mr. COURCE: The honourable member can find out for himself; he is always boasting that he has his ear pretty close to the ground. I do not know how low he gets to the ground.

Mr. Ryan: I could not get as low as this Government.

Mr. COURCE: I now wish to deal with certain matters which substantiate the claim I make regarding this certain note of confidence in the future. In addition, I will deal with figures that can easily be calculated from information given in the Speech. First, I am sure that my primary producer friends will be delighted that 1963-64 was a record harvest. Once we have a record harvest, it seems that we prosper in other directions also; that is a

natural phenomenon. The news of this record harvest is the best and most welcome news that we can have in a State like South Australia.

The mineral output for the last year, if not a record, is that close to a record that it does not matter, and the Speech refers to certain spectacular increases in various items under the heading of mineral production. In the same paragraph, the discovery of natural gas at Gidgealpa is mentioned. Migration, especially from the United Kingdom, is running at an extremely high level. I know that members are most interested in this matter because, somehow or other, before they get very far, they seem to go through the district that until recently was represented by the former Commonwealth Minister for Immigration (Mr. Downer). I understand that *pro rata* we are receiving more English migrants than any other State, which to my mind indicates the activity that is being offered in this State to attract migrants here. Migrants would not be coming in such numbers if there were not sufficient industrial, commercial and rural activities to attract and retain them. Obviously, there is definite faith in the future amongst the people who come here.

We look at other things such as savings bank deposits, which are the second highest in Australia. We perceive that a record amount is being spent on roads this year. There is almost a record level of Railways Department and Harbors Board revenue. It is shown by the amount of rail mileage being totted up during the year, and the Harbors Board's undertakings once again indicate the increased activity in South Australia, which is something that I know every member of this House is proud to realize is happening. The fact that the rail connection between Broken Hill and Port Pirie is now being built and is actively under way in the matter of stock-piling and the construction of the permanent way is a happy augury for the future. The amount of work that will be available during the construction period not only of the track but also of the rolling stock is pleasing. With the introduction of the direct link we shall have a better rail system. Then will be the time to bring the railway down to Adelaide.

Mr. Ryan: We could not have a much worse one up there, could we?

Mr. COURCE: The honourable member and I join in common thoughts on that. I join with him in saying that we have the abomination of three rail systems in our State. The standardization of the railway between Broken Hill and Port Pirie, which is surely one of

the longest overdue projects, is at last getting under way. I hope that it is completed rapidly.

Mr. Ryan: Next time the Labor Party governs we shall be able officially to open those systems.

Mr. CUMBE: When was the honourable member's Party last a Government?

Mr. Ryan: We shall be in 1965, for your information.

Mr. CUMBE: The Electricity Trust's output is also a record, which is one of the surest signs of an increased standard of living for the average householder and of greater industrial activity in the factories. I know that more and more consumers are being served each year. Taking the metropolitan area for a start, we find that people are using more and more appliances in each house. In the factories electric motors in unit tools are being used more frequently, and in the country not only are more and more houses being connected with electric power but more frequently are houses being equipped with more than one appliance. Householders are adding to their appliances, which indicates immediately a rising standard of living for them. Once again that is something that we are pleased to see happening. The E.T.S.A. output is the greatest it has ever been.

Mr. McKee: Tell us something about the hire-purchase set-up.

Mr. CUMBE: The honourable member can do that.

Mr. McKee: You are talking about a higher standard of living.

Mr. CUMBE: I say that more and more appliances are being bought and put into houses. People do not have to buy them but they can if they wish to. More and more appliances are being used. I suggest that, if the honourable member is talking about television sets, they are not in the same category in power consumption as an electric stove or a two-bar electric fire. And they are not in all houses—especially in the country far away from the towns where people cannot obtain good viewing. The shops are full of electrical appliances. They are being offered to the public and are being bought. It is noticeable that the populace has sufficient money with which at least to put a deposit on these items. Some years ago that was not the case.

I turn now to education. The increase in the number of school children attending our schools is the direct result of more and more people coming to live in this State. The fact

that more and more children are, quite rightly, attending our secondary schools further indicates not only the desire of parents that their children should improve themselves but the parents' ability to send them to secondary schools. We are fast reaching the 200,000 mark in pupils, which is a fair number to be in our schools of all types. We have 54,000 students in our secondary schools. We know how these schools are expanding and of the new courses being introduced. This figure of 54,000 is more than double the figure of seven years ago. This means that the Education Department has to face a terrific problem in providing buildings and staff. I hope this continues. It is a good sign for our community.

Mr. McKee: Could not the Education Department have anticipated this development and provided for it?

Mr. CUMBE: From my connections in another regard, I understand that some expansion was expected and planned for, that the statistical curve has gone up a little more steeply than was anticipated, and that the department has provided as many schools as quickly as possible with the Loan funds available.

Mr. Ryan: I wouldn't say "as quickly as possible". Be careful about that!

Mr. CUMBE: The honourable member does not listen to what I say. I said "as quickly as possible with the Loan funds available". He may be thinking of the Pennington school. Over recent years, more and more high and technical high schools of an increasing standard have been provided. I am in full accord with this programme, as I am sure every member is. It is pleasing to note the announcement in this morning's newspaper of the extension of Leaving Honours courses to further high schools. The introduction (I believe in 1965-66) of the new matriculation courses will add to the problems of the Education Department and possibly we shall experience an even greater number of students remaining at secondary schools. The number of children now attending these schools is a record, not only because of natural increase in population and the effect of migration but because parents desire their children to stay at school longer to improve their educational standards. That is a fine and laudable object, with which I thoroughly agree. It reflects a certain increase in either affluence or the standard of living of the community, a state of affairs that I know we all welcome.

Mr. Ryan: Would not statistics be available for at least the next five

years' attendances in primary and secondary schools?

Mr. COUMBE: I believe the curves are fairly accurate now. I have seen some prepared for tertiary education to university level and the Institute of Technology level.

Mr. Ryan: How far ahead?

Mr. COUMBE: I cannot answer that exactly but I know that it would be five, six, or seven years ahead. The department is doing a remarkable job in forecasting the trend of increases in school pupils. I commend the department on the quality of the schools that are now being proposed to the Public Works Committee. Many of these are coming into operation year after year and are first-class schools.

Last year I dealt with the employment position in detail and I do not intend to be so tedious today. However, the present position is that far more vacancies now exist than there are people offering for skilled work. This can be borne out by looking at the *Advertiser* each day where column after column and, in some cases, page after page are devoted to situations vacant. Far more jobs are now available than has been the case in recent years and there are fewer and fewer tradesmen offering for these positions. I referred to this matter last year and now the position seems to be becoming more and more aggravated. The increase in the number of workers in this State is higher than the average intake for the whole of the Commonwealth. It is rather interesting that the average number of workers is increasing but that a very low level is now seeking unemployment benefits. It may well be that we are reaching the level of those who are either unemployable or unwilling to work.

Mr. Ryan: Is there an increase in the number of apprentices to correspond with the number of tradesmen?

Mr. COUMBE: I have not had an opportunity to check that and the only reference in the Governor's Speech is that there is a 25 per cent increase. I do not know what categories they are in. That is rather important, but it is too early to see what is happening as a result of the suggestion put forward by the Hon. Mr. McMahon in the Commonwealth sphere. His proposed system of apprenticeship training was accepted by one section of the community and not by another. I am pleased to see that there is to be another conference of the trade unions. I understand that they did not agree to the proposal, but that it was agreed to by the employers' organizations. I believe that this plan was an intelligent attempt to

get over some of these problems and I hope that, in the interests of the community, the trade union movement will give deep consideration to the scheme. It may or may not work, but it has some merit.

Mr. Ryan: In other words, in your opinion if the trade union movement does not accept the plan it is wrong.

Mr. COUMBE: I am not saying that, and do not imagine for a moment that everything I am saying is opposed to the trade union movement. However, I regret that the trade union movement did not agree to the proposal.

Mr. Ryan: That is vastly different from what you said in the first instance.

Mr. COUMBE: I think this is a project well worth going on with. An interesting feature of the financial aspects of the Governor's Speech is that where we expected a deficit in the Budget the final result will be a surplus. A deficit is not turned to a surplus unless things are fairly right in the community. I have already mentioned that the Railways Department and the Harbors Board have had increased revenue and that other departments are working at high levels on the income side. However, it is rather significant that not all of the large public buildings and undertakings that the Government wishes to proceed with and for which money has been voted, have been completed or the whole of the money spent.

Mr. Ryan: Wouldn't that have created a surplus in itself?

Mr. COUMBE: I am saying that that is part of it. On the one hand revenue is up and on the other all allocations have not been spent. Why can't they be spent? I suggest that one reason why many of these larger public buildings and undertakings were not gone on with is that the private contractors and master builders who were to do the work were so busy with other work that they could not undertake some of these contracts.

Mr. Ryan: How could they offer to work if the tender is not available?

Mr. COUMBE: I cannot quite follow what the honourable member means, but I know that all these big undertakings go to tender and that any reputable person is able to tender for them.

Mr. Ryan: They cannot tender for something that is not offered for tender, and that is what is happening in your words.

Mr. COUMBE: Quite frankly, the honourable member amazes me and I must wait with eagerness for him to expound his line of thought when he comes to speak.

Mr. Ryan: I will enlighten your mind.

Mr. COUMBE: I shall be delighted to be enlightened. Such a rush of work is offering to many of the larger master builders and contractors that obviously many of these contracts are not completed during the financial year. If some of the large public works I have referred to are examined, the volume of work offering can be seen. At the moment a record number of houses and flats are being built throughout the country and this takes care of the vital home-building section, including the Housing Trust. Over the last year or so it has been amazing to see the trend towards home units and suburban flats. This is a phenomenon that is increasing rapidly, month by month, and which, in some circumstances, I have suggested and recommended in the past.

The Torrens Island powerhouse is one larger public work that is a Government undertaking. The Chowilla dam is proceeding; the Kangaroo Creek reservoir and large scenic road are well under way. The duplication of the Morgan-Whyalla main has been held up for inquiry on whether the main shall go under the gulf at Port Augusta, but this action has now been approved. Then there is the very large undertaking by the Government in health services—the rebuilding of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, which is a major undertaking to cost about £9,000,000. Many fairly substantial buildings are being erected in the City of Adelaide, including the new Commonwealth Reserve Bank on the corner of Victoria Square and Flinders Street. That is a major undertaking in itself. In my district that rather prominent hotel on the brow of the hill is now being enlarged. Multi-storey buildings are being erected on the banks of the River Torrens. These are just a few of the major projects that are proceeding.

On the subject of expansion and confidence in the future, it was pleasing to read this week about the letting of a £9,000,000 contract at Whyalla to build two ships which I understand will be the largest ever built in Australia. This was a wonderful compliment to the people of Whyalla, not only the management and designers but the men who build the ships. This places Whyalla in what might be called the "boom town" category, and definitely ensures its future expansion; it also ensures adequate employment for many years. I know that the honourable member who represents Whyalla was very pleased about this contract.

As a result of the things I have mentioned, the standard of living in this State is definitely rising. Not only is there a record number of

motor vehicle registrations but the number of cars per capita has reached a remarkably high figure. Apparently the two-car family is a growing trend. This may or may not be a good thing, but the numbers of cars and radio sets being used per capita in this State constitute an all-time record.

Mr. Ryan: I wish you were an advocate in the court recently.

Mr. COUMBE: My name is not Hawke, but I could probably have done very well. The confidence I have been speaking about was shown clearly last year throughout the whole of Australia when the last Commonwealth election, which resulted in a sweeping victory for the Liberal Government, was held. The result showed the confidence of the Australian public in the progressive Liberal policy that was enunciated in contrast to the rather nebulous alternative offered. The election figures reflected this confidence; before the election the Government had a majority of only one, but after it had a very large majority. If members opposite want to get closer to home, I ask them how Mr. Bolte fared last month in Victoria. Was he defeated? No, he was re-elected.

Mr. Ryan: With a reduced majority.

Mr. COUMBE: He was re-elected because he enunciated Liberal Party policy. The Commonwealth Liberal Party won an outstanding victory last November and ever since this wave of confidence has been sweeping through this country in general, and this State in particular. It was emphasized only last month in Victoria when Mr. Bolte won an outstanding victory. In South Australia there is a mounting confidence in the future and in the ability of this Government to continue to govern—and to continue to do so after the next election. Now that this State's population has passed 1,000,000, it is time for us to look back and see how this has been achieved. It is pleasing to notice one small facet in the movement of population.

Mr. Clark: Do you think the increase should be reflected in this House?

Mr. COUMBE: That may be up to the honourable member. In the past few years concern has been expressed about the drift of population to the city. Much discussion has taken place in this House in an attempt to see how the drift of young people, especially young girls, to the city seeking employment could be stopped. I think almost two-thirds of this State's population lives in the metropolitan area; the figure was 61.06 per cent in June, 1959.

Mr. Jennings: That does not include Elizabeth.

Mr. CUMBE: I know, and this matter causes considerable concern. I am not comparing the position in this State with that in other States, but I am pleased that recent figures indicate that the upward curve is showing signs of being arrested. The last figure I can obtain shows that the percentage has dropped to 59.2, which is the lowest since 1947. However small the decline has been, there may

be some hope that the drift to the city has been arrested. The rapid expansion of Whyalla, Mount Gambier and other places has had some bearing on the downward trend, and I hope this will continue. I ask leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.9 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, July 30, at 2 p.m.