

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

Wednesday, August 19, 1964.

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

**QUESTIONS.****PRICES.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH: During the debate on the Prices Bill last session I moved that a manufacturer or wholesale trader should not sell or offer for sale to any trader any goods (whether declared or not) upon condition either of the sale by retail of those goods by the retail trader at a minimum price or of the membership by the retail trader of any trade association or group. The Premier said he would obtain a report on this matter from the Prices Commissioner and forward a copy to me. Has he been able to obtain that report?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I must confess that I have no immediate recollection of the report, but I will investigate the matter and inform the Leader as soon as possible.

**POTATO MARKETING.**

Mr. SHANNON: The producer section of the potato industry has been seeking from the Minister of Agriculture some change in the boundaries of the districts from which members of the Potato Board are elected to represent the producers. Has the Minister had time to examine this proposal, and, if he has examined it, does he propose to take action in the matter?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: One organization approached me about the inequality of producer representation on the board and made a suggestion, which was examined. Under the Act it is within my authority to alter the boundaries. The suggestions were in some respects obviously not satisfactory, although they may well have been an improvement on the present position. For the present I have acknowledged that the position is not completely satisfactory, and I am examining the question of future new districts. The next election for members of the Potato Board will take place some time before June 30 next year and I am saying that if any alteration is to be made it will be made in time for that election. I have drafted letters not only to the organization that suggested the change but to several other producer organizations that were also involved and interested in the potato industry, asking them, if they wished, to give me any views

they might have. Those letters will probably be posted tomorrow. However, some time before the next change in the board, I am hopeful that the position will be improved.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**

Mr. HUGHES: I understand that earlier this year a report appeared in the Queensland press that a new highly dangerous type of tuberculosis had been found in Queensland and Western Australia. Will the Premier ask his colleague, the Minister of Health, whether information on this matter has been sent to the Minister's department. If it has, can a report be made available on how this type of disease is identified and whether it is highly infectious?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**KALANGADOO PRIMARY SCHOOL.**

Mr. HARDING: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my questions regarding a new primary school at Kalangadoo?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes. The planning of a new primary school for Kalangadoo has been commenced and when plans are completed together with the estimate of cost, approval of funds will be sought to enable construction to proceed. Although it cannot be stated at this stage when the construction of the school will be commenced, the target date for its completion is early 1966.

**ADELAIDE TEACHERS COLLEGE.**

Mrs. STEELE: I understand that recently (in fact, I think it was last week) members of the Public Works Committee visited the newly completed Adelaide Teachers College during their consideration of the project for a new teachers college at Bedford Park. I believe that such an inspection would be of great interest to other members of Parliament. Will the Minister of Education arrange a visit to the new teachers college by members of this House?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Yes, I shall be pleased to do so. The new Adelaide Teachers College cost more than £1,250,000 to construct and it is both a prestige and a utilitarian building of which we may all feel justly proud. Its nearest neighbours are His Excellency the Governor and Lady Bastyan who have watched its growth, from its early foundations, with great interest. Therefore, apart from other considerations, it seems to me altogether fitting that His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Lady Bastyan, should be invited to officially declare the building open. I have done that and they have graciously accepted. The official opening will

take place on Friday, September 25, in the afternoon. It will be followed by a full inspection. Perhaps it would be appropriate if all members of Parliament were invited to join in the proceedings and the inspection. I am grateful to the honourable member for her suggestion, and shall put the plan into effect.

#### TEACHER-LIBRARIANS.

Mr. JENNINGS: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about teacher-librarians?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The first regular course of training for teacher-librarians conducted by this department has been held and the teachers who satisfactorily completed the course have been appointed to schools. The second regular course for teacher-librarians is now in progress and will be completed at the end of this year. Most of the teachers who completed the first course were appointed teacher-librarians in schools, mainly secondary schools, and reports to date indicate that they are doing good work. It is, however, far too early to evaluate the success of this course and the influence which those teachers who completed the course satisfactorily will have on school libraries.

Recently, heads of metropolitan primary schools to which teacher-librarians were appointed were required to forward time tables in respect of their teacher-librarians. Where it was found that they were spending less than half-time in library duties, heads of schools were called to the Education Department for a special meeting at which means were discussed whereby teacher-librarians could be freed from general teaching duties to enable them to spend one-half of their time in library work. It was agreed that unless exceptional circumstances arose this aim could and would be achieved. When the honourable member asked his question recently he did not name the school to which he referred when he said that in one instance the staff was reduced by one teacher because the teacher-librarian was engaged for so long on library work. However, it is true that at one of the Elizabeth schools a teacher-librarian was engaged full-time on library work. Unfortunately, owing to the sudden arrival of a large group of English migrant children at a neighbouring school and the fact that there was no reserve of teachers on which to draw, it was necessary to transfer this teacher from one school to the other and to provide for the teacher to spend half her time in general teaching and the other half only in library work.

#### AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY OFFICERS.

Mr. CURREN: Concern has been expressed at the apparent shortage of agricultural and horticultural advisers in the Department of Agriculture. Can the Minister of Agriculture say how many members of the department's advisory service have left the department in the last three years?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I shall get that information for the honourable member, but I point out that there is a general movement of advisory officers and others into and out of the department, as there would be in many other departments. Last year, when I replied to a question on this matter, I indicated that the movement of administrative staff was greater than the movement of technical officers. The honourable member, who comes from the Upper Murray district, may be interested to know that the strength of the Horticultural Branch in that area has been doubled in the last six years.

#### HOUGHTON SCHOOL RESIDENCE.

Mr. LAUCKE: Can the Minister of Education say when the new residence will be provided for the head teacher of the Houghton school?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The site originally recommended has been inspected by a surveyor of the Public Buildings Department and found to be unsuitable. That department is therefore arranging to take levels of other blocks at Houghton to enable the purchase of suitable land to proceed. The construction of the house will be commenced as soon as a site is obtained. In the meantime, essential maintenance is to be carried out at the present residence. Tenders were called in the *Government Gazette* on August 3 for painting and repairs to the school and residence. The specifications cover essential requirements only at the latter.

#### PORT PIRIE SCHOOLS.

Mr. McKEE: Recently I asked the Minister of Education a question concerning the new Airdale Primary School and the inadequate shelter accommodation and facilities at the Risdon Park Primary School. Has he a reply to that question?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The building of a 12-classroom primary school at Airdale (with library, activity room, shelter shed and other facilities) has been recommended by the Public Works Standing Committee, and working drawings have been completed by the Public Buildings Department. It

is expected that tenders will be called when specifications and bills of quantities have been completed later this year. When the Airdale School is in use, it is expected that 220 to 250 children will transfer from Risdon Park. When this occurs, any improvements that are then deemed necessary at Risdon Park will be recommended. As I think I have told the honourable member earlier, if any minor repairs or improvements can be effected in the meantime, I think they should be, and I will use every endeavour to see that they are.

#### FISHERMAN'S BAY.

Mr. HALL: The Minister of Works is probably aware of the protracted negotiations that have taken place concerning a proposed water supply for Fisherman's Bay. This matter has been greatly complicated by the fact that most of about 250 holiday houses and shacks there are on private land owned by one family, and the Fisherman's Bay waterfront is outside the water district. It seems that the simplest way to obtain water would be for the Engineering & Water Supply Department to lay a main, if it could. The return from rate revenue against the capital expenditure involved would be high and, of course, acceptable to the department. If Fisherman's Bay were included in the adjacent water district, no doubt negotiations could be concluded successfully. Can the Minister of Works say what steps should be taken to bring an area into a water district?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The procedure necessary to incorporate any part of the State within a water area is simple. A proclamation to that effect must be signed by His Excellency in Executive Council, with the area carefully defined. I think the real difficulty at Fisherman's Bay is not the question of whether it is within a water district or not. As the honourable member has mentioned, the real difficulty is that most of the shacks are on private property and therefore any rates levied by the department on any properties or shacks on the sites there become a charge upon the land; that provision is part and parcel of the Waterworks Act. Irrespective of who the occupier or owner or lessee of the land in question may be, ultimately the charge for water rates rests upon the land. Therefore, in this case the land, regardless of whether the owner had leased portions of it to people for the purpose of erecting a shack, would ultimately bear the cost of the rate. It becomes a question then of who is to endeavour to

collect the rates and what happens when rates are not paid. In the latter event, the only redress the department has is to charge the land with the unpaid rates and, in any case, with the rates that are due to be paid. That is one of the real difficulties in this question. If the land were surveyed into separate sites and the lessees became the owners of those sites, with a title to them, then the department would have no difficulty in levying and collecting the rates from the people who incurred the cost. The other difficulty is that the honourable member's proposal would require a substantial quantity of water. As I understand it, the mains that lead in the direction of Fisherman's Bay are inadequate to provide the necessary quantity, and a re-organization of the mains leading to the nearest point and continuing from there would involve substantial expenditure. As I have not seen this docket for some time, I will examine it and refresh my memory on the matter. If I can obtain further information for the honourable member I shall let him have it.

#### PHOSPHATE ROCK.

Mr. HARDING: Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether there has been a marked increase in the use of superphosphate in South Australia since the subsidy of £3 a ton was announced by the Commonwealth Government?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The honourable member asked me this question some time ago. I have not yet obtained the exact figures, but I shall do so as soon as possible. The honourable member also asked earlier whether deposits of phosphate had been found near Rum Jungle. I wrote to the Minister for Primary Industry and have now received a reply, the relevant portion of which states:

Whilst detailed investigations of the deposit discovered in the Rum Jungle region of the Northern Territory have not yet been completed, the results to date indicate that the deposit is small, of low grade and not suitable for use in existing phosphate manufacturing plants. Since the discovery of the Rum Jungle deposit, no other worthwhile deposits have been found. In view of the special importance of phosphatic fertilizing materials to Australia's primary industries, the Government is considering the question of accelerating the search for phosphate rock deposits on the Australian mainland.

#### PORT PIRIE WHARVES.

Mr. McKEE: The Minister of Works indicated to me yesterday that today he might be able to say when work was likely to commence on the construction of the new wharf at Port Pirie for the Broken Hill Associated

Smelters Proprietary Limited. Has he that information now?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Public Works Committee has reported on this matter, and the General Manager of the Harbors Board has sent to me a recommendation regarding it. I was hopeful yesterday, when I spoke to the honourable member, that I could bring the matter before Cabinet this morning, but owing to unforeseen circumstances I was not able to do that. I confidently expect that the matter will be dealt with by Cabinet shortly and that approval will be given. I do not expect any interruption concerning the work force at Port Pirie: I think they will be able to go straight ahead from the one project to the next without interruption.

#### MIGRANT'S LUGGAGE.

Mr. McANANEY: A week ago I sponsored a British migrant farm worker and secured a job for him at Bordertown. His household goods and other possessions were unloaded from the ship on a Wednesday night and he was assured that that luggage would be put on the train for Bordertown on the Monday. I took this person down to the position I had secured for him, but his luggage did not arrive until the Wednesday and he and his four young children had to spend two nights in a house without any of their luggage or equipment. I understand from other British migrants that most of them experienced delays such as this. Will the Premier approach the responsible authorities to see whether this trouble can be remedied?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes, I will take the matter up and see whether the problem can be solved. Delays may result from a number of causes, and sometimes the delay does not occur in this State. I will have the matter examined and bring down a report for the honourable member.

#### PORT BROUGHTON SCHOOL.

Mr. HALL: The headmaster's residence at the Port Broughton school has been in a sub-standard state for a number of years. I believe that tenders were called some months ago with the object of building a new residence at this school. I believe also that those tenders were not accepted for some reason and the matter of the Port Broughton schoolhouse is still being considered in some way by the Education Department. Will the Minister of Education ascertain why the house building at Port Broughton is not being continued?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: I shall be pleased to do so. I am sorry the matter has not been proceeded with because I believe it is essential that our teaching staff, particularly in the country, should be contented and properly housed. However, when tenders are called for an isolated building, the tenders are too high because sometimes local contractors are not keen to do the work. I do not have the information at hand, but I shall get it and inform the honourable member.

#### TEROWIE WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. CASEY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question regarding a permanent water supply for the township of Terowie? I understand that he has information about this problem.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I think perhaps the honourable member has presumed something that is not correct. I have no new information for him on the water supply for Terowie that takes the matter much further than it has remained for some time. The Engineer-in-Chief, for various reasons of which I think the honourable member is aware, has been unable to frame a recommendation to me for a supply for the town. I know that over a period of years during the time when the late Mr. O'Halloran was the member for the district, representations were made and much thought has been given to this proposal. However, so far there does not seem to be any ready solution to it. The honourable member himself has been good enough to suggest from the resources of his own ingenious mind various ways of overcoming the problem, but so far the Engineer-in-Chief does not seem favourably impressed with the alternatives suggested. However, this matter is constantly before me and if any light shines through the present rather dim gloom, I shall be pleased to confer again and see whether something can be done.

#### KANGAROO MEAT.

Mrs. STEELE: There seems to be doubt regarding the sale of kangaroo meat for use as pet food. I have recently observed in several supermarkets that kangaroo meat is being displayed near (in fact in the same refrigerator as) meat sold for human consumption. I believe that that is contrary to section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act. Will the Premier ask the Minister of Health to obtain a report from the officers of his department with a view to rectifying this position?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION: MANNUM.

Mr. BYWATERS: I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr. BYWATERS: This morning's *Advertiser* contained the following report:

Mr. Bywaters said "green slime" from septic tank effluent was flowing in the main street in Mannum near a school.

What I actually said, according to *Hansard*, was:

I visited Mannum and was appalled to see a green slime running down the gutters from the disposal of effluent. That is not healthy; in one case it was close to the school, and that is worse.

What concerns me is that residents of Mannum reading this article will get the wrong impression of what I said. The septic tank effluent is not in the main street, but some distance from it. As Mannum is an attractive town with great tourist potential, this misreporting could adversely affect that potential. I ask that this error be corrected by those concerned.

CITY OF ADELAIDE BY-LAW:  
NEWSPAPERS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (Mitcham): I move:

That By-law No. 12 of the Corporation of the City of Adelaide, in respect of newspapers, made on June 24, 1963, and laid on the table of this House on June 10, 1964, be disallowed. I can be brief in explaining this motion. The object of the by-law, which is lying on the table of the House, is to reduce the age at which boys may be licensed to sell newspapers in the streets of the City of Adelaide. At present the lower age limit is 14.

Mr. Bywaters: That is low enough.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Thank you, but the Town Clerk of the City of Adelaide (Mr. Veale) may allow a boy of 13 to sell papers if he thinks that the individual boy, after seeing him, should be allowed to do so. However, we were told in evidence by Mr. Veale that such a licence is restricted to selling after school hours and during school holidays. Some time ago representatives of the *Advertiser* and the *News* approached the Town Clerk and asked that the by-law be amended to reduce the age from 13 to 12 above which the Town Clerk may authorize a boy to be licensed. In other words, under this proposal the age for a licence would remain at 14, but if a boy were over 12 and the Town Clerk thought he was fit and able to sell newspapers without any trouble, then he could be licensed. The only witness from whom evidence was taken on this question was the Town Clerk. He told the committee that

he had been approached by representatives of both papers on the amendment, on the ground that news boys were scarce in the city and hard to get and that, in any case, the difference in maturity between a boy aged 13 and a boy aged 12 was not great. However, in the course of his evidence, Mr. Veale said:

The Adelaide City Council is not particularly concerned about it. That is to say, it would not be disappointed if this committee considered that the amendment should not be made.

Of course, that evidence has been tabled. In other words, I take it that the newspapers (the *Advertiser* and the *News*) approached the City Council for the amendment and the council made the amendment in its by-law, but it does not have any strong feelings on the matter itself. However, the committee does not feel that the amendment would be a wise one. I point out that the trend is for higher and not lower ages for leaving school and getting work and the school leaving age has recently been raised in South Australia from 14 years to 15 years. Incidentally, although Mr. Veale could not tell the committee definitely, he agreed that 14 years, as the age for licensing, was probably originally fixed because it was then the school-leaving age. The members of the committee believe that a change in the other direction, which is what this by-law provides for, would be undesirable and that if any change is to be made (and I think I can interpret the earlier interjections as being along this line) it should be upwards rather than downwards, especially as economic necessity is no longer a strong reason that boys should sell newspapers.

Mr. Hall: Boys have other jobs.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Yes, and that is one of the reasons advanced by representatives of the newspapers for lowering the age. They said that boys of 14 or so could sell Coca-Cola, sandwiches and so on, but were not interested in selling newspapers.

Mr. Shannon: Did they think of increasing their commission a little?

The SPEAKER: Order! There can be only one speech at once. The honourable member for Mitcham!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Interjections are helpful, I think.

The SPEAKER: They are out of order.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: This is a point on which one may have one's own opinion, but the unanimous opinion of the Subordinate Legislation Committee was that, as a matter of principle, the age at which people should be allowed to work should have regard to

the fact that the age at which they leave school is going up rather than down, and to lower the age to allow any boy of 12 to be licensed to sell papers would be a retrograde step. I believe that sums up the position and I move accordingly.

Motion carried.

#### SCHOOL CANTEENS.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): I move:

That in the opinion of this House the Government should continue to provide for payment of electricity and gas used in all departmental school canteens.

As this motion greatly affects the relationship between the Minister of Education and school committees, councils and associated bodies, I think it best to first enumerate their duties as laid down in the legislation. In regard to school committees, regulation 17 provides:

The duties of a committee shall be—

- (a) to exercise a general oversight over the school buildings and grounds, and to report to the Director on the condition thereof when deemed necessary;
- (b) to promote the improvement of the school grounds; the maintenance of school gardens and agricultural plots; the decoration of the school rooms; and the formation of school libraries and museums;
- (c) to assist in providing for the sanitary services of the school;
- (d) to use every endeavour to induce parents to send their children to school regularly;
- (e) to arrange, when necessary, for the suitable board and lodging of the teacher, at reasonable rates, especially when the teacher is a woman;
- (f) to visit the school from time to time, and to stimulate interest on the part of both children and parents;
- (g) to prepare the accounts of the committee for inspection by the district inspector at least once in every financial year;
- (h) to furnish to the Director, whenever required by him, a properly audited statement of receipts and payments.

There are comparable regulations relating to school councils and other bodies, but as the provisions are similar it is not necessary for me to enumerate them in detail. Of course, that which has been proven over the years is that one of the main objects of a school committee is fostering improvement in the school and in the amenities, and this is assisted by general fund raising by the committees which may be subsidized by the Government. Regulation 57 under the Education Act provides "money raised by a committee, council or other approved body may be subsidized at the

rate of pound for pound", and section 6 of the Education Act, in relation to the powers of the Minister provides:

This Act shall be administered by the Minister of Education, who shall have power to do all such matters and things as may be necessary or expedient for the purposes of this Act, and is entrusted with the expenditure, subject to the provisions of this Act, of all moneys provided by Parliament for the purposes of this Act.

This section of the Act leaves no doubt that it is the Minister's sole responsibility for the recent niggardly decision in relation to the non-payment of power costs in school canteens. In broad terms, the Education Department provides only the basic framework such as the land and buildings and pays the salaries of the teachers, but many additional expenses are incurred over and above these. Expenditure on sports and recreation ovals, public address and wireless systems for broadcast lessons, and projectors, are a few examples of essential amenities provided by the parents. These are normally purchased on a 50/50 subsidy basis or similar basis from the Government. Once the equipment is purchased it becomes the property of the Minister of Education but although he accepts the asset it is still the responsibility of the parents for any subsequent maintenance of the equipment. In a reply on this matter of canteen power costs last week, the Minister of Education adopted the rather odious tactic of attempting to shift the responsibility to the Director of Education and the Auditor-General when he said:

The Director also justified his decision on the ground that lack of accountability might encourage irresponsibility because he and the Auditor-General had been concerned over what appeared to be exorbitantly high power bills from some schools with canteens. When the Public Schools Committees Association wrote to me in protest, I considered the whole matter and confirmed the Director's decision.

I shall not elaborate on the powers and duties of the Director of Education at present, for I have already mentioned that the responsibility rests solely with the Minister for this decision. However, the Minister mentioned the Auditor-General by name when replying to a question on this matter last week and, therefore, I would like to clear up a few matters regarding the reports and responsibility of this officer. In his last report to Parliament the Auditor-General drew attention to several unsatisfactory features of educational financial matters, and school funds in particular. Page 57 of his report for 1962-63 contains the following statement:

The Treasurer requested that advice be given to the department by the Auditor-General on the measures necessary for the implementation of proper control over the school funds. This advice was given in September, 1961, but the department has not completed the necessary internal investigation. At some schools, considerable sums are held in school funds which, in terms of the regulations under the Education Act, are under the sole control of the head teacher who alone is responsible.

On page 59 of the same report it states:

In previous reports, comment has been made on the necessity for improved accounting and financial control in this department.

I have said on many occasions that maladministration is rampant in the Education Department, and these comments by the Auditor-General reconcile completely with a promise I made to the people more than two years ago that a Labor Government would appoint a competent committee to inquire into education, and this would have provided the blue-print with which to remedy the evils caused by the inefficiency of this Government. In that campaign, which was overwhelmingly endorsed by the people of South Australia, I also said that the Labor Party would institute a special inquiry into the Education Department to ascertain why we are not receiving value for the colossal sums being spent and it is interesting to note that the Auditor-General said practically the same thing in his report to Parliament last year on page 59:

A thorough investigation of the activities of the Accounting Branch of the department has been long overdue and although the Public Service Commissioner has reviewed some aspects, the standard of work to satisfy audit requirements will not be attained until a full scale investigation is made.

In spite of severe criticism by the Auditor-General on many education matters, nowhere did he say that the payment of canteen power bills by the department was a canker in our society which should be stopped forthwith, which the Minister of Education has attempted to infer during his discussions on this subject. This is one occasion when the Minister cannot side-step. It would have been preferable to remedy some of the major short-comings rather than attempt the pettifogging economy that the Government has done on this occasion. Another trivial approach by the Minister was a matter I referred to in the Address in Reply concerning Forbes school, as a result of which a school inspector was sent to the school with a tape measure to check some approximate distances I had quoted. If I have misled the House in any way I stand to be corrected but, according to *Hansard*, I said that if a child left the

farthest room at the Forbes Primary School to go to the toilet and back he would walk a quarter of a mile. I also said that if the headmaster left his office to go to the farthest room in the school he would also walk a quarter of a mile. However, to ascertain the correct position the Minister sent none other than one of his principal officers to the school to take measurements.

Mr. Clark: An office boy could have done that job.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Yes. This officer went down to the school with a tape measure and it seems that I was 50 yards out in my measurements. The Minister takes the trouble to send a top-ranking officer to take all sorts of measurements, but how much of this expense could go towards financing the power that has to be used in the canteens at our schools? Once again the Minister should have concentrated on the major problems I had raised and not contributed to inefficiency by worrying about minor side-issues. The Auditor-General has referred to extravagant expenditure in some of the school buildings. They may have the appearances of palatial hotels in some instances but, as the Auditor-General has reported, it has been found to be an uneconomic proposition to run some of the schools as designed by the Government with the sanction of the Minister of Education. For example, one school has inefficient power heating installed, which is costing £500 a quarter to heat ten classrooms. I do not know how many canteens would receive power for twelve months!

These are the matters that the Government should remedy immediately, instead of contributing to the destruction of voluntary help in the schools by its dictatorial discontinuance of the payment of canteen power bills. Each year, the Government asks members in this House to pass Expenditure and Loan programmes totalling £100,000,000 or more, containing many items of extravagant expenditure, and yet the Minister of Education has the temerity to quibble over probably a few thousand pounds in this instance! I do not know where the Minister's figures are coming from; all I know is that he has submitted to this House a report on the Glossop High School's cost of electricity, that school being the only one in the State possessing a meter for a canteen. We should not try to mislead people on this matter; it is common knowledge that students of secondary schools generally have more money to spend than those in primary schools.

Mr. Clark: They have pretty healthy appetites too.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Yes, and they need substantial meals which, in fact, they receive at their schools today. In contrast to what should be happening, let us see what has occurred: there has been a cheeseparing directive from an executive Government which penalizes and discourages voluntary helpers on school committees and similar or associated bodies, for the Government has determined that, in future, power bills in canteens are to be paid for from the finance of the parents and friends groups. In addition, if a telephone has been installed in a canteen that canteen pays the telephone bill, as well as for all orders by telephone. Education is a fully co-operative business and, if a child is to achieve a full and balanced education, it is necessary for the parents, in addition to the teachers, to take an interest in children's schoolwork. I have no doubt that teachers greatly appreciate the work done by the various voluntary auxiliaries of the respective schools, and apparently they are more appreciative than is the Minister of Education. What a great satisfaction it is to the head of any school to have sufficient parents and friends who are interested and energetic enough to help their children's school! They should be given the highest praise and the utmost encouragement but, instead, the actions of the Minister of Education have had the effect of dealing a body blow to these people.

Possibly these people will not be so willing in the future if the Government obstructs them at every turn. The Government, instead of hindering, should be encouraging. The services from the canteens also contribute to the health and well-being of the students, because the standard of food from the canteens is high. Hot drinks, foods and soups served are beneficial and particularly pleasing in the winter time. If a person is public-spirited enough to volunteer in the first place, it is doubtful whether there would be any undue waste, as has been suggested by the Minister in his attempt to whitewash the executive control of the State by an unjust criticism of a socially responsible people.

During the year ended December, 1963, the committees, councils and associated bodies raised about £316,000 after much toil and effort, and every £1 of these funds should be readily subsidized by the Government. I might mention that Labor policy in regard to education is for free books and requisites to all schools from primary level to the university but, so long as the present Government remains

in power, it should carry out the existing Act and regulations without quibble. I believe the Minister, with his petty approach, lost sight of the fact that the profits from canteens are being ploughed back into the education system, anyway. The impression gained from the Minister, in his attempt to justify his decision, is that voluntary workers in school canteens have been obtaining some gratuitous hand-out from the Government, but the boot is on the other foot! The Government should feel indeed grateful that parents and friends are public spirited enough to come and help at the school in the first place.

As I said earlier, I believe the action by the Government was petty—petty in the extreme, as well as being a most ill-conceived and ill-considered alteration. As far as I can gather from the current Electricity Trust tariff schedule, and I will refer only to the metropolitan area in this instance (but the same provisions apply to other tariff zones), all schools would come under tariff S (commercial all-purpose) which provides:

Available to hospitals and schools (beginning at the second step of the tariff) and to commercial consumers with an annual consumption of not less than 30,000 kilowatt-hours. No other tariffs except J, P or R are permitted with tariff S.

I would ask members to particularly bear in mind this proviso that is attached to tariff S because I will be referring to it later on.

Pence per  
kwh.

For the first 150 kwh. per month ..	6.5
For the next 1,500 kwh. per month ..	4.3
For the next 45,000 kwh. per month ..	3.1
For all additional consumption .. ..	2.2

Therefore, the initial consumption rate for school electricity is 1,500 kilowatt-hours at 4.3d. a kilowatt-hour. If canteens were to be charged separately for their power they would have to come under tariff A (general lighting) for their general lighting requirements which provides:

Pence per  
kwh.

For the first 500 kwh. per month ..	7.5
For the next 5,000 kwh. per month ..	6.4
For all additional consumption .. ..	4.7

Most of the power is used in refrigeration. I will have more to say about that matter later. They would then come under tariff D (commercial and industrial power) for their power requirements, for which the schedule of charges is as follows:

Pence per  
kwh.

For the first 1,000 kwh. per month ..	4.2
For the next 1,500 kwh. per month ..	2.7
For the next 50,000 kwh. per month ..	2.3
For all additional consumption .. ..	1.95



Thus the canteens will be obliged to pay at higher rates per kwh. under schedules A and D than the department is at present paying under tariff S, but the interesting problem for the Minister of Education will be to ascertain how much extra it will cost his department to operate also under tariffs A and D, for tariff S (commercial all-purpose tariff) has an interesting condition attached to it. The condition is as follows—

and the explanations in brackets are mine:

No other tariffs except J (night water heating), P (industrial all-purpose), or R (farm) are permitted with tariff S (commercial all-purpose).

In addition to the problems associated with the tariff schedules, there is also the matter of the cost of additional meters and possibly additional wiring in the schools for canteen power consumption to be shown separately from ordinary school power consumption. Who is going to pay for this? Will the Minister foot the bill, or will the school auxiliaries have to meet the cost caused by this wasteful expenditure. Another factor lost sight of seems to be that it is only a compensating book entry in the Government accounts from the Education Department to the Electricity Trust. Admittedly, the trust is a semi-governmental body, but in the ultimate it is still Government revenue and Government expenditure. Let us not delude ourselves that this action will save the Government one penny. Instead, it is heaping an injustice upon the voluntary auxiliaries who are doing their utmost to help the Education Department in the training of the children in our community.

The advance in our education system depends on the availability of Loan funds, Revenue funds and the funds raised by school committees and similar bodies. In recent years these have totalled more than £20,000,000 a year, and no matter how the department twists and turns, power costs at schools will have to be met out of these funds. However, the petty approach of the Government on this issue will tend to cause additional unnecessary and wasteful expenditure from funds which could be better used on essential educational pursuits.

If members opposite feel that there is any doubt about their supporting my motion, then I say we should immediately have a Royal Commission into the complete education system in South Australia to overcome the maladministration that is apparent to everybody except the Minister in charge of the department. How many Government members have visited the canteens at the schools in their districts?

Mr. Ryan: Not many.

Mr. Shannon: I have for one.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: The ladies who work in these places are most pleasant and keen to do their utmost for the children. Food is freshly delivered, and is beautifully prepared by the voluntary workers. The dozens of bottles of cool drinks put into the refrigerator are handled not by manual labour but by the ladies, who are doing a terrific job. It would do anybody the world of good to go and see some of the work that is done. If the Minister is in any doubt about the interest in this matter, let him take a census of the gallery this afternoon.

*Interruption from gallery:*

The SPEAKER: Order! There is to be no applause in the gallery. If there is any further applause, I shall have to have the gallery cleared.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I have pleasure in moving that in the opinion of this House the Government should continue to provide for the payment of electricity and gas used in all departmental school canteens.

Mr. HUTCHENS (Hindmarsh): I second the motion. I was delighted to hear the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition. Indeed, I have never heard the Leader speak better, no doubt because he had a remarkably good case this afternoon. I am convinced that the Minister of Education does not lack appreciation of the remarkable work done by school committees and school councils in South Australia; nor do I feel that any member of this House lacks appreciation of the work done by these noble bodies. But, Sir, I feel that the Minister has been ill advised in bringing forward and supporting a recommendation to discontinue the payment by the department of the cost of gas and electricity used in canteens in our departmental schools. To suggest that the unaccountable use of electricity results from its irresponsible use shows conclusively that the person who made these comments has no appreciation of the magnificent service rendered by the people who work in these canteens.

Mr. Clark: They are all housewives, and housewives don't waste electricity.

Mr. HUTCHENS: These people are interested in the welfare not only of the young people but of the people of this State generally, and they are not going to waste one penny to the detriment of the young people they serve day and night, year after year, in a voluntary capacity. I am perturbed about this matter.

I have had long experience as a member of school committees and school councils. Indeed, it would be safe to say that I served for 30 consecutive years in this capacity, and for some time I served on the executive of the South Australian Public Schools Committees Association. We who have served in such a capacity deeply appreciate the work done by those who voluntarily and so willingly serve in our canteens.

Let us see how these canteens started. Their origin was due not to the initiative of the department but to the initiative of people on school councils and committees and the mothers of the scholars at those schools. One reason for establishing these canteens was to raise funds to supply amenities for the children, and another reason was the desire to provide meals for the children. In this way the staff at the schools can be assured that the scholars are at the school and under the supervision of the teaching staff and not out on the highways and byways buying their meals. In this way it is assured that the children are not roaming the district, getting into trouble, and thus causing concern to their parents or teachers. In the past, prior to the establishment of canteens, a grave problem existed for parent and teacher alike and resulted in undesirable delinquency because of the actions of some children during lunch breaks. This scheme has provided lunches of better quality, cheaper and more wholesome for scholars.

Mr. Jennings: Without their having to cross a busy road.

Mr. HUTCHENS: Yes, and without having to eat something detrimental to their teeth and health. What does the Government supply to canteens? This question should be examined. The buildings and fixtures are supplied on a subsidy basis, the school committees having to supply half of the buildings and equipment. They can do this only by untiring efforts. Of course, some equipment, such as bread cutters, pie warmers, ovens, stoves and so on, is subsidized, but in many schools (and this shows the calibre of the people I have mentioned) the department is saved expense because members of the canteen staff solicit the supply of these items at no cost at all to the department. They give a guarantee to a company to supply pies and that company also supplies a pie warmer, which costs the department precisely nothing. The same thing applies to the supply of bread, where the bakery often supplies a bread cutter when the canteen committee guarantees to buy its bread. These committees must find the full cost of all refrigeration

units. Some of these units are used to protect food, drink, ice cream and even to store milk supplied by the Government. That is remarkable! The Government supplies the milk, but the canteen or school committee must supply a refrigerator to keep it fresh.

Mr. Ryan: Would not refrigerators be a necessity today for hygienic purposes?

Mr. HUTCHENS: In a civilized world, of course they are a necessity, but they are provided only by the voluntary and untiring efforts of members of school and canteen committees. As the Leader said, it is necessary for any substantial canteen to have a special telephone service because people in the canteens cannot use the departmental phone to make their orders. They must have a phone and they have to pay for the rent and the call. Even if they use the departmental phone, they still have to pay for the call.

Mr. Ryan: Those fees have gone up, too.

Mr. HUTCHENS: Yes. I want to show the contribution being made by these people, who are interested in the future of South Australia. I want to show the sacrifices they are making. Yet, I submit, they are being discouraged by the recent action of the department. These canteens are run by voluntary organizations. I am glad that one Government member has been along to see them.

Mr. Shannon: I think it is an understatement when you say just one member.

Mr. HUTCHENS: I acknowledge that more than one member has visited these canteens. I know the member for Burnside (Mrs. Steele) is keenly interested in the welfare of young people generally and I give her credit for that. I am sure that she is not the only Government member who has looked at these canteens. The canteen committees are remarkably well organized and are made up from parents and friends associations, welfare clubs and mothers clubs. In some cases headmasters and other representatives of the staff serve on canteen committees. The committees select a chairman, secretary, treasurer and auditors, who are usually parents giving their time voluntarily. Naturally, they are people of more than average ability because they would not be called to serve in these capacities if they were not above average. If they were to use that ability in their own interests and the department was obliged to employ somebody else, the cost would be prohibitive. The department should consider the sacrifices these people make. It is interesting to know how the canteen committees function. They prepare a list of stock to sell, and revise it from time to time. In

some cases, they employ a manageress and in other cases a deputy manageress but generally, 99 per cent of these people are voluntary workers. Those that are paid are paid only a small sum—between £5 10s. and £8 a week. They are employed from 15 hours to 20 hours a week. Mothers work in the canteens.

Mr. Ryan: Many people who work in a voluntary capacity would not have children at school.

Mr. HUTCHENS: That is an important point. Many of these people have reared their families and could take work and be paid for it, but because they appreciate that the most important thing in Australia today is our young people, they want to see them properly cared for. The committee periodically takes stock to ensure that there is no stealing, pilfering or wastage in the school. All this is done in a most businesslike manner. They prepare monthly balance sheets, statements of expenditure, lists of items that are not selling and of items that are good sellers and so on, and all this is done in the interest of the young people and is of great benefit to South Australia. Generally they meet monthly to ensure that the canteen is being run in a truly businesslike manner. They discuss a suitable menu, providing for cold meals in summer and hot meals in winter. All this is done voluntarily with a view to saving the maximum sum and making available the best supply of food. And yet, there are people who have the audacity to say that these people can be irresponsible. Has anybody ever heard a more ridiculous statement?

Mr. Ryan: Wouldn't statements like that drive the voluntary workers away from the work they are doing?

Mr. HUTCHENS: I do not think anything would drive these people away: they are people of courage and decency and they want to do this job irrespective of how they are treated and whether or not people do the decent thing by them. As the Leader said, the money raised by these organizations is almost astounding. In 1962 school committees and councils raised no less than £287,000; in 1961 over £253,000; in 1960 in excess of £233,000; in 1959 over £215,000; in 1958 over £202,000 and in 1957 in excess of £102,000. These amounts included the money raised by some canteens. This money assists in providing the necessary facilities for a better education for our young people. I consider that little consideration was given to economy when the decision was made about electricity charges. The Leader gave

much detail to show that by using two meters the department would be denied the reduced charge for electricity by using a certain quantity. Canteens will have to pay the higher tariff instead of being charged at a lower rate. This point was ignored by those who made this recommendation.

Those controlling canteens are considering providing different types of a more wholesome luncheon. I appeal to the House to disregard party politics and to think of the welfare of South Australia and the encouragement of our young citizens. We have always said, and rightly so, that we should encourage people who are trying to do the right thing by the State and country. No nobler people can be found than those who serve on school councils and canteens, and they deserve all the encouragement we can give them. They do not deserve to be discouraged, when that discouragement is by way of a false economy and is reducing the money that could be used to advance our education system. Perhaps this system is a non-productive part of our economy, but who can estimate the value of having well educated people and a community that has been provided with all the necessary facilities. I say, with all sincerity, that the most important thing today is to have well educated people if we are going to compete with the rest of the world and hold and maintain the prestige that this country must maintain if we are going to show a lead to our neighbouring Asian countries. This matter should not be considered in a niggardly way but in a broad sense. The decision in this matter should be reconsidered so that we in South Australia may play our role and "advance Australia fair".

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### WEST TORRENS BY-LAW: ZONING.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (Mitcham): I move:

That By-law No. 19 of the Corporation of the City of West Torrens in respect of Zoning, made on November 26, 1963, and laid on the table of this House on June 10, 1964, be disallowed.

This is a zoning by-law providing for the re-zoning of an area in Camden and Plympton from industrial to residential. Perhaps I should describe the area in more detail. It is bounded on the north by Mooringe Avenue, on the east by Fitzroy Avenue, on the south by Penong Avenue, again on the east by Clifton Street, and on the south by Albert Avenue and

on the west by Morphett Road. Representatives of the West Torrens council, who gave evidence to the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation, said that a good part of this area has, in fact, developed as a residential area by the construction within it of houses by the Housing Trust and other developers. Opposition to the by-law was voiced by Mr. Branson (General Secretary of the Chamber of Manufactures) together with representatives of industries that are already established within part of the area.

In particular, one witness was the manager of a company called Camelec, established in the south-western corner of this area. Camelec bought this property after reference to the West Torrens council inquiring whether it was zoned or how it was zoned, and upon the faith of the assurance given by the council that it was, in fact, an industrial area. The other part of Camelec's property is across the road out of the area and actually in a residential zone, and that has caused trouble and friction between it and its neighbours. While no industry has actually been re-zoned in these proposals into a residential area, residential areas will now come right to the boundaries of a number of the industries, notably Camelec. It is feared that this will cause trouble and friction. Evidence was given in support of the by-law by the council to the effect that as houses have been built there the residents should be protected in case small backyard industries, which are noisy and an annoyance to neighbours, should be established. If they are in an industrial area, it would not be possible for the council to control them.

The committee made an inspection of the area in company with Mr. Malvern Stott (Town Clerk of West Torrens council) and Mr. Stuart Hart (Town Planner) and it found, as the evidence previously given had shown, that parts of the area had developed as residential, other parts were occupied by industry, and other parts were still unbuilt on. After the inspection, Mr. Hart gave evidence to the committee to the effect that the council in its re-zoning proposals had not observed the proposals set out by the Town Planning Committee in the development plan. He told the committee that most of the area under consideration to be re-zoned as residential by the council is designated in the development plan as a general industrial area, and he said that in this case his sympathy was with the industrialists who were opposed to the by-law. I think it would be of benefit if I were to

refer to portions of Mr. Hart's evidence which, of course, is on the table for members to see. I refer particularly to the answer he gave to a question by Mr. Jennings, in which he said (at page 15 of the evidence) :

I must admit that in this case my sympathies lie with the industrialist who, according to previous evidence given before the Committee which I have had the opportunity to read, was in the area before the houses were built, and obviously this can give rise to pressures that will eventually cause him to move on ("this" being the amending by-law). I believe that the industrialist is entitled to the same benefits as the resident in the area. The industrialist's area should be protected in the same way as the residential area.

In the plan supplied by the council, within the boundaries I have referred to, three shaded areas are shown; one is marked B and is in the corner bounded by Penong Avenue and Fitzroy Avenue; two others are in the southern part of the area, marked A. At page 16, still in answer to questions by the member for Enfield, Mr. Hart said :

The area marked B is actually shown in the Town Planning Committee's plan as included in the industrial area. Part of the area marked A is actually shown as a living area (a residential area) in the committee's development plan and that part comprises the area bounded by Penong Avenue, Inkerman Avenue, Albert Avenue and Clifton Street. It is a fully built-up square. In other words, the boundary shown on the committee's plan proceeds north along Inkerman Avenue, east along Penong Avenue and north along Fitzroy Avenue. Therefore, the whole of the land to the north-west of that line is shown on the Town Planning Committee's plan as a general industrial zone.

Then I asked Mr. Hart :

So that if the council were to conform to the development plan, only the area between Inkerman Avenue, Clifton Street, Albert Avenue and Penong Avenue would be zoned as residential?

He replied, "Yes." The Hon. Mr. Potter, a member in another place and a member of the Subordinate Legislation Committee, asked :

Of course, the position is that if developers and councils continue to permit this type of development, contrary to the overall town planning divisions, it could completely thwart your committee's zoning?

The answer was "Yes". Then on page 17, again in answer to Mr. Potter, the Town Planner said :

The principles behind this zoning (that is the zoning in the developmental plan of the Town Planning Committee) were based on the existing use of land at the time it was prepared and were given as an indication of the broad zoning that should apply throughout the metropolitan area as a guide to metropolitan councils and as a guide in preparing zones.

The next question was:

Do you suggest to this committee that it should take the long view rather than, perhaps, the short view that the council takes?

The answer was:

I would be very pleased if this committee would consider, in each case, amendment to zoning in relation to this overall policy document which Parliament has accepted, by virtue of its non-rejection, as a major policy document guiding the future development of the metropolitan area.

In other words, it is obvious, I hope, to members that an important issue of principle is involved in this motion, as to whether we should, as a general rule, uphold and endorse the provisions of the developmental plan prepared by the Town Planning Committee, when we consider zoning by-laws made by councils; or whether we should ignore that plan and simply accept and judge on other criteria the worth of any proposals embodied in a by-law.

Mr. Jennings: It would not be long before there was no town plan left.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: That is so; if we did that it would not be long before the town plan certainly had no value at all. It is obvious from that comment that the members of the Subordinate Legislation Committee consider that councils, as a general rule, in the absence of any weighty matters to the contrary in their zoning provisions, should observe the provisions of the developmental plan which has been, by implication at least, already endorsed by Parliament. In this case the members of the committee do not think a sufficiently strong case was made out by the council in support of the amendment to this by-law. There is one area which is fully built up (the one to which the Town Planner referred) which, it is obvious, should be zoned as residential. However, other areas zoned under the developmental plan as industrial should, we believe, in the interest of the plan itself (and also in the interest of the industrialists who have established in the area, and who in many cases operate noisy machinery, and so on) be allowed to remain as industrial. In moving the motion I therefore suggest to the council that it reconsider the matter and zone as residential only that part of the area to which I have just referred, which is shown as residential in the developmental plan. I therefore move accordingly.

Mr. FRED WALSH secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### LOAN ESTIMATES.

In Committee.

(Continued from August 18. Page 491.)

Highways and Local Government, £400,000.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): I commented earlier on what will take place next year with the grade separation of the railway line near Pedlar Creek. A serious bottleneck exists at the junction of Shepherds Hill, South, and Ayliffe Roads. The tenant of the premises at the corner of that junction has now vacated the property. An underground drain has recently been placed in position (presumably with the approval of the Highways Department) as a result of work done by the Chrysler corporation in that area. It will be necessary to remove the electricity and telegraph poles from this corner, and ample room will then exist to carry out a complete reorganization of this junction.

The bus service along Shepherds Hill Road provides an essential service to Blackwood. I know that this year the Highways Department will make money available to the Mitcham corporation for the widening of this road from the roundabout in Blackwood to a point at the entrance to the Blackwood High School. At present the road is unsatisfactory for the bus service, but when widened it will be a better than 60-foot road. Will the Treasurer obtain a report with a view to having the necessary work done this year at the junction of the South Road to which I referred, and will he say whether provision will also be made for a further sum to be allocated for work on Shepherds Hill Road this year?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): As this matter is not included in the Loan Estimates, I cannot give the Leader any information at this stage. The sum of £200,000 provided is for work approved by Parliament last year. I will get a report for the Leader.

Mr. RYAN: Under this heading in the Loan Estimates last year, £10,000 was allocated for initial work on the building of a new Jervois bridge. This work has been approved and is considered by the department handling it to be extremely urgent but, as far as I can see, none of that £10,000 has been spent. It is amazing that, although this money was allocated last year for initial work, no provision has been made this year for the major construction work. What part of the sum allocated

last year has been spent, and why has no allocation been made this year to enable the major work to be proceeded with?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: If the honourable member looks at my explanation of the Loan Estimates he will see that the £200,000 is provided merely to supplement the total funds available to the Highways Department, totalling about £13,000,000. In order to get the maximum Commonwealth grant we have to provide a certain sum from our own resources, and the sum provided is sufficient to enable the Highways Commissioner to get the maximum possible grant under the Commonwealth legislation. No specific bridge is mentioned on this line, nor have we mentioned any other expenditure of the department.

Mr. Ryan: You did last year.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The £10,000 last year probably would not cover the cost of preparing the plans and specifications for the bridge; it was provided last year merely to give formal approval for the work, for it is a technical thing rather than actual provision for the work. I shall be happy to get particulars of the precise programme for the honourable member.

Mr. BYWATERS: My attention has been drawn to a situation existing in Highways Department camps. It appears that in the past the men who live at distant places have worked longer hours on Monday to Thursday in order to depart at about lunchtime on Friday to travel to their homes. I understand, however, that an instruction has now been issued that the men are to work on Fridays until 4.30 p.m. Some are upset about this because they will miss the benefit of getting home early. Will the Treasurer ascertain the reason for the decision? The men would still work their 40 hours a week, but work longer on the other four days.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have no knowledge of the instruction, but it probably arose because it was considered undesirable that the men should work excessively long hours on certain days. I understood the honourable member to say that the men knocked off at mid-day on Fridays. I will ascertain who gave the instruction and the reason for it.

Mr. RICHES: Could there possibly be a review of the sum to be made available from the Loan Estimates for work in this department? At the southern end of the Great Western bridge at Port Augusta all the traffic to the West Coast and Eyre Peninsula has to pass over railway lines and there has been a

spate of accidents at the entrance to the bridge. For more than two years the local corporation has been in touch with the Road Traffic Board, which has agreed to the installation of traffic islands at this point. There was a delay for about 12 months before designs could be prepared because of pressure on the staff.

Last week the Road Traffic Board, which recognizes the need for these islands, stated that no work could be done on this project this financial year because of the shortage of funds and that consideration might be given to the matter in 12 months' time. Port Augusta people feel that some lives may be at stake because of this delay. If sufficient money is not available from ordinary funds to carry out these works, which are so essential for the preservation of human life, I make a plea to the Treasurer that consideration be given to the making of funds available from Loan sources. The department is not backward in informing councils that they should carry out major construction works from Loan funds and that they should use their borrowing powers to the greatest extent to provide essential services. I therefore ask the Treasurer whether the State is really facing such financial stringency that it cannot make money available for the project mentioned so that accidents may be prevented. I should like to hear his comments on whether money could be allocated for this work from Loan funds.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: If the Government were to allocate a larger share of Loan moneys to the Highways Department other departments would be adversely affected. The Loan funds cannot be stretched like elastic because a definite sum for this purpose is fixed by the Loan Council. Therefore, if the Government allocated increased funds to the Highways Department obviously the Loan money available to some other department would have to be reduced. It is something that the Government cannot adjust by taxation or in some other way. I will ascertain the merits or demerits of this matter and inform the honourable member.

Line passed.

Lands, £32,000—passed.

Irrigation and Drainage, £765,000.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: No specific mention has been made in the Loan Estimates of work to be done at Cadell. I understand that the Minister of Irrigation has some information on the matter.

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE (Minister of Irrigation): The money for this work is included in the sum of £19,000 under the heading of "Other town water supplies".

Mr. CURREN: Is provision made for the lining of channels at Chaffey?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: In the Ral Ral Division the lining of the channels is needed urgently and is complementary to the comprehensive drainage scheme recently completed. The sum required is that estimated to complete a section of channels in 1964-65 and represents the first instalment of a plan to line all the earth channels at Ral Ral. An estimate is being prepared by the engineers of the overall requirements and cost. That is part and parcel of the proposal for relining.

Mr. CURREN: Can the Minister say what has been done about the North Berri town water supply?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: Considerable work is planned for enlarging and resiting the town water supply mains to the northern portion of the town of Berri, and to improve pressure on the higher levels. Final estimates have not been received from the engineers, but £30,000 is included for work in 1964-65.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: How is the £19,000 under "Other town water supplies" to be spent?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: I will get that information for the honourable member.

Line passed.

Woods and Forests, £1,100,000.

Mr. HALL: As the lines "Maintenance of existing forests, etc., £185,000" and "Control of Sirex Wasp, £29,000" seem to be running costs, why do these items appear on the Loan Estimates when it was estimated last year, in the consideration of Consolidated Revenue, that £540,000 would go into Consolidated Revenue from the surplus resulting from operations of the department?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: For many years all the Woods and Forests Department's activity was on Loan Account. It was a long-term investment and all receipts were paid in as a reimbursement of the Loan Account. This practice was advantageous to the State because it meant that the forests organization was reaping the benefit of having ploughed back into the organization its profits, which consequently were not taken into account by the Grants Commission. The indebtedness of the forests organization therefore kept decreasing until it became difficult to maintain it in the Loan Account when that account

became insolvent. Consequently, the department has recently been paying a surplus into revenue each year, which is the reason for the profit being credited to general revenue.

It was a conservative form of approach to a profit-making undertaking. It would have been bad financing for a non-profit-making undertaking but, as it was profit-making, I allowed the proposals approved by a predecessor of mine to continue—to the advantage of the department and, ultimately, of the State, because the repayment of those moneys into capital works has affected our quota from the Loan Council.

Line passed.

Railways, £3,000,000.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Although the management and the tradesmen at Islington are efficient, I am concerned about the delay in building the rolling stock for the new Port Pirie service. Is it the result of shortage of materials? If the air-conditioning equipment is to be imported, I realize that the Government has no control over shipping, but I am concerned about the supply of local materials. I understand that two of the new carriages have not even been started. Is this good enough? I believe there should be a continuity in this work. I have been told that unnecessary hold-ups have occurred through shortage of materials. Before the line was placed on these Estimates, I believe that certain plans would have been made and approved. In the workshops there are stores of all materials, and surely there is some control over them. If there is a shortage of steel, is it the fault of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited, or whose fault is it? I believe the personnel at Islington have proved their capabilities, and I want the best possible use made of the railways.

We have no control over labour forces in other countries and, if an undertaking has been given by an overseas firm that it can deliver on a certain date but this undertaking cannot be met because of a delay in shipping, nothing can be done about that, and I cannot criticize. However, are people who control materials in this State and in other States fulfilling orders as quickly as they should? If the employees at the railway workshops are not getting enough raw materials, something must be wrong. If I cannot get information about this matter, I will ask a question on notice. The stores departments should be responsible for seeing that the supply of raw materials is kept up. Will the nine air-conditioned passenger cars to be constructed at a cost of £458,000 be used only on the Port Pirie line or also on suburban lines?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Although, in time of full employment and shortages of materials, contractors tend to lag a little behind in their work, the Railways Department substantially spent the money provided by Parliament last year. The provision for the Railways Department last year was £2,800,000 and the sum paid out was £2,513,818, so there was no substantial falling behind in spending money provided by Parliament. One job may go ahead more quickly than another. In some instances, although an order is placed a long time ahead, certain materials are rolled in a programme and, if that programme is missed by the order, the materials will not be rolled for some time.

The accounts of the Railways Commissioner are extremely well kept, and over a period he keeps within his budget estimates very well. There has been no serious delay with the programme. When Parliament approves of a programme for, say, 11 locomotives for a certain sum, that does not mean that those 11 locomotives will be constructed in a year: it means that tenders will be called and the locomotives will be purchased in rotation as the tenderer can supply them. Although I would have to look at my last year's notes to be certain about this, probably the programme for nine vehicles was approved and work was commenced.

The Loan programme of any department is never completed in one year, but payments are made progressively as work continues. The Commonwealth Government has undertaken two immense standardization programmes and we are collecting enormous quantities of materials for them. Notwithstanding this, the Railways Commissioner has asked for additional money this year, and this sum has been placed on the Loan Estimates.

Mr. HALL: A warning device is needed at the Port Wakefield crossing over the Main North Road. For some years the local authorities have sought warning lights at this busy crossing. No doubt the Railways Department considers that the number of trains daily is too small to warrant such a system of signals. I point out that heavy traffic must stop at the "stop" sign on each side of the crossing. This delays the traffic and does not obviate the danger. I understand that the member for Yorke Peninsula (Mr. Ferguson) is also keen to see warning lights installed. I hope that the Minister of Roads and Railways will pursue this matter and put it high on the priority list.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I believe that warning lights are provided not from the Loan Fund but from the current working expenses of the department in conjunction with the Highways Department. For a long time the Government has been concerned that accidents occasionally occur at crossings, even where there have been warning signs, which is the best method we can provide to prevent accidents. The Minister of Roads and Railways had Cabinet approval to install as many signs as possible. I shall refer the honourable member's specific location to the Minister of Roads for consideration under the programme.

Line passed.

Harbors Board, £1,600,000.

Mr. RYAN: Is the £65,000 sought for land acquisition to provide for general land acquisition or for specific land?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: It is for general land acquisition, not merely for one project.

Mr. HUGHES: The sum of £60,000 is provided for the dredging of the Wallaroo channel. My constituents are pleased with the way the work has proceeded there. Last year £166,000 was made available to enable work to begin at the Wallaroo harbour in deepening berths at the jetty to allow ships of deeper draught to load cargo of a greater tonnage and thus obviate the necessity to proceed to a second port to complete loading with consequent adverse effects upon freight rates and charters. Tenders for deepening the channel and the swinging basin were called early this year, a contract was let to the Westminster Dredging Company, and work in the harbour is proceeding satisfactorily. The sum of £60,000 allocated this year will enable the work to be completed.

Line passed.

Engineering and Water Supply Department, £13,545,000.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: The sum of £129,000 is provided for the Warren water district and I refer particularly to the Manoora-Waterloo, Marrabel and Watervale projects. These three districts all have the same common disadvantage when the economics of water supply are considered. Although the areas concerned receive a relatively good natural rainfall and are, in the main, fertile, the extra costs involved in pumping react to the disadvantage of these towns and districts being given a water service at a reasonable cost. The factors involved in the Marrabel water scheme are typical of the region. They involve pumping water from the Warren trunk main, near Riverton, to Marrabel,



a distance of about seven miles, with a maximum lift of 375ft. The cost of the scheme is estimated at £44,300, of which £36,000 provides for the mains. Expenses of operation, interest and depreciation total £4,310, £860 of which represents operating expenses.

At the ordinary country lands and township rating the annual revenue from this scheme would be £745, which is less than the annual expenses of operation and makes no provision for interest and depreciation at all. Despite the unsatisfactory economics, the Minister offered to proceed with the scheme if the landholders and the townspeople were prepared to pay a 50 per cent rate loading and this they were prepared to do, by an overwhelming majority.

Turning to the line for Manoora-Waterloo, the sum of £1,000 provided in these Estimates would only permit preliminary work to be done, as the present estimated cost of this particular scheme is £89,000. Several years ago, when the Minister of Lands represented this Manoora-Waterloo subdivision, the cost of the proposed scheme then was estimated at over £100,000. Improved present-day techniques of pipe-laying and the substitution of cement asbestos piping for steel piping are among the factors accounting for this reduction. If allowance is made for interest, depreciation and working expenses, at normal country lands and country town rating—as in Yorke Peninsula towns—for Manoora and Waterloo townships, the revenue return on the capital involved in this projected scheme would amount to 1.92 per cent. The Minister has stipulated that the occupiers of country lands must be unanimous in accepting a 50 per cent rate loading for the scheme to be further considered. It is at this point that the scheme now rests. From representations I have made to the landholders in the area it seems that several consider that they have made adequate provision for water storage on their properties and are not prepared to support an Engineering and Water Supply Department service at a loaded rating. Most concede that the townships of Manoora and Waterloo urgently need a water service, but they think it unfair that the townspeople should be asked to pay normal rates while they are required to pay a 50 per cent loading. As the Minister has stressed that unanimity must be reached among all the potential ratepayers in the Manoora-Waterloo scheme, an impasse has been reached. I hope that the Minister will consider adjusting the rate loading so that negotiations may continue.

Under the Warren water reticulation scheme is a further provision for Watervale. As members may know, the water service projected for Watervale is a restricted service from a bore supply. It is reasonable to expect that a high rainfall district like Watervale should have a good underground water supply. The boring programme has been done over a protracted period, and up to the present the Mines Department bores have been failures, either because the output volume of water from the bores was not great enough or the salinity was greater than the accepted minimum. Following a recent deputation from the Upper Wakefield District Council, the Minister offered to try yet another bore site, and if that also proved a failure then he would request the Engineer-in-Chief to investigate the possibility of reticulating water from the Warren trunk main near Auburn, northward to Watervale. The deputation pointed out that the district around Watervale and to the south of the town at (Leasingham) is being subdivided and developed as vineyards with an increasing number of small landholders requiring a reticulated water service. I appreciate the provision made in the Loan Estimates for these water schemes.

Mr. LAUCKE: Has the Treasurer details of the expenditure of £80,000 on the Modbury water supply project?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I will obtain the precise details of that work and hope to have them for the honourable member next Tuesday.

Line passed.

Public Buildings, £10,650,000.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: The sum of £87,000 is provided for alterations and additions to the Parkside Mental Hospital. Are new buildings likely to be built at the hospital?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This sum is provided for steam heating of wards, drainage and improvement to court yards, addition to nurses home, nurses training school, drainage of a creek, and a new chapel.

Mr. HEASLIP: Three years ago the police quarters at Wirrabara were condemned and the officer transferred elsewhere. Since then the officer from Laura has served both districts, but the irregularity of his visits cause the local people inconvenience. Does the Government intend to replace this building and ultimately to transfer an officer to Wirrabara.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I presume that this will be done, but I shall obtain the necessary information and inform the honourable member.

Mr. COURCE: I understand that delay has occurred in obtaining suitable tenders for the specialized equipment to be installed in the group laundry to be built at Northfield. Can the Treasurer say whether tenders have been let for this equipment, and whether there will be delay in completing the building?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: As far as I know, tenders for this equipment have been let and the machinery should arrive on time. An argument occurred about the type of plant to be installed. The base plant had to come from overseas but a different plant was obtainable locally. However, no problem now exists about the equipment and the project should be completed on time.

Mr. DUNSTAN: The Treasurer did not disclose that anything was going to be done about the section of Parkside Mental Hospital where, at the moment, people are living in what can only be called dire distress, much to the distress not only of the unfortunate inmates but also of their relatives and of the staff. I do not know how recently the Treasurer has looked at the quarters in which the people who are medically termed "idiots" are living, but if he were to look at the section in which juvenile male idiots are housed he would find that the ward was such that these people are having to be exercised in an open yard. In the winter time they have to be bathed before they are put to bed, the bathroom often being an open porch. They cannot be undressed inside the ward itself because this soils the ward, and they are therefore undressed in an open porch in the bitterest of cold weather. The staff there has done a remarkable job in a place that was designed before any enlightenment existed as to the treatment of mental diseases.

I am distressed that the £87,000 does not provide for any immediate relief of the problem. Some of the geriatric cases are housed in buildings that seem to have been built at a time when people regarded psychiatric patients as prisoners, and the rooms are little more than gaol cells. The older buildings which the Treasurer some time ago said were to be demolished are still there in all their Gothic inadequacy, and in the permanent part of the hospital the conditions remain something for us to be thoroughly ashamed of.

Another matter concerning me is that there is a complete failure under the line "Hospital buildings" to provide for senile patients. I do not know whether all members realize that when people suffer from disease in declining years, unless a sudden turn in the disease

occurs which can be treated, they are not eligible for Commonwealth hospital benefit, even though insured. They are the people who most need assistance in this community from Commonwealth medical benefits.

An old lady in my district, through a series of illnesses as a result of declining years, has now become incontinent and unable to care for herself. Her daughter cannot now look after. This old lady could not afford the sort of assistance provided in non-governmental hospitals. Her family contacted me and I, in turn, contacted the Superintendent of the Royal Adelaide Hospital and asked whether something could be done. He suggested that I try two alternatives: one was the Home for Incurables and the other was the Old Folks' Home at Magill, under the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board. I was told in each case that they had a long waiting list of urgent cases and, until somebody died in one of those institutions, there was no possibility of admitting even the most urgent cases—and many urgent cases were waiting. A doctor in my district who has many of these cases on his hands wrote a letter to the Superintendent of Northfield Mental Hospital recommending admission urgently, but the case was referred to the almoner, who said that this case was not within the policy of the hospital regarding admission. This family is desperately trying to find a place where this poor old lady can be looked after.

This is not an isolated case, and it is the kind of thing about which Dr. Birch was warning members a decade ago. The Labor Party has drawn attention to it constantly and the Government has merely said that it would assist with infirmaries for old people by giving subsidies to old folks' homes. That is quite inadequate to cope with this need, for the infirmaries provided at old folks' homes do not cater for people outside those homes. There is absolutely no provision in the Estimates for adequate State infirmaries, which are what we need.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Had the honourable member been listening to the presentation of the Loan Estimates he would have heard my explanation of this problem. Over a long period the Premiers have sought some alleviation of the Commonwealth policy in this matter of granting no assistance to a person who becomes an inmate of a mental institution.

Mr. Dunstan: Many of these people are not mental patients at all.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I realize there is a difference between a mental case and many of those who are placed in mental hospitals because of the lack of other accommodation, but it is a fine distinction. For the benefit of the honourable member, I repeat what I said when introducing these Loan Estimates:

The Government has submitted to the Public Works Committee a proposal for the erection of a new hospital and training centre at Northfield for the care and treatment of intellectually retarded patients. The scheme is estimated to cost approximately £3,250,000. Subject to a favourable report from the committee, every effort will be made to provide funds to enable preliminary work to commence this year.

The Commonwealth Government has told us that if we establish a hospital separately from a mental institution and with some other name it will still pay pensions and benefits, but that if we call such an institution a mental hospital it will not. Honourable members will realize that until the Public Works Committee has reported on the project (thus relieving the Government of its legal obligation) it cannot be provided for in these Loan Estimates and we cannot undertake the work in the ordinary way. As soon as the committee brings down a report, provision will be made for the project under the Public Finance Act, even though no amount is provided on the Loan Estimates. From the State's point of view, it is preferable for a person to enter a hospital for the retarded rather than a mental hospital, for a person cannot get Commonwealth benefits or a pension while he is in a mental institution.

Mr. Casey: Even though these people are not mentally retarded but merely elderly, they will still be able to go into this new hospital?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: It is very difficult to determine offhand the category into which any patient will fall. Incidentally one State, to overcome this Commonwealth benefits problem, has put some of its mental patients in the general hospital. However, I do not believe that any responsible medical opinion would support the mixing of patients in that way. I doubt very much whether the action taken in Queensland would be considered a good solution to this problem. What we propose is a hospital that will deal with what might be regarded as intermediate cases, rather than completely mentally ill people.

We have recently purchased at least one and possibly two properties to provide for the reception of people discharged from the mental hospitals. On their transfer to such places

those patients will get some attention during the period that they will need to readjust themselves to normal living conditions, and while there they will qualify for full Commonwealth benefits, as do the patients at the Northfield wards of the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I notice that, under "Other Government Buildings", £12,000 is allotted for additions to the Cadell training centre. Can the Treasurer give any details?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No. I understand that the settlement is operating successfully and I presume the amount is for an expanding programme.

Mr. CURREN: Has any provision been made in these Estimates for an Upper Murray Adult Education Centre? It was announced some time ago that approval had been given for the commencement of this work, but I can see no reference to it in these Estimates.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Frequently after approval has been given for a project a considerable time elapses before plans and specifications are available. I will check on the matter raised by the honourable member.

Mr. SHANNON: During the debate on this line mention has been made of the Public Works Committee and I, therefore, want to clear up one or two points raised regarding its investigations, especially into major proposals. Evidence at this stage on the Strathmont project suggests that this is the first occasion in Australia where such a scheme has been envisaged for treatment in connection with mental health. It is not easy for the committee to put the rubber stamp of approval on a recommendation by the Public Buildings Department without some investigation. Everyone expects the committee to do its work thoroughly, and that is the way in which it approaches all projects. Site work alone on this scheme will cost about £500,000. It will be situated on an area of 105 acres and will make an ideal village. Five houses are required for the resident personnel and the cost is listed at more than £50,000, not including any cost for the land. Therefore, these houses will cost between £10,000 and £11,000 each, and I imagine they will be of the Toorak standard. Whether or not it is desirable to spend public money as lavishly as that, I have some doubts. I do not know whether the chalets or small group houses proposed are of the same lavish standard, but I suspect that they could be. Desirable as the project is, whether the Government should spend such a large sum, or whether it could spend the

money more wisely and get more for it without in any way reducing the effectiveness of the work to be done in this institution, is a most important question.

The Public Works Committee has been warned that a project for a similar type of treatment is required at a site south of Adelaide, and I believe that the terrain there will permit the use of almost the same design as for Strathmont. Even if that is so, the Government will be faced with another expenditure of about £3,000,000. Therefore, we do not want to make a mistake with the first project. Whatever the committee approves at Strathmont, it will have valid reasons for its decision on what is proposed for a similar project south of Adelaide. The committee has already taken evidence from Dr. Cramond (Director of Mental Health) and the Public Buildings Department and an inspection has been made of the Strathmont site. The committee is seeking further evidence, but it is hard to find people, well versed in this type of undertaking, to give evidence as a guide. It means that the committee will have to use common sense in its approach.

There was the earlier famous occasion when the committee got into strife with certain professional people in relation to the design for the Royal Adelaide Hospital. In that regard the committee was able to recommend a scheme resulting in the cost being reduced by almost 50 per cent without disadvantage to the institution and without reducing any of the operational requirements that were put before the committee in the first instance. I do not suggest that the committee can perform such miracles every time; in this instance I do not know that it was a miracle, but that it was more a matter of common sense being used by our Public Buildings Department. I do not claim any credit for the committee at all; except that its members were frightened by the overall cost. Therefore, that factor urged the committee to be cautious on the Strathmont project now before it. The Government does not expect the committee to skim through its work when large amounts of public money are involved, and I do not think the Government will press the committee to come to a decision without thoroughly investigating a project. If any member of Parliament should become irked about the committee's slowness sometimes in coming to a decision—it has been charged with this on occasions—I would ask him to try to find out

how its work is done. I think it would then be agreed that there is no undue delay in its investigations.

The member for Norwood had something to say about the unsatisfactory state of affairs at the Parkside Mental Hospital. In the circumstances it could not be otherwise, but Dr. Cramond has done something in that field. The completion of the work at Strathmont will give major relief to Parkside. This is highly desirable, because it will take from Parkside the mentally retarded people who have no right to be in a mental hospital. Such people cannot be cured, but many of them can be trained. Dr. Cramond has explained to the committee that a small percentage of them could be sufficiently trained to enable them to return to civilian life and to perform simple tasks in order to get a living. I want there to be no misunderstanding about how the Public Works Committee goes about investigating something that is an entirely new field for the State. We could not expect Dr. Cramond to criticize his own project. It is our duty as a committee to try to save money.

Mr. HUGHES: Under the item "Prefabricated buildings as required, £600,000", I refer to the erection of prefabricated classrooms, the interiors of which are more attractive than the rooms at many solid construction schools. However, an effective heating system is needed before the classroom is occupied. No doubt many schools are thus provided when constructed, but not all. A triple unit erected at the Kadina Memorial High School in 1963 has been used through these winter months. On being told that the rooms were without heat, the department suggested that three single-bar electric heaters be lent to the school pending the installation of an oil heating system next October. We all know the effect of a single-bar heater in a prefabricated classroom. If the oil heating system is not installed this year, the rooms next year will still be without an efficient system. I suggest that in future this type of school building be provided with suitable heating, either when under construction or before occupation by the students.

Mr. LAUCKE: I refer to the item "Agricultural College—alterations and additions, £27,000". I commend the Minister of Agriculture on the greatly improved conditions at Roseworthy College and pay a tribute to the excellent work of the council and the Principal (Mr. Herriot) in inculcating into the students a spirit of pride. This money for improvements at Roseworthy will be of real

benefit to the students, enabling them to do their studies better and to take a greater interest in their work, the buildings and the general setting of the college. South Australia is selling its semi-hard wheats easily on overseas markets because of the quality of the wheats bred at Roseworthy, which is indeed a major asset to South Australia. We are not only assisting the college but are performing a national service.

Mr. DUNSTAN: I was surprised, though perhaps I should not have been, to hear the Treasurer condemn me for lack of attention to the Loan Estimates. In fact, he himself has a habit of wandering away and not paying attention at times to what honourable members say. Unfortunately, on this occasion it was obvious from his remarks in his reply to me that he had not paid much attention to what I had said. I was not aware of the passage in his speech concerning the reference to the Public Works Committee. Either the Treasurer was not listening to what I was saying or he does not understand his own reference to the Public Works Committee.

The proposal is, as the Chairman of that committee has properly pointed out, that the buildings at Strathmont shall provide for some of the patients in our mental hospitals who are intellectually retarded persons. They are not persons suffering geriatrically or from a mental disease, but for the most part they have some kind of brain damage, deformity or lack of development that places them in the intellectually retarded class. Some can be trained to limited usefulness (they have to be given training and assistance to be able to cope with the day-to-day problems of living) while others have simply to be cared for as small children, or even less. The only complaint I made about those people was that, as Parkside stood at the moment, some of them who were in the wards set apart for young idiots were living under conditions that they should not have to tolerate, even though some provision would be made for some patients in an institution in the future.

My first complaint is that something is not being done immediately to improve the conditions there to make things a little more comfortable for both patients and staff. My second complaint is that the main buildings at Parkside are not, so far, to be replaced, according to any plans before us. There is nothing to provide for the replacement of the original building at Parkside, about which the Treasurer spoke two years ago when he said that it would be replaced.

My third and most lengthy complaint is in relation to people who, because of senility and the diseases of senility, do not get Commonwealth hospital benefit, and they will not get it whether the Treasurer puts them into some kind of a different hospital (and none is proposed) or not. Under the Commonwealth medical benefits scheme, with diseases of age, unless some untoward treatable event occurs, no hospital claim can be made. The Treasurer can take this up with the Commonwealth Director of Health if he likes. I have done so and I have tried to get Commonwealth benefits for my constituents, but the Director has admitted that this is a gap in the scheme. However, it exists, and a change in the hospital set-up will not alter it. What can be done here is provide State infirmaries.

Northfield is not coping with this problem. Certain numbers of geriatric cases are going there, but the pressure on beds is so great that the almoners try to get them out as quickly as possible to make beds available for others. These people cannot possibly be classed as subject to the Mental Defectives Act, and they cannot be put in Parkside or some other mental hospital. They are sheer geriatric cases and do not suffer from mental disability. For the Treasurer to suggest that the Government is coping with the problem and that I am not paying attention to the Government's proposals is not fair or just, as there is nothing in these proposals or in any announced plan of the Government that will cope with it. My complaint is that plans should have been on the drawing board long ago, as the Government has had adequate notice.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: For school buildings, £5,800,000 is provided. I am greatly disappointed that there is no provision in these Estimates for new buildings at the Urrbrae Agricultural High School. On April 15 His Excellency the Governor and Lady Bastyan visited the school in company with the Minister of Education (Sir Baden Pattinson), Lady Pattinson, and others, and at an assembly plans for additions were announced. In the *Advertiser* of the next day appeared the following:

"Cabinet had approved the erection of red brick additions to Urrbrae Agricultural High School to cost almost £250,000," the Minister of Education said yesterday. Plans and specifications for the five new buildings would be drawn up by Hassell & McConnell, architects. This was being done because of the Government's heavy building programme and the acute shortage of architectural and other professional staff in the Public Buildings Department. Sir

Baden Pattinson said it was hoped the plans would be ready for Cabinet before June and that the new buildings would be ready for occupation at the beginning of the 1966 school year. Because of the cost of the buildings, the Government proposals would have to be referred to the Public Works Committee for investigation and report.

The report then outlined what the buildings would be. I express intense disappointment for myself, and I believe I speak also for members of the Urrbrae Agricultural High School Council. We have been counting on the work going forward, but the provision we had hoped for is not in these Estimates. Will the Treasurer say whether the absence of a line for Urrbrae means that there is no hope of the new buildings being ready for the beginning of the 1966 school year?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The honourable member's statements are correct. Cabinet approved of the project being referred to a private architect for plans and specifications to be drawn and, although I believe there was some small delay because of an argument the Government had with the Royal Australian Institute of Architects about the charges that should be paid, that delay did not cause trouble. I believe the architects are working on the project. I do not think it has yet gone to the Public Works Committee, but it will be speeded up as much as possible.

Mr. RYAN: Various sums are provided for change rooms at schools. Will the Treasurer state Government policy when an allocation has been made last financial year for change rooms and the work has not been proceeded with? Must a line be placed again on this year's Loan Estimates?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: If a sum was placed on last year's Loan Estimates and was approved, under the Public Finance Act it is possible to proceed with it without a resubmission. What project is the honourable member concerned with?

Mr. Ryan: The Woodville High School.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I do not know why the work was not proceeded with last year, but the fact that it has been approved by Parliament is sufficient for me to provide a warrant for it to go ahead.

Mr. DUNSTAN: For the purchase of land for school purposes, £500,000 is provided. A proposal has been before the Government for some time to purchase additional land for the East Adelaide Primary School, which is on an extremely crowded site and which has 1,000 students. The playing area is inadequate and

no playing fields are available in the foreseeable future. The governors of St. Peters College have kindly made available from time to time ovals at the rear of the college near the Torrens River, but those ovals will not be available for outside use in future because they will be required for the expansion of the college. It was proposed to purchase an area of three acres adjoining the East Adelaide school at present occupied by an old and substantial dwelling. I understand this was for sale and that negotiations proceeded, but the owner asked £17,500 which, as the Minister of Education said, was more than the Land Board valuation. Frankly, I think the owner is attempting to hold the department to ransom, as it cannot seriously be contended on any investigation that the property is worth anywhere near that sum.

The Minister has replied that, as this price is demanded by the owner, the Government cannot see its way clear to purchase the property and the alternative seems to be to purchase land in Marden and build a new primary school there. If a school were built there it would be within half a mile of the existing East Adelaide and Payneham schools. There would then be three primary schools half a mile apart. The Marden school would draw some children from both the Payneham and East Adelaide schools. This proposition would cost vastly more than an extra piece of land for the East Adelaide school and the Payneham school already has adequate land for expansion.

I cannot see the point of erecting a new school, which would reduce the East Adelaide school to a class II school and would be a class II school itself. I believe it would be better to spend money on developing the East Adelaide school by adding three acres of playing space. I believe the proper course in these circumstances is for the Government to compulsorily acquire the land, serve a notice of treat, and go to arbitration. It could then acquire the land at a reasonable price.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I shall investigate the problem. This problem often confronts the Government in the older established parts of Adelaide, where schools were frequently built on lots big enough to accommodate only the building. There are a few of these in the city, but we are gradually overcoming this problem. I entirely agree with the honourable member that the acquisition of land would be preferable to building a new school, because that would be costly. Also, it is always undesirable to shift the locality of a school if this can be avoided.

An association grows with an area; children become used to going to a particular school and, if it is possible, it is better not to disturb them.

Mrs. STEELE: The sum of £10,000 is allocated to be spent on converting Palm Lodge hostel. I commend the Government for taking this step. Since I first became a member I have often been approached by people and organizations who have the interests of discharged mental patients very much at heart. I have mentioned the matter to the Treasurer on occasions when I believed there was a need for something to be done. In my district, a number of rest homes are conducted to look after patients who have been discharged from mental hospitals. Many such homes in the metropolitan area are carefully conducted with the aim of trying to help these people to adjust themselves and to make life as comfortable as possible for them. However, I understand a number of homes do not meet the standards desired for this type of patient. Therefore, the step the Government has taken is to be commended.

I have many friends amongst a large group of people who give up a day a week to take these people on outings, returning them to the homes after giving them afternoon tea and a happy day. I understand that many homes conducted for the benefit of these people could be improved, but that many others provide a splendid environment for patients.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Treasurer comment on the two suggestions I made in the debate yesterday with regard to Windy Point, namely, the offer of the area for private development, perhaps on a long lease, or its development on a scale less ambitious than the provision of a first-class restaurant?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: A question has arisen in the Crown Law Office whether the Government can lease land that has been dedicated for recreational purposes. The question arose some time ago concerning land in the district of Burnside. The Crown Law Office has given a more restrictive ruling than was its practice in the past. We called for offers for the occupation of the restaurant, which was going to be a good establishment, but the return from the capital outlay would not have been sufficient. It seemed that people with money available did not appear to be interested in the proposals, which led me to suspect that, even if the Crown Law Office advised that it would be practicable, it would be unlikely that the scheme suggested by the honourable member could be put into effect. Obviously, such a project

would enhance the tourist activity in this State, but I could not include it in the Revenue Estimates this year, and as it was not revenue-producing it did not qualify for the Loan Estimates. I hope that temporary suitable improvements will be made at Windy Point and that consideration will be given to the inclusion of the project in next year's Budget.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £4,198,000.

Mr. RICHES: This year the Government is providing £10,600,000 for the total house-building programme, including grants to the Housing Trust, the State Bank and the building societies, but no attempt seems to be made to overcome the back lag of houses or to keep up with the marriage rate and the intake from immigration. Of the £10,600,000, this Parliament votes only on £250,000 made available to the State Bank. Most of the money is made available under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement direct to the Housing Trust and is completely divorced from Parliamentary control, and the same applies to the £500,000 to be paid to the State Bank. Skilled labour is required in country centres but men will not go there unless they have a house provided for them. The housing situation is becoming progressively worse to the extent that about 500 more applications a year are received than houses are built. While that continues we cannot expect much more than the appalling conditions at Gepps Cross that were given so much publicity at the weekend. A concerted move should be made to overcome our housing problem. We are not making any headway. In fact, we are barely keeping up with urgent demands, and it is not good enough. The Treasurer said this matter would be covered more fully when the line dealing with the Housing Trust was reached, but there is no such line.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The honourable member was not completely accurate in his analysis of the housing position. He said that money was made available through the State Bank, Housing Trust and building societies. That is correct as far as it goes, but they are not the only institutions making money available for housing. The honourable member forgot the Homes Act, under which the Treasurer is continually giving guarantees to enable institutions to advance up to 95 per cent on a £3,000 house, at rates of interest approximately the same as those charged by the State Bank or the Housing Trust. This money does not appear in these Estimates because it is not provided by Parliament.

The Government approves a new schedule under the Homes Act every week. The Savings Bank provides money for housing, but a Government guarantee is not needed. The Superannuation Fund has a similar function, but in every instance it gets a guarantee. When the honourable member mentioned the money available to the State Bank for housing he looked at only two-thirds of the State's housing programme. The Commonwealth Bank and other institutions provide substantial amounts for housing too.

Some time ago the State Government had houses to sell through the Housing Trust. At the time additional tradesmen were required here and we allocated some trust houses for sale to people overseas who wanted to come to South Australia. The programme has been singularly successful. I think the average deposit under the scheme has been about £800 to £1,000, but some time later a private company entered into a similar scheme, and many of the houses built at Para Hills have been sold to migrants. Recently we had pressure from builders with houses for sale who wanted to join in the scheme.

In regard to housing expenditure the following are the amounts of Loan money taken by the States for housing: New South Wales took £17,500,000 out of £92,235,000; Victoria £13,500,000 out of £73,977,000; Queensland £3,300,000 out of £36,676,000; South Australia £10,250,000 out of £39,760,000; Western Australia £3,600,000 out of £27,084,000; and Tasmania £3,200,000 out of £20,268,000. If members look at the money available to the States under the Loan programme and the percentage taken under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, they will see that South Australia takes for housing by far the largest percentage of any State, and in this comparison I do not exclude the States controlled by Labor.

*(Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 pm.)*

Mr. HARDING: The Housing Trust proposes to build 868 rental houses in country areas. It is almost essential that a town should have at least a small proportion of rental houses. Can the Treasurer say whether any rental houses are likely to be built at Naracoorte?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: As far as I know, there are no rental houses in Naracoorte. I will inquire and obtain the information the honourable member seeks.

Line passed.

Grand total, £36,540,000, passed and Committee's resolution adopted by the House.

#### PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL.

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

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to authorize the Treasurer to borrow and expend money for public works and purposes, and to enact other provisions incidental thereto.

Motion carried.

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

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I move:

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

It appropriates the moneys required for the works and purposes detailed in the Loan Estimates which the House has considered. Clause 3 defines the Loan Fund. Clause 4 provides for borrowing by the Treasurer of £29,510,000. This is the amount of South Australia's allocation for works and purposes arranged at the July 1964 meeting of Loan Council. Clause 5 provides for the expenditure of £36,540,000 on the undertakings set out in the schedule to the Bill. Clause 6 makes provision for borrowing and payment of an amount to cover any discounts, charges and expenses incurred in connection with borrowing for the purposes of this Bill. Clause 7 makes provision for temporary finance if the moneys in the Loan Fund are insufficient for the purposes of this Bill.

Clause 8 authorizes the borrowing of £12,000,000 for the purpose of carrying on Loan works at the commencement of next financial year and until the Public Purposes Loan Bill for 1965 is considered by Parliament. Clause 9 gives the Treasurer power to borrow against the issue of Treasury bills or by bank overdraft. The Treasurer possesses and may exercise this authority under other legislation, but it is desirable to make the authority specific year by year in the Public Purposes Loan Bill as is done with other borrowing authority. Clause 10 deals with the duration of certain clauses to the Bill. Clause 11 directs that all moneys received by the State under the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act shall be credited to a special account to be paid out as required for the purposes of the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act. Clause 12 provides for this Bill to operate from July 1, 1964.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): I do not intend to delay the passage of the Bill, as members have had a chance to seek information in the debate on the



Loan Estimates. I support the Bill and trust that it will be transmitted quickly to another place.

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

**PULP AND PAPER MILL (HUNDREDS OF MAYURRA AND HINDMARSH) BILL.**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 18. Page 495.)

Mr. CORCORAN (Millicent): I heartily agree with the purpose of this Bill and do not intend to delay its passage. It is a hybrid Bill, so a Select Committee will need to be appointed to take evidence from the interested parties, to inquire into the various clauses of the agreement, and to report back to this Parliament. Therefore, no good purpose would be served at this stage by my speaking to the Bill. The expansion of Apcel Limited, which was first announced by the Premier on May 6 of this year, will mean much not only to the district I have the honour to represent but to the whole State. Therefore, I have much pleasure in supporting this Bill.

Bill read a second time and referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon. D. N. Brookman and Messrs Burdon, Corcoran, Ferguson, and Freebairn; the committee to have power to send for persons, papers and records, and to adjourn from place to place; the committee to report on September 22.

**CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

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

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Constitution Act, 1934-1963, and for other purposes.

Motion carried.

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

**WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE (Minister of Lands) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Weights and Measures Act, 1934-1962. Read a first time.

**FESTIVAL HALL (CITY OF ADELAIDE) BILL.**

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON (Minister of Education) moved:

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

the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to provide for the erection in the City of Adelaide of a Festival Hall and for the financing thereof and matters connected therewith and incidental thereto and for other purposes.

Motion carried.

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

**ABORIGINAL AND HISTORICAL OBJECTS PRESERVATION BILL.**

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON (Minister of Education) moved:

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to provide for the preservation of certain objects of ethnological, anthropological, archaeological and historical interest and value.

Motion carried.

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

**STATUTES AMENDMENT (DOG FENCE AND VERMIN) BILL.**

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE (Minister of Lands) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Dog Fence Act, 1946-1962 and the Vermin Act, 1931-1962. Read a first time.

**CREMATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

Order of the day No. 13: The Minister of Works to move:

That he have leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Cremation Act, 1891-1936.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): As this Bill has been introduced in the Legislative Council, I move that this Order of the Day be now read and discharged.

Order of the Day read and discharged.

**LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

Order of the Day No. 14: The Minister of Education to move:

That he have leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Legal Practitioners Act, 1936-1948.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): As this Bill has been introduced in the Legislative Council, I

move that this Order of the Day be now read and discharged.

Order of the Day read and discharged.

**LOCAL COURTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

Order of the Day No. 15: The Minister of Education to move:

That he have leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Local Courts Act, 1926-1962, the Workmen's Liens Act, 1893-1936, and for other purposes.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): As this Bill has been introduced in the Legislative Council, I move that this Order of the Day be now read and discharged.

Order of the Day read and discharged.

**SECOND-HAND DEALERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

Order of the Day No. 16: The Minister of Education to move:

That he have leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Second-hand Dealers Act, 1919-1963.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): As this Bill has been introduced in the Legislative Council, I move that this Order of the Day be now read and discharged.

Order of the Day read and discharged.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

At 8.5 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, August 20, at 2 p.m.