HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, August 25, 1964.

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

QUESTIONS.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: Recently it has come to my notice that a certain person at Yatala Labour Prison was sentenced, before visiting justices, to a period of one month's solitary confinement. The sentence was to be carried out by serving seven days then one month's ordinary detention, another seven days and a further month's ordinary detention, until the 28 days had been served in solitary confinement. It was also provided that there would be two hours' exercise each day during the solitary confinement period. However, on seeking information, I have been informed that the other two weeks' solitary confinement will not be insisted upon. I also understand that solitary confinement provides for bread and water diet. In view of these barbaric regulations that still exist, will the Premier consider amending the legislation so that this treatment will be abolished?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: If the Leader will repeat his question on Thursday I hope to be able to give him information on this matter.

GUMMOSIS.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Following my remarks in the Address in Reply debate concerning the considerable diminution in the apricot orchard acreage in the Barossa Valley over the past 10 years because of the ravages of gummosis, and my suggestion that research work on this disease should be intensified in this State, has the Minister of Agriculture a statement?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I ask leave to make a Ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have a long report that has been prepared as an answer to the honourable member's remarks about gummosis. Gummosis, which has existed seriously for about 30 years, enters through wounds in the tree, and a gum blockage in the conducting tissue affects the growth. The disease has its highest incidence in the Barossa Valley and a low incidence in the Upper Murray areas. In 1952, Mr. Carter was appointed to examine the problem. I understand that he has left the department and has been working at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute where he has been engaged, although not full-time, on gummosis studies ever since. Some time during the late 1950's he made an important step in gummosis research by isolating what is known as the "perfect stage" of the spore. It has also been discovered that the gummosis spore has a wide range of hosts, which complicates the control of the disease. One method of control that has been developed over the years, as a result of the Agriculture Department's investigations, has been modified pruning on the principle of reducing the more highly concentrated areas of gummosis in the larger branches of trees and keeping the cuts on such limbs to a minimum. Another feature of control is spore trapping. It has been found that spores do not circulate as much in the atmosphere in May, June and July, as at other times of the year. Therefore, pruning is recommended in June, and if gummosis is detected then, the wound has a chance to heal before spores start to circulate in the air in August and September.

At present, investigations are progressing at the Waite Institute and at the Blackwood Research Station, and the Australian Dried Fruits Association, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government, has made a grant of £610 a year available for two years' research on the susceptibility of wounds to gummosis. In the last seven years the following developments have occurred: (1) the identification of the perfect stage of the spore; (2) increased knowledge of the host range; (3) important studies of spore discharge; and (4) susceptibility of tree wounds to gummosis, as well as the period of susceptibility. Mr. Moller, of the Agriculture Department, is at present in California undertaking research on this disease. It is hoped that, as a result of that research, the disease will eventually be no longer an economic problem.

ADULT EDUCATION.

Mr. HUTCHENS: Can the Minister of Education say whether principals of trade schools have been instructed not to extend adult education classes, the purpose of this instruction being to cut down expenses by reducing the supply of raw materials, which would have the effect of steadying the progress of these classes generally?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: If any such instruction has been issued, I think it would be probably just conforming to a

pattern that branches of the Education Department have generally been advised to exercise, namely, the greatest caution in expenditure. We are really just embarking on a new financial year and, although a generous sum has been granted to us by the Treasurer, it has to last until the end of next June. There is a natural disposition on the part of the heads of some schools to embark on expenditure too freely and too early in the financial year without attempting to reduce costs. I have not heard about such an instruction but, if the honourable member wishes me to inquire, I shall do so.

CEDUNA COURTHOUSE.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question concerning the construction of a courthouse and Government office buildings at Ceduna?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The Public Service Commissioner has recommended that plans and estimates of costs be prepared to provide for a combined police station, courthouse and Government office block at Ceduna. Due to staff shortages in the architectural branch it will be necessary to engage a private architect for the above purposes. Details of the requirements of the Police Department, Courts Department and the Government offices have been obtained, and the matter will be submitted to the private architect in the near future.

MURRAY BRIDGE OCCUPATION CENTRE.

Mr. BYWATERS: Earlier this year a house was purchased in Cypress Avenue, Murray Bridge, for use as an occupation centre. The house needed some alterations to suit the circumstances. Work has taken place on the preparation of plans, but some delay has occurred. It is now near the end of the year and it is hoped that the school will commence by the beginning of next year at the latest. Is the Minister of Works aware of the present situation, and can he say when tenders are likely to be called for the commencement of this work?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I recall that a building was purchased and that certain alterations and repairs were necessary. If the honourable member will ask the question again on Thursday, I shall probably have the information he seeks.

MEAT PRICES.

Mr. McANANEY: Last Friday the Prices Commissioner announced that meat prices were expected to be lower this week. He thought that beef would be 1d. to 3d. a lb. cheaper, mutton 1d. to 2d. a lb. cheaper, and lamb up to 6d. a lb. cheaper. As lamb prices at the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs were firmer last Wednesday and have been reasonably static over the last two months, will the Premier ascertain the Prices Commissioner's reason for his expectation of a price decrease?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I will get a report for the honourable member.

BEEF ROADS.

Mr. CASEY: Today's *Advertiser,* under a heading "S.A. Case on Beef Roads", quotes the Minister of Roads as saying that the State's main cattle routes which have been damaged by flood are the Birdsville track to south-western Queensland and the Strzelecki track to the Northern Territory. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I should like to correct that statement, for the Strzelecki track goes nowhere near the Northern Territory, but to Innamincka, which is not far from the borders of Queensland and New South Wales. Also with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I should like to quote from a letter sent by Senator Paltridge.

The SPEAKER: As long as the honourable member does not quote the whole letter.

Mr. CASEY: Very well. That letter, dated August 6, 1964, states:

> A request was made by the Premier of South Australia for Commonwealth financial assistance for the construction of beef roads, and this was dealt with in a letter from the Prime Minister to the Premier of November 1, 1963. No later request has been received by the Government.

As this information from Senator Paltridge conflicts with the information the Premier conveyed to me on this matter several weeks ago in reply to my question in this House, will the Premier accede to my continued advocacy by placing our beef cattle roads under the jurisdiction of the Highways Department so that the Minister of Roads may take appropriate action?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I was not aware that the question of which department was organizing this matter was the subject of the correspondence with the Commonwealth Government. In fact, it has never been mentioned by the Commonwealth Government, and I do not believe it has any bearing upon the question; it is merely an internal matter arising from the question of which department is able to give the best service in the area. Regarding the other matter, tomorrow I will bring down a docket for perusal by the honourable member and any other member who is interested (I am

not able to table the docket because we are working on it), and members will be able to see just what representations have been made, when they have been made, and what replies, if any, have been received. Then the honourable member will be able to write back to Senator Paltridge, saying that he has examined the docket, and he could add that he would like to correct one or two statements made by the Senator in the letter.

WATER RATES.

Mr. HARDING: Water and sewerage charges in many rapidly developing suburbs and country towns are a problem when it comes to providing sports grounds, youth centres, and other amenities. Will the Minister of Works indicate the Government's policy on charges for water and sewerage services to organizations that provide facilities such as tennis courts and basketball and hockey fields for the welfare of the young people of this State?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Frequently I receive requests from sporting bodies throughout the State that ovals, bowling greens, playgrounds and other amenities should be exempt from charges under the Waterworks Act. From time to time the Government has examined this matter, but has considered that it would be impossible, as a matter of policy, to accede to these requests. South Australia's water supplies are provided at great cost and, as all members know, usually arrive at the point of usage after having been conveyed through long mains and pumped many times. Therefore, at the point of consumption the cost is generally high. The quantity of water used for watering ovals and large grassed areas is substantial and the Government has considered that it is not unfair to ask sporting bodies to meet the cost of the water they use for their amenities and services. To do otherwise would involve the existing ratepayers (who, after all, are in many cases the same people as those using the public areas and ovals) in higher charges for water for domestic and business premises. In reality, the result would probably be that the same people would pay for the water so used. We have examined this matter often and have been sympathetic, in many ways, to organizations sponsoring recreation areas. The Government has sponsored the procurement of areas by sporting bodies and others on very generous terms, but it has not felt able to agree to requests for waiving charges for water for ovals and other sporting areas.

HOUSE BUILDING.

Mr. JENNINGS: During the Address in Reply debate I drew attention to many reports I had received about the unsatisfactory state of private house-building in various places in the State and pointed out that many other honourable members on both sides of the House had also raised this matter. I also read extracts from architects' reports which showed that in some instances a shockingly low standard of building prevailed in this State. I asked whether the Government had considered the licensing or registration of builders so that their practical ability and financial backing could be tested before they were licensed. Can the Premier comment on this matter?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government has considered this matter for some time, and over a period of years has received from various people recommendations for the licensing of builders. One or two States have legislation dealing with this matter. However, several problems exist: First, the proposed legislation does not discriminate in respect of builders now operating. All that it would do would be to set a seal on the builder approving him under the legislation. It was proposed that all builders at present in the industry would be automatically licensed, as was done when chemists and veterinary officers were brought into a profession. I do not know of any procedure that could be adopted other than to accept, as qualified, the people who make their living in this way. Secondly, no course exists for the development of builders. Several successful builders who have contracted over a period for the Housing Trust and whose work has been irreproachable are businessmen who employ good tradesmen to do the work. Having considered this matter, the Government would like, if possible, to achieve a higher standard of house building without undue cost; but, frankly, I do not believe that merely licensing builders would qualify them.

SANDY CREEK SCHOOL.

Mr. LAUCKE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the building of a new primary school at Sandy Creek?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: As the honourable member knows, a site of four acres was obtained some time ago for a new school at Sandy Creek. The planning of the building has been commenced by the Public Buildings Department, but it cannot be stated at this stage when construction will commence.

MEDICAL DEGREES.

Mr. LAWN: I understand that a person with a medical degree cannot practise in various countries unless an agreement exists between the Governments of those countries. Will the Premier ask his colleague, the Minister of Health, whether reciprocal arrangements exist between Australia and West Germany for the recognition of medical degrees?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Unless arrangements have been made recently no reciprocal agreements exist between these countries. However, I will check to see whether any change has been made. Highly qualified medical people came to this State after the war and in one instance a doctor had to complete a university course here before he could practise in South Australia. One textbook he had to study was a book he had written himself, and this shows that this lack of reciprocity can lead to a rather ridiculous position. The Government has considered this question for years. Some other States have licensed medical practitioners on the understanding that they go to places that are short of medical officers. That plan has not been abused and has not been untoward in any way. We have been unable to reach agreement with the medical profession in this State on the character of such legislation, although at present many country districts have a shortage of medical practitioners.

Mr. LAWN: I know of arteriosclerosis sufferers for whom the Australian Medical Association holds no hope as to treatment. The Premier showed me a docket in June this year which stated that other patients who had been to Kassel in West Germany for treatment at Dr. Muller's clinic had all returned after having been successfully treated. As the Premier has said that medical degrees conferred on doctors in West Germany are not recognized here, could this be the reason for the Australian Medical Association's not recognizing methods of treatment used successfully in West Germany?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No, quite frankly; I do not believe that that is the reason for the problem outlined by the honourable member. I point out that some of the most outstanding discoveries in medicine have been made by people who have not been regarded as qualified, but their theories have been accepted by the medical profession when they have proved to be beneficial and have been established upon the proper grounds. I do not think that the honourable member's problem is of that nature. I think it is a genuine belief in South Australia that the methods that are suggested do not give any real benefit, notwithstanding the evidence that the honourable member has mentioned. In fact, I arranged for the honourable member to discuss this matter with the appropriate hospital authorities but evidently he was not able to convince them on the method of treating arteriosclerosis and, similarly, they did not seem to be able to convince him on their views. I shall pursue the matter and see whether I can give the honourable member a more conclusive reply.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Can the Minister of Education say whether he intends to change the present system of religious instruction in departmental schools and, if he does, will he introduce a scheme similar to that proposed in New South Wales?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: My personal opinion is that in some respects, such as curriculum, the Education Department of New South Wales is probably the most progressive and forward-thinking in Australia. I make some exceptions to this general observation, however, and I disagree with my opposite number in Sydney in his latest decision. I have no intention of following his example. Moreover, the matter has never been mentioned to me by the South Australian Director of Education.

TEACHERS' LEAVE.

Mr. CLARK: Has the Minister of Education any information in answer to my recent question about the granting of leave to teachers to complete a degree?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: Release time scholarships (as they are called) are part of the Education Department's stepped-up programme of inservice training designed to provide better qualified and more competent teachers. Some of these scholarships are on a full-time basis and some part-time. They are tenable at the University of Adelaide or at a South Australian teachers college and are intended to assist practising teachers to complete university degrees and gain other qualifications for promotion in the teaching service. The first awards were made in 1962 when there were two full-time and two half-time scholarships; in 1963 the number was increased to three of each type; in 1964 to five full-time and 10 half-time, and for 1965 I have approved of the award of seven full-time and 12 half-time scholarships.

The examination results achieved by the teachers receiving these awards have been gratifying. For example, in 1963 the six teachers to whom these scholarships were awarded passed in a total of 21 subjects, with eight credits, out of a total of 22 subjects. The scheme enables awards to be made to permanent teachers with at least five years' teaching service who have spent less than four years in a teachers college. The full-time scholarships are valued at £900 for a single man and £720 for a single woman. A married man receives an additional £100 for each dependant. Teachers on half-time release for the year of study receive full salary. All teachers enter into an agreement to serve the department for three years after completion of the study year. Furthermore, what is not generally recognized is that this year over 900 teachers are undertaking study at the university in their own time, free of charge. In addition, more than 200 inservice courses for teachers are being provided by the Inservice Training Branch of the department.

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY OFFICERS.

Mr. CURREN: Has the Minister of Agriculture information about the resignation of officers from the advisory service of the Agriculture Department?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: In the three years ended July 31, 1964, there have been 39 resignations from the technical staff of the Agriculture Department. During this period 58 new appointments have been made. These figures include laboratory assistants and field workers who assist in the conduct of experiments. On the advisory staff, the main movement has been among research officers and their assistants, and during this period 19 such officers resigned, while 30 new appointments were made. The movement of administrative staff during this three years has been greater, with 36 resignations and 49 new appointments. Under the department's cadetship scheme, at present 32 students are undergoing university courses in Australia. In addition, six officers have been granted leave to pursue further studies at Australian or overseas universities.

KIDMAN PARK LAND.

Mr. FRED WALSH: Last year I raised the matter of a strip of land belonging to the Lands Department in Kidman Park and consisting of much undergrowth and a ditch. The Minister referred the matter to the Director of Lands who promised to make investigations, and I later received a reply to the effect that the grass would be burnt off and the ditch filled in at the earliest opportunity when conditions became favourable. I subsequently wrote to the Minister explaining the position and he told me in the House that a quote had been obtained from the Fire Brigades Department for burning off and that this would be done as early as possible. He also said that the other matters referred to in my letter would be carefully examined. I have received further complaints from constituents concerning the boxthorn growing in the area which, if growing on private land, would probably have to be removed. Local residents are concerned about the effect this ditch might have on students at nearby schools that will open in the future, particularly a primary school that is expected to be built soon. As far as I know, the ditch has not been filled in as promised. Will the Minister refer the matter to the Director of Lands?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: I was under the impression that the work had been completed, as was promised last year but, if it has not been completed, it will be done this year.

SUPERPHOSPHATE.

Mr. HARDING: Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether there has been an increase in the use of superphosphate since the Commonwealth bounty was announced and the subsequent reduction of 12s. a ton by the South Australian Government. If such an increase has taken place, can he say what proportion it represents?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Figures obtained from Fertilizer Sales Limited show that the sales of superphosphate in South Australia amounted to 550,000 tons in 1963-64. This was an increase of 23 per cent over sales in the preceding year. It will be noted that the percentage increase is lower than that reported from New South Wales. This may be due, in part at least, to the fact that in the years preceding the introduction of the bounty there was a greater use of superphosphate in South Australia in relation to area of agricultural land and phosphate requirement of the soils.

PLATFORM TICKETS.

Mrs. STEELE: Has the Minister of Works an answer to the question I asked on August 4 relating to the sale of platform tickets at the Adelaide railway station?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Railways, informs me that platform tickets are sold on Sundays at the undermentioned locations:

Stationmaster's office	8.30 a.m. to 12 noon.
Bookstall	3.14 p.m. to 7.15 p.m.
Suburban ticket windows	11.45 a.m. to 11.30 p.m.
Country ticket windows	3.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.
Platform ticket cubicle	6.30 p.m. to 7.15 p.m.

It has not been the practice to sell platform tickets on the concourse after 7.15 p.m. on Sundays, and the existing notices do not indicate that tickets may be obtained at the stationmaster's office after that time. There is little demand for platform tickets after the departure of the Overland train at 7.10 p.m., but to cover the requirements of later trains, arrangements have now been made that tickets may be obtained at the stationmaster's office after the bookstall closes at 7.15 p.m. The notices will be amended accordingly. The matter of providing vending machines for platform tickets has been examined previously. These are costly machines, and it was decided not to proceed with the proposal, as the cost would not be compensated in any way by a reduction in staff. However, the matter will be further examined.

YATALA ASSEMBLY HALL.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: During the Loan Estimates debate I asked the Treasurer whether he could indicate the final cost of the fine new assembly hall built at the Yatala Labour Prison as part of the prisoner rehabilitation programme. I now understand that the Minister of Works has that information.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Director of the Public Buildings Department states that the estimated final cost of the new assembly hall will be £32,000.

YADNARIE WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: Last week the Minister of Works promised to obtain information for me regarding a water supply for the hundred of Yadnarie. Has the Minister that information?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Engineer-in-Chief states that the sum of £5,000 listed under "Tod River Water District, Water Supply Projects", on page 7 of the Loan Estimates, is to provide for enlargement of the existing 6in. main to an 8in. main in the hundred of Yadnarie to ensure adequate water for new mains now under construction in the hundreds of Verran and Roberts.

WATERVALE WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Will the Minister of Works obtain from his colleague, the Minister of Mines, a progress report on the investigation for a new bore site in connection with a reticulated water service for Watervale?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

BROOKERS (AUSTRALIA) LIMITED.

Mr. Jennings, for Mr. HUTCHENS (on notice):

1. As the Government sponsored the sale of the business of Brookers (Australia) Limited to Foster Clark (S.A.) Limited some years ago, what is the reason for the delay in the winding-up of Brookers (Australia) Limited?

2. When can the growers, who are creditors of Brookers (Australia) Limited, expect a distribution from moneys now held on behalf of creditors of this company?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The replies are:

1. The Government did not sponsor the sale of the business of Brookers (Australia) Limited to Foster Clark (S.A.) Limited, but made arrangements for certain financial guarantees to the latter company to facilitate the acquisition and operation of the cannery assets. The matter of the winding-up of Brookers (Australia) Limited is one to be determined by the company itself, by its shareholders, and in appropriate circumstances by its creditors. However, I understand that there are two matters regarding financial obligations of the company yet to be determined before it is known what funds will be available for creditors. One relates to the settlement by arbitration of a dispute as to valuation of certain assets upon sale to Foster Clark (S.A.) Limited. For this the arbitrator has been appointed, and I am advised it will proceed shortly. The other relates to a guarantee given by Brookers (Australia) Limited jointly with another company in respect of a subsidiary company known as Brookbern Limited. This subsidiary is in the hands of a receiver, and the receivership is reported to be almost completed to the stage where the obligation under the guarantee can be determined.

2. I am unable to give any more precise information bearing upon the date of ultimate distribution than given in answer 1.

BOOK PURCHASERS PROTECTION ACT.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice): Is it the intention of the Government to introduce, during the present session, amendments to the Book Purchasers Protection Act, 1963?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Director of Education reports:

I have inquired from all the branches of this department if any further complaints of pressure tactics by visiting book salesmen have occurred in the last nine to 12 months. In every case, except in the primary branch, the answer has been that no complaints have been received. In the primary branch there were two inquiries some months ago from women who said that salesmen were offering encyclopaedias for sale at a cost exceeding £100. The women asked for advice on the value of the books and how to deal with the salesmen. This advice was given immediately, and nothing more has been heard of either case. In view of this, it would seem that the present Act is providing protection, and I would not recommend any amendment as being necessary at present.

CHLORINATION.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. Are water supplies in this State chlorinated?

2. If so, what is the reason for chlorination; how long have water supplies been chlorinated; and what is the annual cost?

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

1. All metropolitan water supplies, including those from Mannum, Barossa and Myponga, are chlorinated. All water supplies to towns located on the Murray River which obtain their supplies from this river, are chlorinated. Likewise, all water taken from the Murray River at Morgan, and distributed by the Morgan-Whyalla system, is chlorinated. Thus, all country towns served by this system receive chlorinated water. Generally speaking, other country supplies are not chlorinated, although an odd supply may be temporarily chlorinated at times should the need arise.

2. The reason for chlorination is to ensure that these waters are at all times up to internationally accepted bacteriological standard and are thus free from any health risk to the consumer. Adelaide's water supply has been chlorinated continuously since 1952. Except for two minor country installations, this was the start of chlorination in South Australia. It has since been progressively extended to the Mannum, Barossa, Myponga, Morgan-Whyalla and all river town supplies. The total cost of chlorination during the 1963-64 financial year was £102,500.

PRICES 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 Prices Act, 1948-1963, and for other purposes.

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.

I thank honourable members for their courtesy in enabling me to give the second reading explanation forthwith. However, before I do so, I wish to foreshadow an amendment that is not at present in the Bill. This matter, which came to my notice only this morning, concerns the salaries of officers of the Prices Department.

The SPEAKER: The Premier realizes that he may make only a passing reference.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I wish to deal with the history of the Prices Department and its relation to this legislation. The Prices Branch was established by the Commonwealth Government, but when that Government discontinued price control it made available to this Government all documents and the personnel it had employed in exercising price control during the Second World War. Therefore, this Government has employed the officers that came over to it at the time the Commonwealth Government discontinued price control. This enabled the State Act to operate effectively, and this Bill extends that operation. However, the legislation is extended only from year to year, which means that officers that came over from the Commonwealth to do this job are not public servants. From time to time a problem has arisen concerning the appropriate authority to fix their salaries. Later I will move an amendment to provide that the Public Service Commissioner shall be able to refer a claim to the Public Service Arbitrator for the purpose of fixing salaries for officers of the Prices Department. In asking the House to agree to an extension of the Prices Act for another 12 months, the Government recognizes the need for a public authority to watch price movements which may occur over this period and to take action where warranted in the interests

of the community. Until recently there has been a period of about three years of general price stability, but internal pressures in the economy are now building up which will herald a general upward trend in prices unless the machinery to contain unjustified price increases is retained.

The Government's reasons for wishing to extend this legislation include the following: first, the introduction of decimal currency is planned for February, 1966. Already the business community is preparing and planning for the changeover. Unless watched carefully a minority of traders could use the advent of decimal currency to their own advantage. It is not generally realized that the danger of loss to the public will occur not only on conversion but also as a result of preliminary moves over the next 18 months. Secondly, the increase of £1 a week in the basic wage following in the wake of a number of earlier awards has created some problems that are of concern to my Government. Some industries where labour costs represent a large proportion of total costs are unable to absorb wage increases to this extent. However, a number of industries can and will be expected to absorb the additional cost or part thereof according to circumstances and, without the machinery available to require some restraint, prices could quite easily get out of hand.

Thirdly, the policy of my Government has always been to watch the interests of the primary producer and to render assistance wherever possible. In this respect and particularly under present circumstances, some of the benefits which primary producers are enjoying would not be possible without the extension of the Prices Act. Fourthly, the Government's policy has also been to ensure that the consumer gets a fair deal. In numerous instances current trading conditions have become so complex and so involved, that many consumers including persons on fixed incomes find it difficult to make ends meet without some assistance and guidance. The department has rendered an invaluable service to many of these people in the past and it is most desirable at this juncture that they continue to be afforded the opportunity to approach the Prices Department which not only looks after their interests but is constantly rendering them assistance in an extensive range of ways.

Fifthly, apart from pricing, the department is covering a rather wide field of activities which include special investigations for the Government. The outcome of these investigations has been of considerable benefit to sections of industry, primary producers and consumers and it is in the interests of the community that these activities also be continued. Sixthly, on comparable house-building costs this State can build a 12 square home of five rooms for at least £750 cheaper than any other State. If the Prices Act is not extended, this most favourable differential could be considerably whittled down.

Seventhly, the new legislation on unfair trading practices introduced by the Government at the last session of Parliament has, since its inception, proved itself to be working particularly well. Some undesirable practices have been stopped since the legislation was incorporated in the Prices Act. It is most desirable that the new legislation, which has proved extremely popular with a large cross section of the business community and the public in general, be continued and in fact it is proposed to add two amendments to this particular legislation which will further improve the situation and which are outlined as follows:

Section 33a has been redrafted (clause 3 of the Bill) to strengthen the provision relating to ''no limits on purchases''. This, with the consent of the House, will be done by (*a*) requiring a trader who has offered goods for sale to supply such number of quantity of goods demanded, irrespective of whether the buyer requires the goods for resale or for his own use (subsection (2) of section 33a); (*b*) restricting the defence of ''short supply'' to those cases where the goods in question are not readily available at the wholesale level (subsection (3) (*c*)).

Clauses 4 and 5 effect minor drafting amendments to sections 33c and 33d of the principal Act. A new section 33e inserted by clause 6 requires more informative ticketing on either declared or undeclared goods where a ticket is exhibited. The ticket, label, placard or notice must clearly show the full cash price in lettering no less in size than the largest size of lettering appearing elsewhere on the ticket, etc. This provision is designed to enable the potential buyer to compare the cash price with any other information that might be given, such as weekly payments, or other terms and conditions including trade-in allowances, and which can often be misleading although not always intentionally so. Honourable members will have seen a secondhand car or an article exhibited for sale, showing a printed notice on which is written or printed

"£175" in big, bold type. Whether it is £175 deposit or whether the total purchase price is £175, is not clear: in fact, in many instances the total purchase price is not exhibited. This clause makes it mandatory, where the ticket sets out what is presumably the price, that the full cash price shall be exhibited in lettering no less in size than any other particular exhibited.

Clause 7 is in the usual form, extending the life of the Act for a further twelve months. The argument put forward by some sectional interests, that price control is harmful to the State's economy, is not borne out by the following facts:

1. Proof of the State's commercial growth is given by the following percentage increases for 12 months over previous 12 months for retail sales of goods (excluding motor vehicles, parts, petrol, etc.) as obtained from the Commonwealth Statistician:

	Percentage increases for 12 months ending March, over previous 12 months.	
	Per cent. 1963	Per cent. 1964
South Australia	4.1	7.4
New South Wales	3.7	2.9
Victoria	3.1	5.5
Queensland	3.6	7.2
Western Australia	3.3	5.5
Tasmania	3.6	3.6

2. Since the 1961 census, when South Australia was shown to be one of the best housed States in the Commonwealth, this State has improved its position still further. The following figures (Commonwealth Statistician) illustrate the number of new houses and flats completed for the year to June 30, 1964, for each 10,000 head of population: South Australia, 112; Western Australia, 109; Victoria, 88; New South Wales, 82; Tasmania, 71; Queensland, 69.

For the reasons given, and bearing in mind the small annual cost at which the department is run, together with the savings it obtains for the community every year (which incidentally runs into many times the cost of administration), I ask the House to vote for an extension of the Prices Act until the end of December, 1965, together with the amendments for the new legislation incorporated in that Act that I have put forward.

Mr. FRANK WALSH secured the adjournment of the debate.

PUBLIC SERVICE ARBITRATION 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 Public Service Arbitration Act, 1961.

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.

Its princpal object is to enable officers in the service of the Government to whom the Public Service Act does not apply to be brought by proclamation within the operation of the Public Service Arbitration Act. That Act defines the Public Service in terms of the Public Service Act, section 6 of which excludes certain officers and classes of officers from its operation, unless the Governor otherwise proclaims. This means, generally, that only officers of the Public Service in the technical sense can avail themselves of the Public Service Arbitration Act. The Government has decided, in the light of experience, that it would be desirable to make it possible to bring other officers in the Government service within the purview of the Public Service Arbitration Act in cases where this course is warranted. Accordingly, clause 3 makes provision on lines substantially similar to those of section 6 of the Public Service Act, whereby the Governor can by proclamation apply the Public Service Arbitration Act to persons, officers or classes of officers in the employ of the Government, the State, or any State authority or instrumentality. Of course, the new provision will not apply to holders of statutory offices.

What I have said covers the main purpose of the Bill. At the same time, the opportunity has been taken of making some other amendments of an administrative or machinery nature. The first of these is made by clause 4 which amends section 4 of the principal Act. Subsection (1) of that section fixes the arbitrator's salary with the proviso that a person holding a Government appointment could, upon his appointment as arbitrator, continue to hold that appointment but receive a total remuneration not exceeding a fixed sum. That proviso was, of course, made at a time when there was no arbitrator. Now, however, there is an arbitrator and the proviso in its present form limits his

total remuneration to £4,800. Circumstances could arise in which the arbitrator for the time being might be appointed or promoted to another office or offices in the Government service carrying a higher remuneration than £4,800, in which event it would clearly be reasonable that he should not be denied that higher remuneration; in other words, an officer should not be required to lose money by acting as arbitrator. Clause 4 accordingly strikes out the existing proviso and inserts a fresh one to the effect that the arbitrator may hold any other Government appointment as well as his office of arbitrator and receive a total remuneration up to the limit of £4,800 or the total remuneration in respect of any other appointments that he may hold.

Clause 5 makes a number of amendments to section 8 of the principal Act, designed to enable the parties to a claim to negotiate with respect to the claim before its automatic reference to the arbitrator. As worded at present, the effect of section 8 (2) and (3) is that, unless the claim is accepted by either the Commissioner or the officer, organization or group, the matter must automatically go to the arbitrator. This leaves no room for negotiation. Accordingly, clause 5 makes amendments to both subsections (2) and (3) which contemplate and allow for negotiations between the parties in case they should be able to reach agreement between themselves. I do not go into details as to the precise form of the amendments, except to mention that clause 5 (*h*) makes a drafting amendment to subsection 5 (*a*) of the principal Act. At present that paragraph makes provision for what is to happen if the arbitrator decides that an officer or officers do not constitute a group, but it does not say what is to happen if the arbitrator decides that the officer or officers do constitute a group. It has seemed desirable to insert this provision for the sake of completeness.

Mr. FRANK WALSH secured the adjournment of the debate.

METROPOLITAN AREA (WOODVILLE, HENLEY AND GRANGE) DRAINAGE BILL.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Minister of Works) 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 financing of the construction and operation of works for the control and drainage of flood-waters within a certain portion of the metropolitan area and for other purposes.

Motion carried.

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

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its object, as its long title indicates, is to make financial provision for the construction of the Fulham Gardens and Henley Beach flood-waters drainage scheme. As honourable members know, this matter was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works by the Metropolitan Drainage Works (Investigation) Act, 1962. The committee has inquired into the questions referred to it, and by its report dated March 17 of this year recommended the construction of the works at an estimated cost of £386,300. It reported fully as to how the work should be financed and, on the assumption that the councils concerned should pay half of the capital cost, what should be the share of each council and how each share should be paid.

The committee suggested in paragraph 11 of its report that the administration of the Act should be committed to the Minister of Local Government and that the Government should appoint a constructing authority for the construction of the works. The position in this respect is, however, that the Government is not itself in a position to construct the works, being already fully engaged and occupied with the resources at its disposal in other undertakings of a similar nature in the metropolitan area. Accordingly, it has been decided, in agreement with the councils concerned, that they themselves should call for tenders and undertake the construction in accordance with plans acceptable to the Minister of Local Government, the State Government making the necessary finance available in accordance with the report of the Public Works Committee. The Bill is on lines similar to those of the Act relating to the south-west suburbs drainage scheme except that, as it is understood that the councils have the necessary powers to undertake the work under the Local Government Act, the only provision made by the Bill concerning the actual construction is that made by clause 3 which requires plans and specifications to be first approved by the Minister.

Clauses 4, 5 and 6 of the Bill set out details of the financial arrangements. Clause 4 (1) provides that the Government will pay half of the cost, the councils bearing the remainder in the proportions provided in subclause (2).

Those proportions are as recommended by the Public Works Committee, namely, that the City of Woodville shall pay the whole of the cost for main drains within its area, the remaining cost of the works being payable as to 54 per cent by Woodville and 46 per cent by the Henley and Grange council. Subclause (3) provides that the Government will finance the scheme in the first place, this subclause being along similar lines to the provision in the Festival Hall Bill recently introduced. Subclauses (4), (5), (6) and (7) set out the manner in which payments are to be made, when they are to be made, and how the interest is to be calculated. These subclauses give effect to the recommendation of the Public Works Committee in paragraph 12 (*c*) of its report.

Clauses 5 and 6 make provision for payments by the councils and remedies for non-payment, and are in similar terms to the corresponding sections 20 and 21 of the South-Western Suburbs Drainage Act, 1959. Clauses 7 and 8 provide for maintenance of the works by the councils in accordance with the recommendations of the Public Works Committee. Clause 8 contains the usual financial provision that moneys required shall be paid out of moneys to be provided by Parliament for the purpose. As the Bill is concerned with the interests of two municipal corporations or local bodies, and not those of municipal corporations or local bodies generally, it will require reference to a Select Committee in accordance with the Joint Standing Orders. For this reason I have confined my remarks to a brief outline of the purposes of the Bill at this stage.

Mr. HUTCHENS secured the adjournment of the debate.

HONEY MARKETING ACT REVIVAL AND AMENDMENT BILL.

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

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to revive and amend the Honey Marketing Act, 1949-1959, and for other purposes.

Motion carried.

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

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Under this Bill, the Honey Marketing Act, which expired on June 30, is to be revived and amended. The honey industry has experienced considerable fluctuations and the South Australian Honey Board's marketing system has suffered greatly because of competition from other sources. During 1963, the board found it necessary, in the interests of the producers and the few agents with whom it had dealings, to suspend the execution of board marketing; consequently it handled a comparatively small quantity of the honey produced in South Australia for some time during 1963. At this time, doubt existed whether producers and others wanted the board to continue. At one stage I received a deputation that suggested that the legislation should be allowed to lapse. This was followed by many other discussions on the future of the legislation. Accordingly, in November I asked the board in writing whether it wished the legislation to be extended. The board replied that it would prefer to leave this question to the apiarists to decide and that it would put this matter to them. I repeated my question to the board later because time was passing, and the reply again was that it should be left to the apiarists to decide at the meeting of the Apiarists Association. This meeting was finally held in April and a decision was reached by the association. Unfortunately, it was not possible then to introduce a Bill and extend the legislation without interruption. The resolution of the apiarists on the future of the legislation was as follows:

That the South Australian Honey Board be continued subject to the following amendments being made to the Honey Marketing Act:

1. That "appraisal value" be discontinued;
2. That beekeepers have the right to elect their own producer members to the board.

With that, I went about having a renewal of the legislation prepared. The wishes of the association have been incorporated in this Bill with some other matters that will become clear when I read the full explanation. In June (a few days before the legislation expired) I received a petition signed by about 180 registered beekeepers asking for a poll to be held upon the future of the legislation. That was in accordance with the provision in the legislation, an amendment which I moved as a private member some years ago and which provided that if producers were dissatisfied a required number (I think 100) could petition for a poll to be held within three months of the date of the lodging of the petition.

In view of the revival of the legislation proposed by this Bill it is now intended that the petition lodged in June shall be valid and,

therefore, a poll upon the future of the legislation will be held. In addition, the election of producer members will take place following a successful poll. To summarize, the Bill is to revive the legislation and extend the operation of the expired Honey Marketing Act. A poll of registered beekeepers will be held on the extension of the operation of the legislation. If a "no" vote is registered the provision in this Bill for the winding-up of the affairs of the board will take effect. If a vote is registered in favour of continuing the legislation, the operation of the rest of the Bill will take place whereby the election of producer members of the board will follow in place of the old method of selection from a panel of names.

The Bill revives the Honey Marketing Act which expired in June of this year and, with certain amendments, extends the operation of the Act for a further period of five years. The amendments relate to the election of producer members of the South Australian Honey Board, the manner of making payments to producers, a scheme for decontrolling honey when necessary in the interests of the honey industry and various machinery matters.

Clause 1 contains formal provisions relating to the revival of the principal Act which is deemed to have continued and to be in force. Clause 3 repeals and re-enacts section 4 of the principal Act so as to provide for the four producer members of the South Australian Honey Board to be elected by producers.

New section 4a (inserted by clause 4) makes provision for the elections. Under subsection (1) of the new section the State is divided into four electoral districts which will be defined by the Governor by proclamation. Subsection (2) is a machinery provision. By virtue of subsections (3), (4) and (5) the Minister will prepare a roll of electors for each electoral district and each producer (that is, a person who has 10 or more hives registered in his name) will be entitled to vote at an election for the district in which he resides, one producer member being elected for each of the four districts.

Each election will be conducted by the Electoral Department (subsection (6)), but the expense of the election will be borne by the board (subsection (7)). By virtue of subsection (8) the first elections will be held as soon as practicable after a poll has been held pursuant to the petition for discontinuance of the principal Act presented in June of this year. Clause 5 inserts new subsections (3a), (3b) and (3c) in section 7 of the principal Act. New subsection (3a) provides for the present producer members to continue in office until a day to be fixed by the Governor. Thereupon, by virtue of new subsections (3b) and (3c), the first elected members will enter into office and retire on June 30, 1967 (in the case of two of them, to be decided by drawing lots) or on June 30, 1969 (in the case of the other two). Clause 6 makes provision for the accounts of the board to be audited by the Auditor-General, or by some other person appointed by the Minister, and confers on the Auditor-General for this purpose the powers which he has under the Audit Act. Clauses 7 and 8 amend sections 26 and 27 by deleting the references to "appraisement value" therein. Both the board and the industry consider that the making of an appraisement value for honey delivered to the board is misleading and serves no useful purpose.

Clause 9 (*a*) makes a correction of a drafting nature to section 29 of the principal Act, while clause 9 (*b*) inserts a new subsection in that section to enable the board to determine accounting periods for particular types of honey produced during periods determined by the board. This will expedite payments to producers and allow the board to compete with buyers from other States on more favourable terms. Clause 10 inserts new sections 29a, 29b and 29c in the principal Act. New section 29a provides for a scheme of decontrolling honey. It is proposed that this scheme will be brought into operation, when necessary in the interests of the honey industry, for example, when, owing to the activities of speculators from other States, who are able to offer a firm price, honey is sent outside the State and none, or very little, is received in the agents' floors. The new section provides that, upon the recommendation of the board, the Minister may decontrol honey by notice in the *Government Gazette*, the period of decontrol being specified in the notice. During any such period the board's agents will be permitted to buy honey from producers, the agents acting on their own account and not as agents of the board (subsection (3)). Subsection (4) provides for a levy on such sales so that the board may be kept in funds. Subsection (5) is a machinery provision.

As from mid-November last year until the principal Act expired last June, the board purported to decontrol honey, acting in pursuance of section 23 of the principal Act, which confers power to exempt from the requirement to market with the board any specified sales of

honey or all sales complying with specified conditions. The scheme of decontrol was the same as is provided for in new section 29a. There is some doubt, however, whether section 23 confers sufficient authority for this purpose, and the new section is included to make express provision and put the matter beyond doubt. The effect of the new section is that, during a period of decontrol, a producer will still be required to market his honey with one of the board's agents unless, of course, he sells it to a buyer from another State. However, the agents will not have a monopoly of the local market, because during a period of decontrol the board's pools will remain open. In other words, a producer in delivering honey to an agent may elect whether the honey is to be regarded as delivered to the board pursuant to the general marketing scheme provided by the principal Act, or whether, if the agent agrees, he sells it direct to the agent who would be acting on his own account.

Although the principal Act requires the board to make payments direct to producers, the practice is for the agents to pay the producers out of their own funds and then obtain reimbursement from the board. In one case, however, it was necessary to advance funds to an agent. New section 29b legalizes this practice. Under subsection (3) of the new section, the advances will be held as trust moneys, but an agent will have the right to deduct therefrom the price of any goods sold to a producer. New section 29c, a standard provision, exonerates board members from personal liability for any acts of the board. Clause 11 allows the Minister to deal with the petition for discontinuance of the principal Act presented to him in June of this year, some few weeks before the expiration of the principal Act, according to the tenor of the principal Act. The effect of the clause is that the petition may be regarded as having been presented when the Bill becomes law, and the poll pursuant to the petition must be held within three months after that date. Clause 12 inserts new section 36b into the principal Act to provide that if the principal Act is discontinued the board shall dispose of its assets in accordance with directions of the Minister. Clause 13 amends section 37 of the principal Act by extending the operation of the principal Act, and consequently the life of the board, for a further period of five years dating from July 1 of this year. By virtue of clause 1, as I have explained, the principal Act is deemed to have continued in force, and thus the board is deemed to have had a continued existence.

As honourable members will realize, every effort has been made in one Bill to meet the requirements of the producers and other sections of the industry. It seems that a fair solution has been arrived at which will meet everyone's wishes, including those of people who opposed the existence of the board. The marketing of honey is carried on under most difficult conditions, as is the marketing of many primary products, particularly those of the smaller or side-line industries. I commend this legislation as something which will be widely sought in the beekeeping industry and which agrees with expressions of the House in recent years concerning organized marketing.

Mr. CLARK secured the adjournment of the debate.

FRUIT FLY (COMPENSATION) BILL.

Read a third time and passed.

CREMATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

EXCHANGE OF LAND: PARNDANA.

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

> That the proposed exchange of allotments 82 and 85, Town of Parndana as shown on the plan and in the statement laid before Parliament in terms of section 238 of the Crown Lands Act, 1929-1960, on February 18, 1964, be approved.

It is intended to build a hall at Parndana, Kangaroo Island, which would be very expensive if it were to incorporate a supper room. The intention is to use the existing Returned Servicemen's League clubrooms as a supper room and to build the hall alongside those premises, thus saving much expense. It was therefore necessary to acquire a block of land adjacent to the R.S.L. premises. The purpose of this motion is to exchange two blocks of land, a block of land in another part of the township, upon which the hall was to be built originally, to be exchanged for the one alongside the R.S.L. premises. Allotment 82 was purchased by the District Council of Kingscote as a site for a public hall. With a view to keeping the cost of the hall to a minimum, the Parndana hall committee has made arrangements with the local sub-branch of the R.S.L. for the latter's clubrooms to be used as a supper room in conjunction with the proposed hall.

The district council, the Minister of Agriculture, the R.S.L. sub-branch and the hall committee were all involved in the negotiations that took place, and an arrangement was finally

made. Allotment 85 adjoins the site on which the R.S.L. clubrooms are erected and is therefore ideally located for implementation of the arrangement for use of the clubrooms in conjunction with the hall. It is for this reason that the district council desires to exchange allotment 82 for allotment 85. Allotment 82 comprises about 3 roods 30 perches, and allotment 85, about 2 roods 33 perches. The proposal has been investigated by the Land Board which has recommended the exchange, and which has valued each allotment at £50. Parndana is a young community comprising almost entirely soldier settlers on whom heavy financial burdens have already been placed for provision of other essential community commodities, such as churches. In the circumstances any saving in the cost of the hall would be of great assistance to these people.

Mr. HUGHES secured the adjournment of the debate.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (MINISTERS).

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 20. Page 535.)

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): The Premier said in his second reading explanation on this matter that "the operative clause, as before, is clause 3 which amends section 65 of the Constitution Act." Section 65 of the principal Act provides:

> (1) The number of Ministers of the Crown shall not exceed eight.
> (2) The Ministers of the Crown shall respectively bear such titles and fill such ministerial offices as the Governor from time to time appoints, and not more than five of the Ministers shall at one time be members of the House of Assembly.

By way of explanation, I might mention that section 66 (1) provides:

> No person shall hold office as a Minister of the Crown for more than three calendar months unless he is a member of Parliament.

Section 68 provides:

> The appointment to all public offices under the Government of the State, whether such offices be salaried or not, shall be vested in the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, except the appointment of the officers required by this Act to be members of Parliament, the appointment and dismissal of which officers shall be vested in the Governor alone.

If the Governor can do all these things under the Act, surely it is not necessary for this Bill to be introduced to provide specifically for the office of Premier of the State. If the Premier is adamant, however, that it is not possible for the Governor to carry out these functions, then I recommend that he ask leave of the House to amend his Bill to delete all reference to any matter other than the proviso sought to section 65(2) of the principal Act, namely:

> Provided that one of the Ministers of the Crown shall bear the title and fill the ministerial office of Premier.

I assure this House that we are just as anxious to have the Leader of the Government bear the title of Premier of the State in addition to what has been customary practice in the past of carrying out the duties and responsibilities of Treasurer. Before proceeding further I shall deal with the statement made by the Premier concerning the Industries Development Committee that sat as a special committee to inquire into the decentralization of industry. He said:

> It was interesting to note last year that while, as a Party, members opposite were moving to defeat the Bill, some of the members, in another report published almost at the same time, were advocating that it was necessary in the interests of decentralization that Ministerial increases take place.

Without being unparliamentary, it is not possible to correctly describe this statement but I shall quote from the actual summary and recommendations of that committee in relation to this matter and members can judge for themselves whether the Treasurer's statement possesses one atom of truth or not. The recommendation by the committee was:

> As set out in the body of this report the committee believes it to be desirable that industrialists have some definite point of contact with the Government which can give information on the various aspects of the State's industrial and economic forces and give advice and assistance on the various technical aspects of choosing and operating from a particular location. This can best be achieved by setting up a special department or branch of a department to promote country industrial expansion and, in association with local committes, publicize the natural advantages which certain locations may possess. Such a department could provide a most valuable service to industry generally and to decentralized industry in particular. The committee does not propose to set out in this report its views on the scope of the functions of such a department, but it believes that the head of the department should have direct access to the Premier and that it should be staffed by personnel—administrative, technical, public relations and accounting—to give a service to industry and to publicize the advantages of South Australian locations in general and, where applicable, of country locations in particular. Many suggestions made at country hearings appear well worthy of further investigation, and a department such as is envisaged here might well be charged with such further investigation.

Members will readily notice that there is very little similarity between what the committee actually said and the Premier's assessment of the position. Judging by the attitude of members opposite at the moment, it does not seem to me as though the Government is even interested in this Bill. As long as the Premier can get away with something that is not factual, the Government apparently can sidestep the issue when a suggestion is offered. When matters such as this are being debated, at least there should be a better recognition of their importance. I have no hesitation in saying that the Premier's second reading explanation on this occasion was nothing more than a stab in the dark or a guess. The Premier probably knew that the report was being prepared, something that was not known to the Opposition at the time. I do not know whether the Premier read the report, but if we are expected to deal with these matters he should at least give a truthful explanation, not just pull something out of the hat as he did on this occasion.

I have the highest regard for the members of my Party who were represented on the committee, particularly the member for Stuart (Mr. Riches). I have no doubt that in the preparation of that report the honourable member was concerned solely with the interests of the State, and to be sidetracked, as it were, by the implications that were introduced because this legislation was not passed previously is an insult not only to members but to Parliament itself. I have often said that I have never objected to my remarks in this House being quoted, but let my remarks be fully quoted. If I take the trouble to see that the Opposition's facts are correct, I expect the same courtesy to be extended from the other side of the House.

We have many Government departments that are administered by the existing eight Ministers of the Crown, and the departments are added to from time to time in order to more efficiently deal with the functions of government, but it has not been found necessary on earlier occasions to amend the Constitution Act when it has been considered desirable in the interests of the State to rearrange one of those departments. The other alternative I offer to the Premier, if he is not prepared to ask leave of the House to amend his Bill in the way I suggested, is for the Government to introduce a Premier's Act or something similar to provide for the establishment of a Premier's Department and to lay down its duties, functions and responsibilities, as this would be in keeping with the recommendation made by the Industries Development Committee. However, if the Government is certain that it is necessary to increase the number of Ministers, then it is just as necessary to increase the number of members of Parliament, and it will be necessary to increase the number beyond the proposed 42 members before we on this side will agree to the appointment of another Minister. Already there is too much Executive control. Already the Premier can make announcements about the expenditure of money in this State in order to arouse public interest in those matters, and then he can come back and use Parliament as a second fiddle and ask members to fall into line and authorize expenditure on which the Government has already been committed.

This is not a very good state of affairs, whichever way it is looked at. It is all very nice to get on the band waggon, wave a big flag, and say we are going to give so many hundreds of pounds to this and £1,000 to something else; but there is a Parliament and, if Parliament cannot deal with the matter, why do we have to seek another Minister to further Executive control? You, Mr. Speaker, know as well as I do that too many such pronouncements are made from the other side of the House. Apparently, Parliamentary life is a very good social life as long as one does not have to sit in Parliament. Apparently it is all very nice to have an Executive, to further increase the Executive power, and then to come along and ask Parliament to agree to what the Executive has done. A halt must be called to this practice, and it is about time the Government itself considered the matter.

Let this debate be conducted far differently from the way it was conducted on the last occasion. When I spoke on that Bill it was almost put away in Annie's room (which I understand is the Parliamentary term) and then revived. On broad principles, there is no getting away from the fact that there is too much Executive control to grant the appointment of another Minister. I understood that this legislation was considered to be most important, but Government members do not appear to have much interest in it at the moment.

At present there are 19 Government members, and 19 Labor members were elected to Parliament. The five Ministers normally speak on matters associated with their departments. The Chairman of Committees may speak in second reading debates or in the Address in Reply debate, but in Committee we hear from

him only on a division, and his vote is exercised in favour of the Government. Therefore, six from the 19 members opposite leaves 13 private members on the Government side. When we consider the number of silent members on the other side, very little debate is heard from the Government. This is not consistent with true democracy. Industrial advancement has taken place in South Australia but not all of it was produced by one political Party. Many factors have gone into making up the present prosperous condition of South Australia. Indeed, the Premier's immediate predecessor did more in the planning of important secondary industries than many people are prepared to credit him for.

This Bill does not merit the approval of this House. If the number of Ministers in this House is to be increased from five to six, the number of members of this place should be increased also. South Australia now has a population of over 1,000,000 and it is time the number of members of Parliament was increased. The district I represent is not big compared with the district of Frome, but I must look after 30,000 constituents, and over 40,000 reside in the district of Enfield. Further, under the present set-up there are over 30,000 constituents in the district of Gawler, although the quota for that district is supposed to be about 7,000. Surely these matters should be considered. When this legislation was introduced last session, the second reading debate was adjourned and the Bill was almost forgotten. The fundamental issues in respect of the legislation were not publicized, but I hope that that lack of publicity will not be so apparent on this occasion. Let us vote on the Bill today rather than adjourn it *sine die.* The attitude of members on this side is plain: we will not approve of this legislation; we oppose continued Executive control; we believe that Parliament should be consulted more often; we believe that Parliament should sit longer; and we believe that an opportunity should be given to discuss matters in the Parliament before the State is committed to expenditure on the items I have referred to. I oppose the Bill, but I do not object to the establishment of a Premier's Department. If this cannot be done under section 65 of the Constitution Act the Bill should be recast to provide for the establishment of that office. My Party would not oppose such legislation.

The House divided on Mr. Laucke's motion "That this debate be now adjourned":

Ayes (18).—Messrs. Bockelberg, Brookman, Coumbe, Ferguson, Freebairn, Hall, Harding, Heaslip, Laucke, McAnaney, and Millhouse, Sir Baden Pattinson, Mr. Pearson, Sir Thomas Playford (teller), Messrs. Quirke, Shannon, Mrs. Steele, and Mr. Teusner.

Noes (17).—Messrs. Burdon, Bywaters, Casey, Clark, Corcoran, Curren, Dunstan, Hughes, Hutchens, Jennings, Langley, Lawn, McKee, Riches, Ryan, Frank Walsh (teller), and Fred Walsh.

Pair.—Aye—Mr. Nankivell. No—Mr. Tapping.

Majority of 1 for the Ayes.

Motion thus carried; debate adjourned.

ABORIGINAL AND HISTORICAL OBJECTS PRESERVATION BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 20. Page 537.)

Mr. CLARK (Gawler): I completely support the Bill, which I am glad to see is based on the report of a committee, the members of which should know the subject matter. I am told that it included representatives of the Aboriginal Affairs Board, the Pastoral Board, the South Australian Museum, the Board for Anthropological Research, and the Flora and Fauna Committee. I imagine that these representatives would have been able to bring down useful suggestions. Most civilized countries have similar legislation designed to protect the early examples of the arts and crafts of their aboriginal people. Possibly this legislation could have been introduced earlier. As the Minister said in his second reading explanation, few places in Australia are really isolated. Wherever tourists go there is a risk of damage and defacement to works of aboriginal art.

This Bill should result in preventing such destruction, and not only preserve them for students interested in this subject, but also enable others to see these things. We have many examples of primitive works of art and I am pleased to see that clause 3 provides for the protection of works of historical value, including those of ethnological or anthropological interest. Discoveries may be made that are also valuable from an educational point of view. I am happy to support the Bill and I am sure it will prevent much wanton damage. If similar legislation had been passed earlier, it could have prevented much damage.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER (Angas): I wish to address a few remarks to the Bill. I consider that it goes further than is indicated by the first line of the Minister's second reading explanation, in which he said:

It seeks to facilitate the preservation of aboriginal rock carvings and is designed to give effect to recommendations of a committee set up to investigate and advise on the matter.

Clause 3, the definition clause, includes the following:

''object'' includes a carving, painting or other representation, whether on rock or otherwise;

''prescribed object'' means—

(*a*) an object relating to Aborigines which is of ethnological or anthropological interest or value;

(*b*) an object relating to the State which is of archaeological or historical interest or value.

Subclauses (*c*) and (*d*) further extend that definition. I appreciate that the Bill provides for extending this ambit to matters other than rock paintings or carvings. Clause 5 (1) states:

The Minister or an authorized person may, for the purpose of preserving a prescribed object, purchase or otherwise acquire the object on behalf of the Queen.

I feel that consideration should be given to whether the legislation should be extended to enable an authorized person or some organization to do something to protect rock carvings and paintings. In the district of Barossa and areas propinquitous thereto there are six caves containing excellent aboriginal carvings and paintings. I have visited them all in the past few years.

Mr. Riches: Are they carvings or paintings?

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Paintings. What has prompted me to do so is that my younger son has made it a hobby to study native anthropology; and he is also a collector of native implements, has explored native caves in various parts of South Australia, and has taken photographs and made drawings, some of which have been published. I have noticed that of these six caves in the Barossa district the rock paintings in one in particular have been badly mutilated by vandals. In this cave there are at least 100 initials of names inscribed on the rocks. No doubt this kind of thing will increase unless protective measures are taken by the provision of grids or wire grilles either at the entrance of the cave or near the rock paintings.

The other five caves of which I have knowledge have also had their rock paintings mutilated, but not to the same extent as in the other caves, simply because their existence is not known to the public generally. I believe that as soon as the public realizes that caves with rock paintings in them are within the reach of the larger towns situated in those localities, an inroad to them will be made by numerous persons, and we shall have the same desecration as I have witnessed in the cave to which I have referred. So it may be advisable to consider whether something should be done to protect caves or rock faces where there are aboriginal paintings. Some of these paintings in the district to which I have referred are still in excellent order. In fact, I should prefer to admire them rather than some of the crude paintings of the ultra-modern so-called artists whose work we are obliged to look at occasionally. I trust that this will be considered by the Minister.

Mr. Shannon: Won't this be protected under the present Bill?

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Clause 14 provides:

The moneys required for any purpose of this Act shall be paid out of moneys to be provided by Parliament for the purposes of this Act.

The only reference I can see, in my hurried examination of this Bill, to the expenditure of money on the preservation of some of these objects is in clause 5, which I have already read.

I have also read the definition of ''prescribed object''. Purchase or acquisition may include the acquisition of the land on which the ''prescribed object'' is situated. The caves to which I have just referred are on private property. I do not know whether clause 5 enables the money to be made available for the acquisition of land on which caves with rock paintings or carvings are situated. That matter should be examined.

Mr. Shannon: Clause 5 (2) deals with a prohibition.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Yes, that is the power to make regulations.

Mr. Shannon: No, not only that but the power to prohibit the sale or purchase. Are you worried about rock paintings?

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Rock paintings or carvings.

Mr. Shannon: One cannot very well take a rock painting.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: No; and the Act prohibits that, too. But I am asking that money be made available for some organization, be it a museum or a prescribed, authorized person, to erect wire grilles to protect the rock faces so that the public cannot interfere with the rock faces on which are the carvings or paintings. I believe that has been done in the North.

Mr. Shannon: It is a very forbidding method.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: I think it has been done, and that in the district of the member for Frome (Mr. Casey), which my son has visited, there is a cave with proper protection.

Mr. Riches: Wouldn't it be desirable to acquire it first?

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: I would wholeheartedly favour that. I should like the public to see some of our caves with native carvings in them but I think it is inadvisable to acquaint the public with the location of these caves with rock paintings in them while they are unprotected, because there will be further desecration and mutilation of those rock paintings. One other point to which I wish to draw attention concerns clause 9, which states:

> A person shall not wilfully or negligently deface, damage, uncover, expose, excavate or otherwise interfere with . . . (*b*) a place which is or has been at any time used by Aborigines as a ceremonial, burial or initiation ground, except with the written permission of an authorized person.

I am not so certain what would happen in this case. In the Barossa Valley I know of a location which, until a century or so ago, was a native camping ground and may also have been a ceremonial or initiation ground. During the last 50 years or so, however, the ground has been ploughed up and a vineyard planted. In the last two or three years my son has realized from the nature of the ground that it must have been a camping ground used by natives a century or more ago for certain ceremonies. He investigated it and discovered many native stone implements of some significance and value. If a property on which there is such a ground is used for viticultural purposes, as this is being used, is the viticulturist committing an offence under this provision and is he liable to a penalty? He is certainly excavating, exposing or interfering with a place that has been used as a ground by the Aborigines. He is working the ground and exposing any native stone implements that lie buried there. If the Bill renders that man liable to prosecution, it may be going a little too far where an owner in all good faith has utilized the land for half a century or more for horticultural, viticultural or other productive purposes. With those reservations, I support the Bill and commend the Minister for its introduction because I think it serves a useful purpose.

Mr. RICHES (Stuart): I, too, support the Bill and think the whole House will support its aims and objects. However, just how these aims can be translated into practical effect is to be determined by those people who are given the authority under the Bill. There are native paintings and native carvings, many of them yet to be discovered. They are full of interest, particularly in the northern regions and the Flinders Ranges. It is desirable that, as they become known to the public and accessible to tourists, steps be taken to ensure their preservation.

I am encouraged in one respect. I have observed from time to time the Yourambulla caves this side of Hawker, which I suppose are best known to the tourists who come to South Australia and which would be the most advertised and the most easily accessible. The Tourist Bureau or someone has placed a notice at the entrance to those caves informing people that the drawings there are of inestimable value and asking that the walls be not defaced by writing on them. I have been surprised at the way the request in that notice has been observed, as there is very little writing having regard to the number of people who have visited that area year after year. That leads me to hope that, with the proper appeal, co-operation can be obtained. I think much of this writing of names is caused by thoughtlessness; once it starts, it seems to be the aim of everyone to place his name on the honour roll.

I was struck by the lack of evidence of vandalism through European countries. About twelve months ago I visited St. Peters Cathedral in Rome and was privileged to be able to climb the stairway leading to the two domes of that great cathedral. I am absolutely certain that there was no place inside the two domes where another name could be written. I could not have written my own name if I had wanted to. That shocked me, because elsewhere in that country I had seen no signs of desecration. I hope that as a result of this measure places on private property that contain these things will be obtained for the public, that proper protection will be provided, and that the wealth of history in these items, particularly in the rock carvings, can be opened up to the public.

I have been told that on a station off the Moolooloo Road there are 3,000 rock caves, but the people who know of their existence are afraid to make their whereabouts public. The leaseholders of the land discourage anyone from entering the land for fear of vandalism and the taking of the rock carvings. Areas around Hawker have been almost denuded of carvings because almost everyone who has visited them has taken something home. As they have not known their meaning, they have created permanent damage to the area. Between Port

Augusta and Whyalla there are caves that contain not only black drawings but coloured drawings, which have been commented on favourably by people of the calibre of Mr. Mountford, and others. The whereabouts of these caves are known to several people now, but they are not unduly publicized as vandalism is feared. There has been no evidence of vandalism yet, and it is to be hoped that this will continue to be so, but I think much more machinery than is provided in this Bill is necessary to prevent it. I am sure that every member approves of the aims of the Bill, and I hope that the necessary safeguards will be provided.

Mrs. STEELE (Burnside): Like other members, I was pleased to see legislation of this kind introduced. I think that, because of the composition of the body that helped to draw up the Bill, the measure will have the desired effect. It is rather a belated recognition of the fact that we have these wonderful examples of native art within our State. I should like to ask the Minister a practical question, which I am sure has occurred to everyone, about the way it is intended to preserve the paintings. Mention has been made of there being grilles at the openings of caves, but often the rock paintings are in places that do not lend themselves to this kind of protection. In any case, I think it would be a great pity if we had to protect something in its natural surroundings or environment by the introduction of iron or steel grilles.

Mr. C. P. Mountford has done perhaps more than any man in Australia not only to preserve but to study the folk lore, culture and art of our aboriginal people. Mr. Mountford's studies have been recognized by world societies. I do not know if members are aware that the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization not long ago published a magnificent book containing beautiful colour prints of the best of the rock carvings and paintings, and things of this nature, which Mr. Mountford was largely responsible for compiling. That magnificent journal has been published and printed by this organization, and I recently saw a copy in Melbourne. I think this book should be in our Parliamentary Library, and I recommend to whomsoever is responsible in this place for making recommendations to the Library Committee that this purchase be made, because the book contains not only wonderful plates of rock carvings and paintings but a wonderful story of aboriginal culture and art compiled by Mr. Mountford.

I tried to get in touch with Mr. Mountford to see whether he had practical ideas about how these things could be preserved. Unfortunately, he was away in the middle of Cape York Peninsula, but I spoke to Mrs. Mountford. I am sorry that Mr. Mountford is not here now, as I think he might have some interesting observations to make. Mrs. Mountford, who is tremendously interested in the work of her husband in this field, told me that he works with, I think, size and paints the faces of rock paintings. When I was in the Northern Territory last year I visited Ayers Rock. Like many others who go there, I saw some of the rock paintings, and I was immediately struck by the fact that they were fading badly. I wondered what could be done; whether perhaps size or some kind of clear lacquer that could be absorbed by the rock would be the way to preserve what remains of the colour of many of these rock paintings. I understand that most rock paintings are done with materials that have no pigmentation and are therefore subject to weathering by wind and rain. In time, they are completely obliterated. I saw evidence when I was there: it is not in South Australia but it would be the same here. I saw where somebody, whether people interested in the preservation of rock paintings or mere tourists who thought they could improve on the original paintings, in a number of instances had over-coloured the original colouring. This had completely marred the original colouring, because it was done not with the original paints and materials the Aborigines had used, but with a modern medium. This was a great pity. Others must have thought about how we could preserve the paintings on the rock where they are exposed and not in a position where they could be effectively protected by grilles or similar methods.

This happens to so many things of native origin and art. At home we have an ancient boomerang that my husband picked up in the Simpson Desert many years ago. It could be hundreds and hundreds of years old and it is interesting because the softer parts of the wood graining have been eaten away by the friction of the driving sand. This is typical of what could happen to so many rock paintings or aboriginal weapons that would be of great interest to all Australians. Has the Minister the answer to the question of how the experts, who have recommended the preservation of these rock carvings and paintings, plan to protect them? Having commented on protection and suggested that Parliament procure a book so that, if members cannot see the paintings and carvings, they may have evidence of them in this House, I support the Bill.

Mr. SHANNON (Onkaparinga): I am not one that blames the Minister for the late introduction of this measure. Any blame attachable should be placed upon the people of South Australia who have not been sufficiently aware of the necessity for the preservation of these historical records of the first people who occupied the country. I am not concerned, as is the member for Burnside, that we shall be in jeopardy by accepting this Bill, and that proper steps will not be taken for the preservation of the objects which are of interest not only to this generation but of those to come. The regulation-making power is a broad one and states:

> The Governor may make regulations prescribing all matters which by this Act are required or permitted to be prescribed, or which are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.

It is about as broad a definition as possible to describe what the regulation-making power may be. It does not prohibit anything: regulations can be made for any purpose, and I am in favour of that. I am not concerned with acts of vandalism, if you care to call them that, that have already occurred, where, unhappily, certain irreplaceable objects have been removed or defaced: it is a *fait accompli*, which we have to accept, and nothing can be done about it.

If we had no protection provisions, the point raised by the member for Angas would be a good one. However, I consider that the exemptions provided in clause 4 are adequate to deal with any such case. I have visited the member's district and have seen Black Hill, which is almost a mountain of oyster shells. It has been suggested, but I do not know of real proof, that the shells are the residue of the feasts that took place when possibly the sea encroached so far inland and the natives of the day used it as a feasting ground. It is evidence of an early stage of occupation of the Australian mainland by native races. The Government has wisely framed this legislation so that, first, it can engage experts to act on behalf of the people of this State in preserving what we want to preserve, and, secondly, we know that proper steps will be taken for the preservation of anything that cannot be removed and stored, such as rock carvings and paintings.

Mr. Clark: They look better in their original places.

Mr. SHANNON: Yes. Immediately they are shifted they lose much of their ethnological value as the local atmosphere is removed from the object. I am not an expert and do not suggest how it can be done, but I prefer to leave it to experts. I have no qualms that the Government will not select the right people to do this. As the member for Burnside said, the name ''Mountford'' is a household word in this field in Australia, and I do not think the Government will overlook him when seeking advice about this matter. I know that the Minister is a great lover of things ancient and beautiful.

The Hon. Sir Baden Pattinson: Young and beautiful, too!

Mr. SHANNON: Perhaps the Minister is reaching the stage where ''young'' is a thing of the past.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: Are you thinking of retrospectivity?

Mr. SHANNON: That is an annoying topic. I am sure those who will carry out this work will be carefully selected, having regard to their knowledge of the subject and their reliability in protecting these objects of art.

Mr. LAUCKE (Barossa): I express appreciation of the Minister's action in introducing this legislation. It is timely, and I concur in all that has been said in favour of it. Some years ago, when speaking in the Address in Reply debate, I referred to the loss of the myths and music of the Aborigines. At the University of Adelaide there is a gentleman, Mr. T. G. H. Strehlow, a master in linguistics, and a most competent authority on old folk lore of the Aborigines. He spent his early days at the Hermannsburg Mission and, in fact, played with the aboriginal children. As he approached adulthood his love for the Aborigines grew deeper. The old tribesmen have a particularly great affection for him as well as a deep trust. Such a person as he could well be competent to retain the fast-fading folk lore of the Aborigines for posterity. As the old tribal leaders die, so die their old stories and myths. I hope that every consideration will be given to furthering the endeavours thus far made by Mr. Strehlow, and people such as he, to retain part of our Australian history—the early folk lore, the music and the myths of the Aborigines. The various dialects should be transferred on to a tape and ultimately translated into our own language, if possible. I understand that Mr. Strehlow has translated certain of the aboriginal languages into English, but many invaluable relics of the past are being lost because of the lack of efforts to preserve them while it is possible.

Mr. Shannon: Very true!

Mr. LAUCKE: I support the Bill.

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON (Minister of Education): I am indebted to all the members of the House who have contributed to this debate, and for the valuable suggestions they have made as well as the pertinent questions they have posed. I point out that it has taken well over 100 years for any legislation of this type to be introduced into Parliament and, while I do not pretend or believe that this Bill is the answer to the whole problem, at least it is a beginning. I assure the House that a most expert committee of able and experienced people will contribute the wealth of their knowledge and experience to tackling this problem. If any further suggestions are forthcoming I am quite confident that that committee would recommend them and I am equally confident that the Government of the day would introduce the appropriate amendments.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment. Committee's report adopted.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 20. Page 538.)

Mr. JENNINGS (Enfield): I support the Bill. It is quite unexceptionable and, indeed, quite commendable. It is the result of an agreement between State Ministers to allow the use of the metric system by drug houses, which seems to have been asked for by every pharmaceutical organization in Australia. We are told that it is now used exclusively by the British Pharmacopoeia. It is intended, in order to protect the public where drugs are already packaged for sale, that the avoirdupois weight be marked on them as well as the metric weight. It is also intended to ensure that, following the passage of this legislation, the accuracy of chemists' scales and weights, etc., be brought under departmental investigation, supervision and regulation. That is already done in most States. I support the Bill.

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

STATUTES AMENDMENT (DOG FENCE AND VERMIN) BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 20. Page 539.)

Mr. CASEY (Frome): I have much pleasure in supporting this Bill. On occasions over the years there has been a difference of opinion between landowners regarding the dog fence. As pointed out by the Minister in his second reading explanation, only recently two property owners could not agree on a financial arrangement when the site of the fence was varied. This Bill clears up any doubts as to the course to be adopted in these circumstances.

Clause 3 enables the Dog Fence Board to recommend a variation in the site of the fence if the owners have concluded a satisfactory agreement between themselves, and if the owners cannot agree the matter is to be referred to arbitration. It also provides for the Minister to appoint one or more arbitrators, provided that one or both parties request such action. It is not often that the actual site of the dog fence is varied, and this is not surprising when we realize that to erect one mile of such a fence today would cost about £500. That is one reason why these cases seldom come before the board. Nevertheless, when they have come before the board in the past there have been minor feuds, and I am sure that this Bill will rectify the matter.

The Government subsidy of £17 a mile is derived from the rates. At present, the rating is 3s. 6d. a square mile if a landowner owns more than four square miles. Also, there is a demarcation line extending (speaking from memory) roughly from Port Pirie in an easterly direction towards Overland Corner, and the ratable area takes in the whole of Eyre Peninsula. North of that line any person holding more than four square miles is charged rates at 3s. 6d. a square mile. Perhaps the member for Eyre (Mr. Bockelberg) and the Minister of Works will agree with me when I say that there is an anomaly here if we consider the overall picture of the State. The people in those northern areas are paying this rate, although they own only about one-third of the State's sheep population. I think the whole purpose of the dog fence is to protect the rest of the State from the infestation of wild dogs. What is good for the goose is good for the gander, so if it is good enough to rate the people in the North it is good enough to rate the people in the South, because those people have the bulk of the sheep population. I leave that thought with the Minister, and perhaps he will look into the matter to see if something cannot be done to apply this rate in a more uniform manner. With that reservation, I support the Bill.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment. Committee's report adopted.

SWINE COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 20. Page 544.)

Mr. BYWATERS (Murray): I support the second reading. I think the Minister's second reading explanation was the shortest on record in this House. It occupied nine lines in *Hansard.* There may have been shorter explanations but I have yet to see one. The Minister said his explanation on the Bill was related to that given on another Bill. I hope that this will not be a precedent. Even though this is a seemingly simple Bill, second reading explanations should give some detail and should not be related to other Bills. The Bill is necessary because, in the past, people were collecting duty in an illegal way. It tidies up the matter and makes the collection legal, and is therefore desirable.

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

CATTLE COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 20. Page 544.)

Mr. CASEY (Frome): I support the second reading because, as the Minister pointed out in his second reading explanation, the Bill clears up discrepancies overlooked when the legislation was first introduced. Under the Bill cattle duty becomes the responsibility of the purchaser of cattle, and so the procedure is legalized. This was not the case under the old legislation but, strangely enough, it was the practice of stock firms to carry out the procedure and they have been doing it for many years. The measure is long overdue. Under the Bill, compensation may be claimed on several diseases. This State is fortunate in having few diseases amongst cattle and it is to be hoped that we do not suffer the same fate as Queensland, which at present is having much trouble with its cattle compensation legislation. The known diseases prevalent in South Australia are animal tuberculosis of a particular form; pleuro-pneumonia, which is becoming weaker every year; actinomycosis; venereal disease, sometimes known as trichomoniosis; and Johne's disease.

If an owner, for some unknown reason, loses a valuable beast he can apply to the Agriculture Department, which will send a veterinary surgeon into the area, and if the beast has died from one or two of these diseases compensation can be claimed at three-quarters of its market value, with a maximum of £60. The duty is based on 3d. for £10 market value, or part of £10, with a maximum of 1s. an animal. Duty is collected in this way for every beast that is sold. Where private owners go on to other private properties to purchase beasts they are, under this Bill, liable to pay the duty. That is highly desirable, because it gives the purchaser a protection he did not have before.

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

WHEAT INDUSTRY STABILIZATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 20. Page 534.)

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): At the outbreak of the Second World War, the Australian Wheat Board was constituted under the National Security Regulations to purchase, sell and dispose of wheat or wheat products. In practice it was able to do any and all things relating to the orderly purchase, storage and disposal of the wheat harvests from year to year. This was brought about because of the onset of the Second World War, when it was necessary for Australia to have orderly marketing and to guarantee a return to the producer. This system operated during the war years and until 1949 when the board was reconstituted and ever since it has been re-appointed to administer five-yearly wheat stabilization plans. The most recent ratifying State legislation was passed last year to cover that season and the next four seasons, but apparently there was an omission in that legislation in relation to the charges made by South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited. The effect of the legislation last year was to guarantee to producers a stable and a reasonable return on their output, and the effect of the amending Bill before us is to ensure that the co-operative will be able to receive its return also by means of procuration orders issued by its members to the Wheat Board so that it may deduct the appropriate charges prior to making a normal distribution to the producers. If the Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited has performed services for a producer who is not a member of the co-operative by the provisions of clause 3 (1) (*b*), amending section 14 of the principal Act, the Wheat Board is empowered to deduct amounts due to the co-operative. Thus by legislation we are determining that all persons and companies are to receive their proper shares and I believe that the time is opportune to consider

hours of employment and conditions of work of employees engaged in primary production. Consequently, I believe the Industrial Code should be amended to provide that employees in rural industries shall have an award covering their employment.

We have not been told very much about the charges being made by South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited, but no doubt there has been some agreement between the management and the members of the co-operative in relation to the charges that members shall bear. In relation to non-members, there is a safeguard in the Bill before us that the Auditor-General must approve of the charges to be made and the details must be published in the *Government Gazette.* I support the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. LAUCKE (Barossa): I support this Bill, which merely regularizes something that has been done for a considerable time. When farmers fill in their application forms for wheat payment, they give authority for certain moneys to be paid to Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited for services rendered in handling that wheat in bulk; or, if delivered in bags, there is an agreement with the bulk handling authority by the farmer to pay certain fees, which are used to establish silos throughout South Australia. This is a good method of enabling the farmer to pay his dues; and to see this practice regularized, as it is by this measure, is good business.

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

APIARIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 20. Page 535.)

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): I support the second reading of this Bill, but before commenting on it I should like to say that, if it were not for private members' business being already on tomorrow's Notice Paper, I do not think we would have a Notice Paper at all for tomorrow!

Bee farming is a separate industry, but it is often carried on with other branches of farming. In recent years, however, there has been a growth in the practice of having mobile apiaries with the object of obtaining a continuous supply of nectar for processing by following the cycle of blossoms throughout the State. The latest report of the Minister of Agriculture, which is for the year ended June, 1963, showed that there was an outbreak of American foul brood in eight apiaries in 1962-63, and that the origin of most infection appeared to be one large scattered apiary. No doubt this outbreak of disease contributed towards the department's reviewing its legislation, and the majority of the amendments proposed appear to be machinery amendments. Clause 3 provides for the amendment of the definitions of ''apiary'' and ''appliances''. Clause 4 relates to the registration of hives and alters the registration date from January 15 to June 30, and provides for this to be fixed by regulation instead of being laid down in the Act. These are all machinery amendments.

Clauses 5, 6 and 7 comprise the important sections of this Bill, and cover such matters as the duties of beekeepers, the powers of inspectors, and offences that may occur in the event of a disease being discovered in an apiary. Much more flexibility is being given to the Act by an inspector being given the absolute power to direct what should be done in these cases. This certainly provides machinery for strengthening the effectiveness of the Act, but I sincerely trust that the inspectors do not abuse the additional power that is given to them. The Minister has argued ''that as different diseases require different treatment, it would not be practicable to make adequate provision for this by regulation, and it is considered that any such work should be carried out under the direction of an inspector.''

I am not in favour of absolute power being given to inspectors, because only eight diseases are notifiable under the Act as set out in the new schedule, and I do not see why the necessary procedure for the individual diseases cannot be laid down by regulations. I am happy with the amendments proposed by clause 8 which relate to the branding of at least one hive in 10 or one in each group, and also the provision of adequate water supplies for the bees. Clause 9 is another machinery measure relating to the issuing of regulations to cover fees for registration and the sizes of brands. In South Australia there are about 60,000 hives, but more than two-thirds of these are in apiaries which contain more than 100 hives. Whilst beekeeping tends to be a comparatively small primary industry, nevertheless it is still making a worthy contribution to the earnings of the community.

The output from this industry is particularly variable, but for the year 1961-62 (the latest figures available to me), there was a production of about 8,400,000 lb. of honey and 123,000 lb. of beeswax, which, altogether, had a net value of about £286,000. I believe that we should

have adequate measures to ensure that this industry is kept free from disease. As with all foodstuffs, the finances of the industry depend on the purity of the product and, consequently, I believe that we should have adequate legislation to ensure that the apiaries are kept disease-free, but I find it difficult to escape the impression that we are forming a sledge-hammer to crack a nut. In Saturday's press appeared a report of statements made by Dr. B. R. D. Gillings, of the Sydney university, when he was presenting a paper to the three-day conference of the Australian sections of the International Association for Dental Research at the University of Adelaide. Dr. Gillings said (and I noticed no mention of fluoridation):

> Laboratory experiments showed that honey was the most destructive sugar in dissolving dental enamel. . . . The same effect was noticed with grain foods—the more highly they were refined for human consumption the more dental enamel they dissolved. This . . . suggests that there could be components in foods which protect tooth enamel against decalcification and that these components are removed during refining.

If we are to consume honey, with the result that enamel is to be removed from the teeth, this Bill should be considered in connection with the debate foreshadowed for tomorrow concerning fluoridation. Is damage to the enamel brought about by the refinement of honey?

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: If we were to believe all the statements made about damage to teeth the enamel on the average man's teeth would be ground to a powder.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I do not know about that, and I do not offer my teeth for testing in that respect.

Mr. Bywaters: If we took notice of all the specialists we would not need anything at all.

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I have doubts about that matter, too. Whilst the Government is taking steps to ensure that the production of honey by the bees is kept disease-free, it might also consider the possibility of an investigation to discover whether components in the original product are destroyed by processing as has been indicated by Dr. Gillings. I support the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. SHANNON (Onkaparinga): I want to refer to some of the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition with regard to deleterious substances contained in honey and also to his suggestion that it might be the processing of the honey that brings about harmful effects on teeth enamel. I can assure him at once that there is no such thing as "processing" honey, for honey is a natural product. The only thing that can be done with honey is to blend it, if it is desirable to blend it, to make some of the less palatable honeys saleable with the higher quality honeys. I think that is all anyone has been able to achieve in that respect.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: Does that apply to candied honey?

Mr. SHANNON: I do not care what it is called.

Mr. Clark: Is the candied honey sold nowadays processed?

Mr. SHANNON: For the main part, the candied condition is accelerated by adding old candied honey to fresh liquid honey. It is a somewhat similar process to making yeast. That is one of the methods by which candied honey is presented to the consumer. I want to refer also to the Leader's comments on food fads. There is an old saying that we all dig our graves with our teeth, and if members think about that they will realize how true it is. Everything we eat is a slow poison, and thank goodness it is slow. Some cranks suggest that some foods are quicker poisons than others. The natives were great honeyeaters and great lovers of what was known as the honey ant (another producer of the natural honey in its native form). I point out to the expert quoted by the Leader that there is no finer dental showing in any known race of people than there is in our own Aborigines, whose teeth are as good as the teeth of any other human race, despite their love of honey. I admit that the Aboriginal eats not only honey, but no-one else eats only honey, for that would become sickening. I issue that word of warning because I think that gentleman is doing a great disservice to a worthy cause and a worthy industry, one upon which much time and energy is expended. I admit that the bee does most of the work, but after the bee has gathered the honey and put in the comb there it still much work to be done by the apiarist.

The Bill deals with the powers of an inspector, and I should like information from the Minister on this aspect. We have no definition of an inspector and we have no prescribed qualification that he should possess. I am not an apiarist, but I imagine that the apiarist himself wishes to be assured that the inspector who instructs him to take certain drastic action concerning any of his hives is at least fully qualified to assess whether or not the hives are infested with one of the diseases which are

liable to appear in hives. I refer not only to foul brood but to the others that can occur. I think that we are taking the power to prescribe out of the legislation and placing it straight in the hands of the inspector. I admit that this is a short cut, and it may be that it is desirable to have prompt action taken in the matter, but I think that where we do take prompt and drastic action, which this Bill provides for, we should be assured that the people charged with that responsibility are properly qualified to diagnose disease. As a rule, the average apiarist himself is well aware of his problems. For instance, he may get foul brood in any of his hives.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: And there is no mistaking that one.

Mr. SHANNON: No. As an apiarist, he is very well aware of the danger, and he would be the first to take some drastic action to clean up his hives, though perhaps the odd sideliners who keep just a few hives are not so well informed. I know it is customary for some orchardists to have a few hives to assist in pollination. Whether or not those people are as well informed on the diseases of bees as they should be, I am not competent to say. However, I know that the general field of apiarists who are keeping hives for a living are all fairly well-informed people. I think the Bill should contain some definition of an inspector.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: It is in the Act.

Mr. SHANNON: I had forgotten that, and if I have made a mistake in that respect I regret it. If the Act contains a satisfactory assurance on that point, then I offer no objection to the Bill.

Mr. BYWATERS secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.55 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, August 26, at 2 p.m.