

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, September 1, 1964.

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

QUESTIONS.**SUPERANNUATION.**

Mr. FRANK WALSH: I understand that the Superannuation Act provides for a payment to the widow of a subscriber in respect of children under the age of 16 years. As the Government is introducing a £110,000,000 Budget this afternoon (this has been made public), can the Premier say whether any payments can be made under the Act to widows in respect of children over 16 years who are still attending school?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I told honourable members two or three weeks ago that I had received a report from the Public Actuary about the Superannuation Fund. As a result of that report, amendments to the Superannuation Act have been drafted. I am not sure whether the matters mentioned by the Leader are recommended by the board as being the appropriate amendments, but I shall examine the position and inform the honourable Leader soon.

FREIGHT TRAINS.

Mr. HARDING: At a conference held at Naracoorte yesterday, the Minister of Railways said:

The problem of the illumination of the sides of railway freight vehicles has been exercising the minds of railway authorities for some considerable time. The use of reflectorized tape was, in fact, tried in Victoria some years ago, but it was found to cause confusion and hazards to the shunting staff. At a recent conference of Australian and New Zealand Railways Commissioners it was decided that the use of reflectorized tape was not desirable. The department's policy is to use a lighter shade of grey paint with white lettering on a black background. This tends to make the vehicles more prominent during hours of darkness.

Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Railways whether, because many trucks are completely covered with tarpaulins, it would be practicable to have flashing lights attached to freight trains and operated by the engineer-driver?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am sure the Minister would be pleased to consider any alternative solution to this difficult problem, and I shall bring the member's comments to his notice.

CITRUS FRUIT.

Mr. CURREN: In view of the Premier's threats of retaliatory action against the importation of New South Wales bananas into South Australia as a result of the proposed quarantine restrictions against South Australian citrus fruit entering or passing through New South Wales, will he give details of Ministerial discussions or negotiations that have taken place? Can he say whether the proposed meeting of South Australian and New South Wales departmental officers has taken place and, if it has, what decisions were arrived at?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I should like to preface my remarks by saying that, under no circumstances, has South Australia considered taking any retaliatory action. Two problems have arisen at the same time, but they are in no way connected, except that they deal with similar matters. I shall outline them as being two separate problems, because that is what they are: the New South Wales Government, in an attempt to secure an export market in Japan, has placed a heavy restriction upon fruit entering New South Wales from South Australia, on the ground that that Government has to give a certificate to the effect that no Mediterranean fruit fly is being carried into New South Wales. That regulation would make it impracticable for citrus fruits to be sent to New South Wales for either consumption there or export through that State to New Zealand or any other place. This is therefore a matter of some concern to South Australia. I wrote to the Premier, Mr. Renshaw, asking whether a conference could be held to discuss this regulation and to ascertain whether any amelioration of the problem was possible. A conference was held, but no amelioration was forthcoming. The regulation is to come into operation on October 1, its purpose being to prevent any fruit that could possibly harbour a Mediterranean fruit fly from being transported into New South Wales.

Mr. Riches: Can you tell us why?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I told the honourable member why in the first place. The New South Wales Government wants to give a certificate to Japan that no Mediterranean fruit fly exists in that State and that no fruit fly from any State where Mediterranean fruit fly is to be found is allowed to enter New South Wales.

Mr. Riches: Is there any evidence of Mediterranean fruit fly in South Australia?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Not as far as I know. There is none within a 200-mile radius of any district that would be

exporting citrus fruits to New South Wales. When the conference between the agricultural officers broke down, I wrote to Mr. Renshaw and suggested that I personally discuss this matter with him, because we had already had a problem concerning bananas coming into this State for some time. For many years a regulation has been in force in South Australia making it illegal for ripe bananas to come into the State. Honourable members will realize that bananas represent an effective means of transferring Queensland fruit fly from one place to another. We are allowed to receive green bananas but not ripe ones. Unfortunately, the present regulation is impracticable, for it cannot be adequately policed; it necessitates every crate of bananas being opened by our inspectors and the bananas being picked over. About 500,000 cases are involved each year. Several thousand crates were picked out last year and destroyed. I pointed out to Mr. Renshaw that I wanted to discuss this with him at the same time as the citrus problem. I received no reply whatsoever to my requests, although I have received a reply since I publicly stated that South Australia was dissatisfied with the proposed regulation. Mr. Renshaw is not sure whether a discussion with him would serve any useful purpose but he indicated that he would be pleased to meet me if I so desired. That is where the matter stands at present. For years the Agriculture Department has complained that we have been taking a great risk in allowing New South Wales bananas into this State and that our regulations should be drastically altered. Hitherto we have spent £2,500,000 to keep the State free from fruit fly. I have no doubt that when these matters are examined we will probably solve the problem.

I point out that the action being taken is not retaliatory. Quite apart from the action taken regarding oranges, South Australia was completely dissatisfied that ripe bananas were continually coming to this State and thereby constituting a grave danger to our fruit industry. I have some criticism also of the quality of bananas sent here: I believe that frequently those bananas have been rejected by other States.

OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Yesterday I (as I guess most other members of this House did) read the *Australian*, and I noticed in the main article on the front page that the member for Norwood (Mr. Dunstan) was referred to as

“the influential Deputy Leader of the Opposition in South Australia”. In view of the reputation of the *Australian* for accuracy—

Mr. Clark: That was certainly accurate, wasn't it!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Does the Leader of the Opposition care to make a statement on the position regarding the leadership in his Party?

The SPEAKER: Does the Leader wish to reply?

Mr. FRANK WALSH: If it is a question of State leadership, the answer to the honourable member's question is “No”. If the honourable member is unable to recognize my colleague, the member for Hindmarsh, who is sitting on my immediate left where the Deputy Leader has normally sat throughout the life of this Parliament, I remind him that the holder of that office is Mr. Hutchens. If the honourable member has any other questions associated with the leadership of my Party I will try to answer them in an appropriate way or ask that he put them on notice. I am not a solicitor, and I think members will appreciate that it is hardly possible to give a satisfactory answer to people who indulge in stupidities in asking this type of question.

PRESS REPORTING.

Mr. LAWN: My question is addressed to you, Mr. Speaker, as the custodian of the privileges of the House and, as such, the privileges of all members. Last week I made two personal explanations as a consequence of press misreporting. The first was regarding the treatment of arteriosclerosis. The press did not, despite your invitation, Mr. Speaker, properly report my personal explanation. On the same day I had occasion to make a further personal explanation that a question attributed to me in the press was asked not by me but by the member for Enfield (Mr. Jennings), and there was no report of this. Further, I notice that on the front page of the *Advertiser* of August 27 it was reported that an interjection made by the member for Enfield was attributed to the member for Port Adelaide (Mr. Ryan).

As it is your undoubted privilege to allow press reporters into the press galleries and to allow them to use rooms in Parliament House, would you insist that reports of Parliamentary proceedings be at least accurately reported? (It is significant that our *Hansard* reporters in respect of all of the things I have mentioned rendered a factual report.) If, Sir, you are not prepared to discuss this matter with political reporters, would you convene a meeting of editors of the newspapers and

broadcasting stations concerned to see that a more accurate report of Parliamentary proceedings is given?

The SPEAKER: I shall discuss the matter with the press reporters attached to Parliament House before considering whether to take it further.

PARAFIELD GARDENS TRANSPORT.

Mr. CLARK: I wish to read an extract from a letter a lady sent to my Commonwealth colleague, Mr. Martin Nicholls, M.H.R., who referred it to me because it was a State matter. The letter reads:

The residents of Parafield Gardens last year petitioned for a railway siding to be erected in the above area. At that time we had one bus into the city at 9.30 a.m. and one bus back at 3.30 p.m. The railway officials came out and measured for the siding and we, the residents, felt we were going to be given a siding, but the Salisbury Council then saw fit to have the bus service increased so the railways did not do any more about the siding and the increased bus services began on June 27, 1964, almost one year after our petition for a siding. You may say, well you have a means of getting to town, but what about shift workers; they still walk to the Parafield Station because the bus ceases at 6.5 p.m. and if you want to go out at night you have to walk to Parafield Station, or if you want an outing with your husband on a Sunday, once again—that long walk.

The lady went on to say that there were no shops in the area and that people had to go beyond it to do their shopping. She referred particularly to the difficulty faced by mothers with babies in pushers in doing their shopping. The letter continues:

There are 80 houses occupied on this side of Salisbury Highway with an average of two children a home, but I do admit some have cars, but then you have the husband using them for business. There are at least another 20 houses on the other side of Salisbury Highway that are within walking distance to the proposed site of the siding.

She stated that the bus did not go to Salisbury at all, and that recently her baby was ill and she had to catch the 9.10 a.m. bus to Enfield to obtain medicine. Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Railways to have this matter investigated with a view to providing a railway siding for the people in this area? If the letter that I have here will be of use to the Minister I shall be glad to hand it to him.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I shall ask my colleague to examine the matter, and I am sure he will appreciate having the correspondence to which the honourable member referred.

LAND VALUES.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Some time ago a committee was set up to inquire into the incidence of land values in South Australia. Can the Premier give the House any information on the findings of that committee?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Chairman of that committee, Sir George Ligertwood, brought a copy of the report to me about two days ago, but as yet I have not examined it closely and it has not been submitted to Cabinet. It will be submitted shortly, and I think Cabinet's decision will probably be to have the report laid on the table of the House as soon as possible. As I have not read the report closely, I am unable to give the honourable member a short explanation of the committee's findings. However, from a brief perusal of those findings I believe the report will have far-reaching implications. It seems to be extremely valuable and contains much important information which will, no doubt, require considerable attention. That report will be tabled shortly.

DESALINATION.

Mr. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Works any further information regarding the distillation or desalination of water at Coober Pedy to provide a better water supply there?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The scheme was prepared with the idea that tenders might be called for the supply and installation of a plant for desalination of water to supply Coober Pedy. As the honourable member is well aware, the problem there is acute. The supply of the catchment tank is almost exhausted and, apart from the installation or otherwise of mechanical means, the question of supply in the immediate future is already involved. This morning I saw a report from the Engineer-in-Chief in which he recommends that water carting should be resumed. Of course, the cost of carting water is extremely high; the Engineer-in-Chief expects that it will cost about £20 a thousand gallons, and that about 13,000 gallons a week will be required. The catchment supply was installed when only about 100 or 200 people were living at Coober Pedy, whereas the population has now increased to about 1,000 and the catchment supply has often proved inadequate, particularly in recent years when the rainfall has been so sporadic in that area. Therefore, I intend to ask Cabinet for authority to proceed with water carting; costly though it may be, it must be done.

Regarding the desalination plant, the cost of operation proved to be extremely high when

the scheme was considered. The cost was about £2 10s. a thousand gallons, and the total cost, including the cost of installation, buildings and equipment, was about £5 a thousand gallons. Apart from the plant itself, ancillary equipment has to be installed, adding considerably to the running costs. Coober Pedy is theoretically within the limits (or probably just within the limits) of the Artesian Basin. Cabinet examined this matter and decided that the Director of Mines should be asked for a final report (in so far as he is able to make it) on deep boring for a water supply. Cabinet does not intend to make any final decision on the installation of mechanical means until it has the Director's report, because, although it may be costly, a deep bore will serve two purposes: it will test the possibility of Coober Pedy's being within or without the limits of the Artesian Basin, which is important and, if this supply is available, in the long term it would prove a much more economical and reliable proposition than mechanical means. That is where the matter rests now, but it will not be left there very long for we realize that a solution must be found as soon as possible.

SMALL BOATS.

Mr. BYWATERS: Considerable concern has been expressed by councils adjacent to the Murray River about the need for policing high-speed pleasure craft during weekends and holidays. It has been suggested that, in order to police this matter, some form of registration of these craft should be introduced so that a suspension of the registration could be imposed as a penalty against people who flout the by-laws, where they exist, and the opinions of others. I understand from present comments that the Upper Murray District Councils Association and the Murray Lands District Councils Association have made statements in recent issues of the *Advertiser* to this effect, and they have called, or intend to call, on the Premier to ask whether the Government will consider the registration of these craft so that penalties can be imposed. It seems that it is almost impossible to police the regulations or by-laws in the absence of some form of registration. Will the Premier consider its introduction?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Minister of Works, who is also the Minister of Marine, usually handles this problem, and on several occasions he has referred it to Cabinet for a decision on whether it would be advisable to introduce such a system. We would be loath to start a wholesale system of registration unless it could be clearly shown that it was

imperative to do so, and unless the normal methods of dealing with the problem were not available to the councils concerned. I do not know whether any council has taken action, by initiating prosecutions to police the regulations, but no instance has come to my notice. If a council has provided the necessary regulations, it should at least make some attempt to ascertain whether the regulations are enforceable before stating that they cannot be policed. I will consider the matter, discuss it with the Minister of Works and inform the honourable member of the outcome.

LAND LICENCES.

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to my recent question about land licences?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: When the honourable member asked about rents payable for small holdings in the hundred of Wallaroo I said that I knew of no lease rental of 5s. a year. At that time I was thinking of the shack rentals along the sea coast which are not now 5s. but £6. What I did not know was that the member's question referred to pensioners inland, and my reply at that time was incorrect. The full report that I promised to get for the honourable member states:

A review of all fees for occupation has been made recently as in many cases the fees charged are completely unrealistic in view of present day values. In the review, licence fees for residential sites in mining areas have also been considered and regard has been taken of the fact that some sites have been and are occupied by pensioners and a fee at a concession rate has been in operation for many years. Many of these sites have been occupied by the same pensioners for a considerable period, and it has been thought equitable to continue the granting of such licences at a nominal fee of 5s. a year. Some difficulty has arisen because occupation has been granted on the basis of grazing and cultivation as well, but where this has been only for domestic purposes the five shilling fee has been allowed to stand. Further difficulty has arisen because of the fact that in some cases the department was not aware that the licences were pensioners.

As a result of the review of fees, it has been decided: (1) That residential and grazing licences up to one acre will be treated as residential. (2) That licencees who were pensioners at the time of the review will be eligible for the concession fee even if not previously claimed. (3) That transfers from pensioners to existing pensioners will be at the concession rate. (4) That licencees now paying normal fees will not receive concession on becoming pensioners in future. If there are any cases where replies have not been received, the reason no doubt is that investigation of the circumstances are being made.

PORT BROUGHTON ROAD.

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the proposed new road between Port Broughton and Port Pirie?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, informs me that the survey work has been completed on the Wallaroo to Port Pirie main road between Port Broughton and Port Pirie. Some funds are available for the Port Broughton District Council to commence earthworks north of Port Broughton during the current financial year. It is also proposed to reconstruct and widen the Cockey's Crossing bridge during this year.

PORT AUGUSTA HOSPITAL.

Mr. RICHES: Has the Minister of Works a report of action on the progress of plans and negotiations for the building of the Port Augusta hospital?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I called for the docket on this matter this morning and it showed that certain action had been taken, about which the honourable member will be glad to hear. The docket is not complete and does not contain the detail that I wanted. I suggest that the honourable member ask the question tomorrow, when I hope to have the matter completely in hand.

ALDERSGATE TRANSPORT.

Mr. JENNINGS: On July 28, I asked the Minister of Works a question about transport for the people at Aldersgate, and the Minister promised to use his good offices with the General Manager of the Tramways Trust about the matter. I have not pressed the question before (and I do not think he will mind my mentioning this) because the Minister has seen me on several occasions and told me that he was trying to do something about it. I believe the Minister may be able to do something but, as I am obliged to give a reply to the people on whose behalf I asked the question, can he say whether his negotiations are proceeding satisfactorily?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I took the action I promised the honourable member I would take. It is correct to say that I have informed him privately of progress on the matter. The honourable member will understand that I do not wish to prejudice further progress by making public statements prematurely. I have discussed the matter with the management of the Felixstowe Old Folks Home and with the Municipal Tramways Trust, and I believe that the suggestions I

have made to the parties will result in satisfactory action being taken. If the honourable member is prepared to trust me to carry on the negotiations from that point I can assure him that the matter will not be neglected and that I shall let him know as soon as I can make a public statement.

WATERVALE WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. FREEBAIN: Is the Minister of Works now in a position to give me a progress report on investigations into a water supply for the township of Watervale?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes; the Director of Mines reports that a geological investigation has been made and a bore site selected at Skillogee Creek, approximately three miles S.S.W. of the Watervale township. An estimate of the cost of drilling is being prepared.

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT RENTALS.

Mr. CORCORAN: On July 30 I asked the Minister of Repatriation whether the Commonwealth Government had replied to certain recommendations made to it concerning rentals fixed for some soldier settlers in the South-East. The Minister said then that although he had heard nothing at that time he did not think it would be long before he received a reply. Has he any further information on this matter?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: I am afraid my reply will be similar to the one I gave previously. We were in contact with the Commonwealth Government about a fortnight ago, when we were informed that a reply should be available by the end of the month. Although it is now past the end of the month, we have not yet received a reply. However, I do not expect the matter to be long delayed.

BLACKWOOD SCHOOLS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: During the last few months I have several times discussed with the Minister of Education the question of an access road to the new Blackwood Primary School and the Blackwood High School. My last question on August 6 was whether the Minister had been able to reach any decision on accepting the proffered gift of land for that access route. Has he yet been able to come to a decision on this matter?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: In reply to the honourable member's previous question I said that the Education Department had forwarded a request to the Public Buildings Department for an estimate of the cost of survey and fencing work, as well as of other requirements, but it had not received the

information. The survey section of the Public Buildings Department is heavily committed in survey work on new school sites, as well as in other work, and still has not supplied the necessary information. As soon as it does, I shall let the honourable member know.

ARTERIOSCLEROSIS.

Mr. LAWN: A report appears on page 7 of this morning's *Advertiser* concerning an interview with a person about his parents-in-law who are now in Germany, where the mother-in-law is receiving oxygen therapy treatment for arteriosclerosis. It is headed "Migrant Couple 'Now Exiles'" and one paragraph states:

Mr. and Mrs. Staniek wished to return to South Australia but in view of the "firm stand" against oxygen therapy by South Australian medical authorities it was unlikely that they would do so.

It appears that the lady may require further treatment, and because the Australian Medical Association will not administer such treatment the couple will apparently be forced to live in another country, separated from their children, who live in Australia. Earlier this session the Premier was good enough to let me peruse the official docket relating to this matter, which shows photographs of this lady's legs before she left for Germany, as well as photographs of her since she commenced receiving treatment. The Premier kindly brought the docket into the House again today at my request.

The first photograph dated April 22, 1960, is accompanied by the note "Admission to Royal Adelaide Hospital. Right leg grossly swollen. Great toe gangrenous. Horrible pain." The second photograph, dated January 28, 1961, is explained as, "Right foot three days before patient left for Germany for oxygen therapy. Gangrene destroyed first limb of great toe, base bone extending. Horrible pain." Then the note opposite the third photograph (dated April 30, 1961) states: "First limb of great toe amputated in Kassel. This picture is under-exposed and therefore not true to colour." The fourth photograph is dated December 17, 1961, and is explained as "Remarkable success after patient received oxygen therapy applied by Dr. W. Moller, Kassel. Little pain." Then the photograph dated December 20, 1962, reveals, "No comment. Photograph speaks for itself. No pain at all." Finally, the photograph dated December 23, 1962, is accompanied by the remarks, "Patient is able to walk for hours on her own feet. Both legs were condemned to amputation in Adelaide. Both were saved and ulcers healed by the Specialist for Circulatory

Diseases, Dr. Wilhelm Moller, 35 Kassel Wilhelmshoher Allee 5."

I should like the Premier to give a considered reply soon (after carefully examining the docket and making himself thoroughly familiar with its contents) regarding the appointment of a Select Committee of this House to make investigations in Australia into the oxygen therapy method of treating arteriosclerosis, and to report to the House accordingly.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am not sure whether or not the honourable member implies that the treatment is available in Australia but not in South Australia. I will have the matter examined and report to the honourable member in due course.

THEBARTON TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

Mr. FRED WALSH: As a member of the Thebarton Boys Technical High School Council, I should like information regarding the building that was for many years occupied by the Commonwealth Trade School. The council expected that, when that trade school left, the building would revert to the school council and would be used as a general assembly room and community room, things that the school badly needed. Unfortunately, when the building was handed back to the Education Department the department saw fit to establish the radio trade school there, which was a disappointment to the council. I know the department intends later to transfer the radio trade school to Challa Gardens. Can the Minister of Education say when the radio trade school is likely to be transferred from the Thebarton Boys Technical High School? Further, in view of the urgency of this matter and in the interests of the students of the school, will the Minister consider having the transfer effected at the earliest possible moment?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: All the understandings and assumptions of the honourable member are correct. The department intends to transfer this trade school. The only thing I do not know on the spur of the moment is how soon the radio trade school buildings will be completed. As soon as they are completed, the transfer will be effected. I will endeavour to obtain more precise information as soon as possible and let the honourable member know.

FORBES SCHOOL.

Mr. FRANK WALSH (on notice):

1. Is there sufficient stability in the foundations of the Forbes Primary School to carry an upper storey on the existing ground floor buildings?

2. If so, is it the intention of the hon. the Minister that plans be prepared forthwith to carry out the additions?

3. If not, will approval be granted forthwith for plans to be provided for the erection of a multi-storey building on a suitable site in the school grounds?

The Hon. Sir BADEN PATTINSON: The replies are:

1. No.
2. Vide No. 1.
3. Approval has already been given.

ROAD ACCIDENTS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. Is the honourable the Minister aware of any statistics which would show that a person of 16 years of age is less prone to road traffic accidents than a person of 17 or 18 years of age?

2. If so, what are they?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Registrar of Motor Vehicles advises that distribution of

driving licences by age groups was last carried out as at June 30, 1961. At that time the position was as follows:

Age of Driver.	No. of Licences.	Percentage of Total Licences.	
16 years	10,375	2.76	} 9.67
17 years	9,424	2.51	
18 years	9,084	2.43	
19 years	8,944	2.38	
20 years	8,815	2.35	
All ages	375,162		

If it is assumed that the age distribution of these groups has not altered materially, then the percentages for the groups for which accident statistics are available can be reasonably applied to the total of 417,590 persons licensed to drive on July 1, 1964. The following table can then be derived:

Age of Driver.	Percentage.	Estimated Number of Drivers in Groups at 1/7/64.
16 years	2.76	11,530
17 to 20 years inclusive	9.67	40,380

Age of Driver.	Number of Drivers of Motor Vehicles responsible for reported Accidents 1963-1964.			Estimated Accident Rate.
	Motor Cycles.	Other.	Total.	Per cent.
16 years	37	583	620	5.4
17 to 20 years inclusive	170	3,926	4,096	10.1

It therefore appears likely that 16-year-old drivers are less prone to be responsible for accidents than the 17 to 20-year-old age group. In drawing this conclusion, however, it should be remembered that not only are estimates used but drivers in the latter group probably drive many more miles a year than those aged 16 years since they are more likely to:

- (a) possess a motor vehicle of their own;
- (b) be entrusted with the family car; or
- (c) use a vehicle in the course of employment.

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE.

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended the House of Assembly to make appropriation of the several sums for all the purposes set forth in the accompanying Estimates of Expenditure by the Government for expenditure during the year ending June 30, 1965.

Referred to Committee of Supply.

THE BUDGET.

In Committee of Supply.

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

twenty-sixth consecutive Budget today in circumstances where the economic activity in the State, the earnings of its people, the extent of its employment, and the rate of its progress compare more than favourably with any other stage in its history. The State has during the immediate past year experienced an excellent season and an all-time record production in rural industries. Present indications for the forthcoming year are for another good rural season, although not so highly favourable as that just past. In Government finance, as in other aspects of the economy, the experience of 1963-64 was significantly more favourable than had been foreseen a year ago, mainly because of the record rural season, though in part because of the rapid expansion in business and industrial activity and in employment. I reviewed to Parliament about three weeks ago the experience in capital works and services, and explained how the high level of activity in the private sector of the economy, and particularly in the constructional trades, meant that expenditure achieved on Government capital works last year was rather less than expected. As a result, about £1,700,000 of Loan funds which were planned for current expenditures were carried forward to this

year's programme, and will make possible a very satisfactory, and indeed pleasing, contribution to the State's development. The only restricting factors will be the ability of the productive resources in the community to achieve the work volume, and the necessity to avoid those unwarranted pressures upon resources which could develop an inflationary situation.

On Consolidated Revenue Account in 1963-64 our experience was rather similar to that in capital works. Whilst the original expectation was for a small deficit, there developed strong influences which considerably improved the eventual result. The quickening rate of economic activity, supported by a record season, brought about considerable revenue increases in the public utilities and some expansion in taxation collections. These increases more than counter-balance the increased costs of salaries and wage margins. At the same time it was not practicable, because of increasing labour shortages and full occupation by contractors, to achieve all the expenditures contemplated. As a result the surplus on the year's operations on Consolidated Revenue Account was £1,625,000, or about 1½ per cent of the total Budget. This result was achieved after including a special appropriation to the extent of previous surpluses of £297,000 for certain non-reproductive housing, electricity, and harbour works, so that the cumulative revenue surplus at the end of June, 1964, was £1,922,000.

Whilst the South Australian economy is in excellent condition and the outlook very good, the 1964-65 Revenue Budget for a number of reasons presents some difficulty. In substantial part this arises from changed financial policy of the Commonwealth towards assisting States' finances, resulting from the changed economic situation in Australia, and the Commonwealth decision to undertake counter-inflation measures. Last year the State received nearly £36,400,000 out of the normal £318,000,000 taxation reimbursement grant, and will this year receive about £39,000,000 out of a total of some £341,000,000. However, in each of the previous three years the State received respectively £970,000, £2,003,000, and £2,762,000 as additional grants for the maintenance and extension of employment. Last year the State used the whole of that grant within its Consolidated Revenue Account, because thereby it would not only contribute toward maintenance and extension of employment directly, but would also contribute to the same result indirectly by permitting the State to

continue its policy of encouraging expansion by keeping its taxes and charges to a minimum. For 1964-65 the Commonwealth, as part of its counter-inflation policy, has discontinued entirely the special employment promotion grants. In any case this alone would have been a severe blow to the State, requiring considerable re-organization of its Budget for 1964-65, but it has been accompanied by two other factors severely affecting the Budget. As from late June the State has had to meet the award for an additional £1 a week in the basic wage. This increase extends to every Crown employee, and involves extra costs in supporting many semi-government organizations, including subsidized hospitals and institutions. Allowing also for the secondary effects upon overtime payments and payroll tax, the gross effect of the increased basic wage upon the Budget in a full year will be about £2,250,000. This, moreover, is apart from another £500,000 approximately of increased costs of marginal and other awards which will fall upon the 1964-65 Budget beyond the amount which affected last year. At the same time, as part of its counter-inflation policy, the Commonwealth directly and through Reserve Bank action has permitted and encouraged an increase in interest rates, which will have considerable and increasing effects upon State commitments for its public debt.

After mature consideration of revenue expectations for 1964-65, and a close review to determine the extent of the necessary expenditure commitments which could not be reasonably delayed or eliminated, I found that the indications were for a shortage of revenues as against expenditures of about £4,500,000. This shortage would have been even higher if the seasonal outlook had not been generally favourable, and it is particularly fortunate that the metropolitan water storage position indicates that water pumping costs will again be low in 1964-65. Fortunately, too, surpluses carried forward from prior years now amount to £1,922,000, and these allow me to contemplate a significant temporary shortage to that extent. However, to contemplate a further £2,500,000 or so beyond this would be completely unsound. The uranium production accounts are now being wound up, with the disposal of tailings and of the spur line at Radium Hill, and there is a surplus thereon of about £680,000 after repaying all loan indebtedness, except for a nominal figure on the Port Pirie treatment works, which have not yet been put to alternative use. As there were revenue contributions to the project, it

is proper that this surplus of £680,000 be now recovered to revenue, so relieving to that extent this year's accounts. The Government has felt bound to examine what increases in taxes and charges may be appropriate to reduce further the prospective deficit for the current year, whilst still conforming to its consistent policy of keeping to a minimum their impact upon persons of modest means and upon the employment capacity and industrial potential of the economy. Measures are proposed which, it is estimated, will increase revenues this year by £1,250,000, including the effects of the recent small adjustments in rail fares and in public hospital charges. The main increases will be in the general category of stamp duties. They are:

1. Licence fees payable by insurance companies which are calculated as a duty on net premiums will be increased from 1½ per cent to 5 per cent. This will apply to fire and general insurance but not to life assurance business.

2. The duty on brokers' contract notes for transfer of shares will be increased from 1s. per £50 of face value to 2s. per £50 of present value, and there will be a comparable adjustment with share conveyances otherwise made.

3. The duty on mortgage documents will be increased from 2s. 6d. a £100 to 5s. a £100.

4. The one per cent duty at present payable on hire-purchase agreements will be extended to those contracts for repayment of loans to money-lenders required under the Money-Lenders Act, except insofar as they are separately secured by mortgage upon real property.

5. An *ad valorem* duty of one per cent will be levied on documents relating to new registrations and to transfers of registration of motor vehicles. This rate is equal to the present duty upon land transfer documents. The duty will be similar to levies already made in New South Wales and Western Australia, and will be for a similar purpose as certain Victorian levies though somewhat differently based. The purpose will be to provide some recovery for the extensive police traffic, road safety, and ambulance services provided from Government revenues.

Full details of these proposals will be submitted shortly for the approval of Parliament. They will, in any case, still leave the taxes and licences of this State in relevant categories either below or no greater than comparable charges in other States. Taking an overall

view, taxes and charges levied in South Australia will still remain the lowest in Australia.

After allowing for the proposed revenue increases, and for the special credit derived from the uranium production project, I estimate there will remain a deficit for 1964-65 of £2,492,000. To set against this the Treasury will have the accumulated surpluses of £1,922,000, so leaving a net deficit at June 30, 1965, of £570,000. This is only one-half per cent of the total Budget and, whilst I have taken quite an optimistic approach in estimating, it is, of course, possible that relatively small improvements could eliminate this. On the contrary, too, a deterioration in the seasonal outlook or other factors could increase the ultimate deficit. I feel bound to express the view that the Commonwealth has taken far too severe an approach in its financial policy towards the States. Had it not been for the considerable surpluses this State possesses from prior years and from the uranium project following upon the prudent budgetary policies adopted by the Government, the impact upon our finances would have been severe in the extreme. Those surpluses will naturally not be available next year and, unless a substantially more favourable approach is then made by the Commonwealth, the 1965-66 State Budget will be very difficult. There is, however, some reason for optimism, for the general formula applying to taxation reimbursement grants may be expected next year to reflect belatedly the increased basic wage rates operative this year, and the whole matter of Commonwealth general purpose grants to the States comes up for review at the end of this year.

South Australia has now had five years of financial independence from the Commonwealth Grants Commission, and the results of next year's review of the taxation reimbursement grants arrangements, which are independent of the commission, will indicate whether it is in the interests of the State to continue as a 'non-claimant' State. For the past five years, and even including the sixth which is the present rather difficult year for budgeting, there is no doubt that the interests of the State have been well served by being 'non-claimant'. Over that period we have had four years of surplus aggregating £3,610,000 and one deficit of £311,000. Allowing for a deficit this year of £2,492,000, the net result would still be favourable to the extent of about £800,000. Over that period the State has, moreover, been able to keep its taxes and charges well below the average of other States, and to retain substantially to its own use the results of the

economic development it has encouraged, as well as the benefits from its efforts at efficiency and economy. Nevertheless, this State has never foregone the right of approach to the Commonwealth Grants Commission should its financial circumstances warrant such an approach. Accordingly, this matter will be kept under close review, and, in the event of an unfavourable general purpose grant being provided by the Commonwealth under the new arrangements next year, the Government would not hesitate to pursue its rightful remedy by seeking a special grant from a Commonwealth Grants Commission review.

In the field of Commonwealth-State relations there is one further matter of considerable current interest. The year 1963-64 was the last of a period of five years covered by the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act of 1959. Under this Act, the Commonwealth made available to the States for road purposes annual amounts increasing from £42,000,000 in 1959-60 to £58,000,000 in 1963-64. A portion of the funds was available without restriction, but a further part was available only to match State provisions for road purposes in excess of the provision in the base year, 1958-59. In each year a supplement of Loan funds was made available to the Highways Fund to ensure that South Australia qualified for the full Commonwealth grant. In March last, the Prime Minister met State Premiers to negotiate a further arrangement. As a result of that conference the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act of 1964 was passed to provide for grants to the States rising from £65,000,000 in 1964-65 to £85,000,000 in 1968-69. This legislation also contains a "matching" provision, and I anticipate that, with the aid of revenues now available from the road maintenance contributions, there will be provided sufficient State funds for roads from motor vehicle revenues and Loan funds to attract the full grants available. The South Australian share of these Commonwealth grants will rise each year by about £575,000, so that, with the "matching" by the State to the extent of a further £345,000 annually, the availability of funds for roads in South Australia will rise by about £920,000 a year from a 1964-65 figure of almost £12,750,000 of new funds.

THE YEAR 1963-64.

Receipts at £105,503,000 were £2,689,000 or 2½ per cent in excess of the original estimate of £102,814,000. Payments at £103,878,000 were £572,000 or ½ per cent in excess of the original estimate of £103,306,000. The main

factors causing variations from the original estimates were the excellent agricultural season and the improving economic outlook, which combined to carry receipts upward steadily, and the succession of wage and salary determinations, which resulted in increased costs for practically all departments. For taxation receipts the most favourable effects were in motor vehicle licence and registration fees, £196,000 above estimate; stamp duties, £167,000 above estimate; and succession duties, £630,000 above estimate. The increase in succession duties receipts arose partly from the higher values of individual estates, a reflection of rising levels of values throughout the community, but partly from an increase much greater than normal in the number of estates assessed for duty. For the receipts of business undertakings, seasonal influences were probably more important than the level of economic activity. Railway receipts bettered the estimate by £706,000. Some £300,000 of this was due solely to increased movement of grain, while the carriage of superphosphate and other materials for primary producers was also well above estimate. Revenues from the carriage of ores and concentrates from Broken Hill to Port Pirie, and from the movement of general merchandise, were buoyant. Harbour receipts exceeded the estimate by £421,000, mainly because of the movement of grain and ores through the board's bulk handling installations and wharves. Cash receipts of water and sewer rates were £285,000 above estimate, due to expanding services and higher earnings from "excess" usage. Territorial receipts were £130,000 above the estimate, due largely to a non-recurring receipt from the sale of Crown Lands at Islington to the Housing Trust. Royalties on minerals also exceeded the estimate, as the output of minerals, particularly iron ore, expanded.

For payments it is calculated that the cost of various awards last year would have represented about £1,500,000. The heaviest impact was in the social services field for the Education and Hospitals Departments, for which excesses of payments above the original provisions were necessary to the extent of £591,000 and £121,000 respectively. All other departments were affected, but to a lesser extent. Under "Minister of Education—Miscellaneous" an excess of £278,000 above estimate arose because of further grants to the University of Adelaide and the Institute of Technology to meet increased salary commitments and for payments for building projects. Payments under "Chief Secretary—Miscellaneous" were £203,000 below estimate as

hospitals and institutions requested progress payments under approved subsidies less than had been provided.

Under the Special Acts provision the transfer to the Highways Fund was £160,000 above estimate as a direct result of the higher receipts of motor vehicle taxation. A provision of £150,000 to meet possible claims under guarantees pursuant to the Industries Development Act was not required, although ultimately a further payment in respect of the Foster Clark cannery guarantee would seem inescapable. The two major public undertakings, the Railways and Engineering and Water Supply Departments, incurred expenditures less than the provisions to the extent of £390,000 and £172,000 respectively. This arose partly from a careful control of expenditure and partly from the difficulty of recruiting and holding the labour force necessary to carry out all planned maintenance works as well as the capital projects in hand.

ESTIMATES FOR 1964-65.

RECEIPTS.

I estimate that receipts on Consolidated Revenue Account from all sources will amount to £110,076,000 in 1964-65. This, if achieved, will be £4,573,000 in excess of receipts for 1963-64. The Estimates of Revenue show full details of the estimated receipts compared with actual receipts for 1963-64. In my review I shall restrict my comments to the major items, unusual movements, or new proposals. State taxation receipts are estimated at £17,118,000, an increase of £2,206,000 above actual receipts last year. The major part of this upward movement will be in stamp duty receipts which are estimated at £4,245,000, an increase of £1,412,000 over last year's actual receipts. In the present difficult budgetary situation the Government has been forced to seek increased revenues from taxation, but it has chosen carefully the avenues proposed, after a full consideration of rates operative in the other States and of the likely impact on the various sections of the South Australian community. Accordingly, I shall bring before the House, as soon as possible, legislation in respect of several forms of stamp duty, including insurance company licences. The proposed amendments are expected to yield additional revenues of about £1,500,000 in a full year, and about £1,150,000 this financial year. There will be some further increase in stamp duty receipts this year as a result of a greater volume of business at higher values.

For succession duties I estimate receipts in 1964-65 at £3,400,000, an increase of £320,000

above actual receipts last year. There is seldom any pattern or trend in succession duty receipts, and in the last three years there have been several unforeseen movements. Therefore it is difficult to forecast results with any confidence. Following the uncertainty and declining economic activity of 1961-62, succession duty receipts moved upward strongly in 1962-63. In my estimate for 1963-64, however, I anticipated a decline of £175,000 having in mind that proposed concessions would be effective for some six months and would cost £100,000. I also expected that what appeared to be an abnormal number of high value estates in 1962-63 was a factor unlikely to be repeated in 1963-64. The actual experience of the year, far from being a decline, was a further upward movement of £455,000. This appears to have been due in large part to the great increase in the number of estates assessed. Assessed revenue for July and August this year is a little below the figure for the same period last year. It may be that the concessions granted last year, expected to cost £200,000 in a full year, are only now showing their full effect, or that there is a decline from what was an abnormal situation. If that were so, a further increase in succession duty receipts would not be expected, but I prefer to take the more optimistic view, to regard the last two months' experience as only a temporary pause, and therefore to expect an increase of £320,000 in revenue above last year.

I anticipate that motor vehicle taxation receipts will continue to grow steadily, and that they will reach £5,600,000 this year, £344,000 above actual receipts for 1963-64. An increase in this item has no direct effect on the Revenue Budget result as it is made available for road purposes. For publicans' licences I expect receipts this year to be about £520,000, £171,000 above last year's actual receipts. The major part of the increase will flow from a full year's operation of the amended form of assessment introduced in 1963-64. Increased volume of business will also be responsible for a part of the increase. For public works and services I estimate that receipts will total £52,237,000, an increase of £2,481,000 over actual receipts for 1963-64. The increase is expected to come from:

	£
The operation of public undertakings	238,000
Recoveries of interest and sinking fund	488,000
Other departmental fees and recoveries	1,755,000
	£2,481,000

Within the group of public undertakings the largest increase in receipts is expected to be for the Engineering and Water Supply Department, for which receipts from water and sewer charges are estimated at £8,715,000, an increase of £427,000 above actual receipts for 1963-64. Of this increase the larger part will result directly from the further development of water and sewer services to meet the ever-growing requirements of the South Australian economy. A smaller part will arise from increased billing this year for "excess" water usage last year.

Receipts from railway freights and fares are estimated at £14,750,000, a decrease of £164,000 from last year's total. The main factor in estimating a decrease is the expectation of a marked fall in the volume of grain to be carried. Even though the last harvest was an excellent one, the carryover of grain at sidings awaiting transport at the end of June last was relatively small. The movement by rail in the previous six months had been particularly heavy. Therefore grain carriage in the first half of 1964-65 will be well below that of the comparable period in 1963-64, and, even with a good harvest this year, freight receipts from grain are bound to be lower. The fall will be offset to some extent by greater earnings from the transport of ores and concentrates, and from a recent small adjustment of metropolitan passenger fares. For receipts from Harbours Board facilities I have estimated £3,000,000, a decrease of £66,000 from the very high level of receipts last year. Harbours receipts, like railways, will be affected by the expected smaller volume of grain movements, but this is likely to be offset partially by increased throughput of phosphate rock and salt, and by an increase in the volume of imports.

I anticipate that recoveries of interest and sinking fund this year will total £10,288,000, an increase of £488,000 above actual recoveries in 1963-64. The main increases will be £231,000 recovered from the Housing Trust, £208,000 from the Electricity Trust, and £72,000 from the State Bank or activities administered by the bank. Each of these authorities meets debt service costs in full, so that there is no net charge against Revenue on that account, and, as additional Loan funds are made available to them each year to finance capital programmes, there is a corresponding annual increase in the recoveries to the Budget to offset against the increase in gross payments. The Government will carry smaller cash balances this year, as a result of the gradual absorption of the surpluses on both Loan and Revenue

Accounts, and therefore there will be a decline in interest earnings on funds held at the Reserve Bank.

For "Other departmental fees and recoveries" I anticipate an increase of £1,755,000, taking the total to £10,258,000. The main item responsible for this sharp increase is the proposed recovery from the uranium production authority of £680,000, to which I have referred. Receipts on account of education purposes are expected to increase by £575,000 to a total of £2,770,000. The increase is due mainly to greater recoveries from the Commonwealth Government in respect of its share of grants to the University of Adelaide and the South Australian Institute of Technology. I will give details of these grants when commenting on payments. Hospitals Department receipts are estimated at £3,134,000, an increase of £250,000 above actual receipts in 1963-64. The major part of the increase will arise from the greater number of patients expected to be treated. The remainder of the increase will comprise recoveries from the Commonwealth, recoups from staff, and patients' fees as a result of a recent small increase in the scale of daily charges. Territorial receipts are estimated at £1,017,000, an increase of £13,000 above last year's actual receipts. Royalties on minerals and revenues from sales of land will probably both be greater, but Crown Lands rents are likely to decline from last year's figure which included some abnormal receipts. Commonwealth grants at £39,704,000 will be about £126,000 less than such grants in 1963-64. The loss of the additional assistance grant for employment purposes will more than outweigh the estimated increase in the taxation reimbursement grant.

PAYMENTS.

In the Estimates of Expenditure provision is included for:

	£
Annual payments for which appropriation is contained in special legislation	29,684,000
Proposed payments in respect of the various departments for which appropriation will be sought in an Appropriation Bill founded on the Estimates	82,884,000
<hr/> Making a total of payments proposed for 1964-65	<hr/> £112,568,000

Under "Special Acts", the total of £29,684,000 for proposed payments anticipates an increase of £1,743,000 above last year's actual payments. The heaviest increase will be in interest and sinking fund commitments on borrowed funds used for capital purposes vital to the State's continued development. Whereas the increase in interest payments in 1963-64 as compared with 1962-63 was £911,000, I estimate that the increase in 1964-65 will be about £1,302,000. The greater interest commitment will arise partly from the greater volume of borrowed funds outstanding and partly from higher interest rates. The long term bond rate reached a peak of £5 7s. 6d. per cent in the period between February and September, 1961, but then gradually receded to its recent lowest point of £4 10s. per cent in the October, 1963, and February, 1964, loans. Since then rates have again moved upwards, encouraged by the Reserve Bank and the Commonwealth Treasury in pursuance of a monetary policy to discourage excessive private borrowing and to encourage savings as a counter to inflationary tendencies. The higher rates will mean a marked increase in the annual cost of old loans which mature. South Australia's share of a large issue previously bearing interest at £3 2s. 6d. per cent, which matured on August 15, was £26,258,000, and an upward movement of 1½ per cent on the whole of such an issue would cost the State an additional £400,000 a year. The rate offered on the long term section of the August loan was five per cent, almost two per cent above the rate on the issue to be converted. The ultimate additional cost of this operation will depend on the proportions of long, medium and short term issues effective after conversion, but it is clear that the cost will be heavy. The application of a flexible interest policy has one aspect which I find particularly disturbing. The States have the right to borrow money from the Commonwealth for housing at a rate of one per cent below the long term bond rate, and, as the latter fluctuates, so does the housing rate. I believe that the housing rate to the States, and in turn the rate to the individual borrower, should be fairly stable, and I have taken the matter up with the Commonwealth Treasurer. The increase from four to five per cent means a corresponding increase of one per cent in the interest charge under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. Honourable members appreciate that while this action may be taken to counter a temporary inflationary tendency, the loans in some instances have a 20-year or longer duration, so this extra inter-

est is being paid over a long period. I believe that while every member appreciates that it is necessary to dampen a boom that could have disastrous effects on the economy and on the price structure, surely there is a more appropriate way than to charge the housing costs of the community over such a long period. If honourable members think of the implications that arise from a counter inflationary policy, which is to meet what is, after all, a temporary effect, they will realize that making it something that will have a continuing effect over 20 years seems to be a matter requiring urgent attention.

Mr. Loveday: The rate of one per cent is about 12s. a week on a £3,000 house?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: At present it would be about that, although perhaps not so high.

Mr. Jennings: It is spread over a long period.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The provision of anti-inflationary measures is something that is of long-term effect, and is entirely undesirable. Other large provisions under "Special Acts" are the State's contribution to the National Debt Sinking Fund, which at £3,846,000 increases by £311,000, the transfer to the Highways Fund, which at £4,127,000 shows an increase of £184,000, and the Government's contribution to the payment of superannuation pensions, which at £1,421,000 increases by £84,000. For departmental expenditure proposals, the largest increases are for departments providing the traditional social services. In the field of health the Hospitals Department has a provision of £8,385,000, which is an increase of £990,000 above last year's expenditures. This provision is designed to enable the hospitals to provide services for more patients and also to continue the development of new and improved methods of treatment. The Government has again provided funds for the mental health services to permit a more rapid rate of development than is possible for other hospital services. Included in the Hospitals Department appropriation is a provision of £1,978,000 for mental health services, an increase of £317,000 above last year's actual expenditure. This will suffice to cover the entire cost of wage and salary increases under awards, and in addition will permit an increase of about 14 per cent in provisions. I have made representations to the Prime Minister about certain anomalies in social service entitlements of people suffering

from mental illness. Under existing Commonwealth legislation, patients in mental hospitals are not eligible to receive hospital benefits, and, if they are pensioners, they are subject to some restriction of pension. The other States have supported my contention that the Commonwealth should provide for mentally ill people the same social service benefits as are available to people physically ill. In medical circles the view is widely held that it would be in the interests of the mental patient himself to be treated as would any other hospital patient, including acceptance of responsibility for payment of reasonable fees. It is, moreover, difficult to implement a proper and equitable scale of hospital fees for mentally ill patients unless they have recourse to social service benefits in the same way as if they were in a general hospital or a nursing home. The Commonwealth is considering the case put forward, and I shall continue to press for a more equitable approach.

The Estimates include a record provision of £3,888,000 for grants and subsidies to hospitals and institutions operated by independent boards of management, and towards other medical and health services. This appropriation towards both maintenance and capital projects exceeds last year's actual payments by £950,000. The major new buildings of the Adelaide Children's Hospital are almost complete at a cost of over £2,600,000, and only minor items now remain to be installed. Apart from grants of £100,000 under special arrangements for teaching hospitals associated with universities, the State Government has given grants of almost £1,700,000 towards this project. In addition to providing new accommodation for the out-patients' department, the buildings include a department of child health, X-ray, pharmacy and laboratory facilities, operating theatres, and an additional 52 beds for in-patients. An amount of £50,000 has been placed on the Estimates this year to complete minor works and furnishings. The maintenance grant to the hospital for this financial year is estimated at £750,000. Work has commenced on the building of extensions at the Whyalla Hospital, the ultimate cost of which is estimated to be about £900,000. The Government will provide grants of about £600,000 towards the cost, £280,000 being included in the Estimates this year. The main part of the extensions consists of a six-storey wing with modern theatres, air-conditioning, and the latest X-ray equipment. The capacity of the hospital will be increased from 85 to over 180 beds. The accommodation at the Home for Incurables is insufficient to meet

the needs of the institution, and a proposal for extensions has recently received the approval of the Government. The additions will consist of a four-storey building with a basement area, and will provide a further 200 beds, pharmacy, physiotherapy and sewing rooms, dental, optical, X-ray and surgical facilities, a teenage ward and staff amenities. The Government will contribute more than £1,100,000 towards this project. £100,000 was provided last year and £300,000 is proposed in this year's Estimates of Expenditure.

At the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital work is about to commence on major additions which are expected to cost about £1,500,000. The project will consist of the erection of a new seven-storey building and extensive alterations to existing buildings. The hospital's over-all capacity will increase to 180 beds, and accommodation will also be provided for an additional 28 nurses. The rebuilt hospital will provide facilities for the most modern techniques. The sum of £300,000 has been provided on the Estimates this year as grants toward the building programme, and the hospital will also benefit from special grants made by the State and the Commonwealth for teaching hospital purposes. The maintenance grant for this year will be £162,000. The second stage of the development of the Lyell McEwin Hospital at Elizabeth is almost completed, and will be followed immediately by a third stage. The latter will provide an additional 27-bed wing for surgical cases and a similar wing for medical cases. The extensions will cost approximately £200,000, for which provision is made in the Estimates this year. When the third stage is completed the hospital will have a capacity of more than 160 beds.

The Government has agreed to grant £100,000 towards the extension of facilities at an estimated cost of £150,000 for the South Australian Blood Transfusion Service. The sum of £18,000 was made available last year and the balance of £32,000 is to be paid this year. Many country proposals were completed in 1963-64, the largest being the Millicent (Thyne Memorial) Hospital, which cost £207,000 and provided 50 beds, and the Naracoorte Hospital, which cost £179,000 and provided 34 beds to replace older accommodation. In addition to the major projects, funds are again provided as grants for alterations and additions to many other community and country hospitals. Maintenance grants and subsidies are also provided in accordance with established practice.

The Department of Public Health continues to provide valuable services in preventive medicine. The proposed appropriation of £408,000 for 1964-65 is an increase of £55,000 above last year's expenditure. It will enable the department to continue its special campaigns against poliomyelitis and tuberculosis, to expand the services to schools, and to increase the widespread activities of the public health branch. In particular this branch is expanding its service of giving advice and assistance to local government authorities in the planning and installation of septic tank effluent disposal schemes.

In the field of education there will be very big increases in provisions from the Revenue Budget. For the Education Department itself the 1964-65 proposals total £17,921,000, an increase of £1,570,000, or about 9½ per cent above actual payments in 1963-64. This follows increases of almost 12 per cent in 1963-64 and 11 per cent in 1962-63. Since the Second World War, South Australia has experienced a greater rate of increase in the school population than has occurred in any other State, and to provide the facilities necessary to educate the growing force of young people has placed some strains on both the Loan and Revenue Budgets. It is of interest to note that in the first post-war year, 1946-47, the total expenditure by the State through its Revenue and Loan Budgets was £22,568,000.

Payments for the operation of the Education Department and for the maintenance and construction of school buildings amounted to £1,728,000, or a little more than 7½ per cent of total expenditure. For 1964-65 the total of expenditure through the Revenue and Loan Budgets combined is planned to be £149,108,000. Payments for the operation of the Education Department and for maintenance and construction of school buildings will this year amount to £24,553,000, or about 16½ per cent of total expenditure. This marked increase in the relative proportion of expenditures to the total, as well as in the expenditures themselves, which are devoted to the department, is an indication of the Government's efforts to make the maximum funds available for education, while still having due regard to the needs of other services. Looking at the same years, 1946-47 and 1964-65, it is also interesting to note that the proposals in the current Budget for the department, £17,921,000, exceed the total of £17,253,000 for the entire Revenue Budget immediately post war.

Under "Minister of Education—Miscellaneous" the proposals for 1964-65 total

£5,324,000, an increase of £841,000, or 19 per cent above actual payments last year. Most of this increase stems from the proposed payments of grants to the University of Adelaide and to the South Australian Institute of Technology. Grants to the university provided in the Estimates total £4,734,000, of which £4,240,000 is appropriated under the education section, £44,000 under Special Acts, and £450,000 for the Waite Institute under "Minister of Agriculture—Miscellaneous". The grants to the Institute of Technology, appropriated entirely in the education section, include grants towards university-level teaching and also towards tertiary teaching for diplomas and certificates.

In the latter part of 1963 the Australian Universities Commission made its recommendations to the Commonwealth Government for grants to universities for the triennium 1964 to 1966, and those recommendations have been accepted by the Commonwealth and the appropriate legislation enacted. The arrangements continue the procedures of the previous three years whereby the recurrent expenses of universities are to be met to the extent of about two-thirds from State sources and one-third by the Commonwealth, while grants for buildings and special research purposes will be met one-half by the States and one-half by the Commonwealth. The commission's recommendations were for a total of almost £17,000,000 in grants and fees to be made available to the University of Adelaide and to the Institute of Technology for university level courses over the triennium 1964 to 1966. This, for three years, is about equivalent to the amount which was available to the two institutions for comparable purposes in the previous six years to December, 1963. The Government has accepted the building proposals in principle, has decided to consider budgets for recurrent expenditures annually in accordance with established practice, and has indicated that it will recommend to Parliament that the necessary funds be made available accordingly.

The University of Adelaide has almost reached the limit of development on its restricted 33-acre site at North Terrace, and the major development in future will be at the 370-acre Bedford Park site, which the Government provided without Commonwealth subsidy. The Australian Universities Commission has recommended grants totalling £2,875,000 towards building and development projects at Bedford Park in the present triennium, the major work being a building for the faculties of arts and science, for which grants of

£1,488,000 are proposed. Work to date has been mainly for roads and drainage, other site works and services, and the development of playing fields, but within the next few months work on buildings will gain momentum. It is intended that the Bedford Park section be functioning in time to take first year enrolments in Arts and Science at the beginning of 1966. For the Institute of Technology the commission has recommended assistance towards both recurrent and capital requirements for university level work at Adelaide and at Whyalla. At Whyalla the major new building, to which the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited and the Electricity Trust have also contributed, is nearing completion and is partly occupied. Planning is proceeding for a large new building on the Frome Road site.

For welfare services the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department has a provision of £1,095,000, an increase of £139,000 above last year's expenditure. The Government has made funds available for the continued operation of existing institutions and for the staffing and running of new centres expected to be completed and brought into service during the year. Included is an amount of £26,000 for the first step in the staffing and running of centres for the treatment of alcoholics. The Loan Estimates provide funds this year for the building of a committal centre adjacent to the Yatala Labour Prison for the treatment and rehabilitation of convicted alcoholics and drug addicts, a voluntary centre is to be established in a section of the Magill Home, and an information centre and clinic is being established in the city. I anticipate that these centres will be sufficiently advanced during this financial year for a proclamation to be issued to bring the Alcohol and Drug Addicts (Treatment) Act into force, and for the responsible board to be appointed. Under "Chief Secretary—Miscellaneous" appropriations are included for a number of grants and subsidies for welfare services. Included is a provision for subsidies pursuant to the Aged Citizens Clubs (Subsidies) Act. The Act was assented to in November, 1963, and since then applications for subsidy have been approved for the erection of club buildings at Glenelg, Unley, West Torrens, Walkerville, St. Peters and Wallaroo.

Last year the Government approved a scheme to provide pound-for-pound subsidies to religious and approved non-profit making organizations towards the establishment of nursing homes for aged sick and chronically sick people. The subsidies have been made avail-

able as this type of home does not qualify for subsidies under the Commonwealth Aged Persons Homes Act. The Estimates for 1964-65 include provision for the first individual approval under the scheme. The Commonwealth Aged Persons Homes Act does not provide for assistance towards the furnishing of homes for old people. The State Government has assisted many homes with subsidies towards equipment and furniture, and provision is made again this year to continue such assistance. For the public undertakings, I shall comment on several aspects of the proposals for Engineering and Water Supply Department, the Harbors Board and the Railways Department.

The provisions for the Engineering and Water Supply Department total £4,579,000 for 1964-65. Of this figure £410,000 is provided for power for pumping through the two major mains, £100,000 for South Australia's contribution towards the maintenance of locks and other River Murray works, and £4,069,000 for departmental operation and maintenance of water and sewer works. The provision of £410,000 for power for pumping is made up of £240,000 for the Morgan-Whyalla main and £170,000 for the Mannum-Adelaide main. The requirement for power for both mains is affected by seasonal conditions, but the fluctuations for the supply to Whyalla and northern areas are much less severe than for the metropolitan supply. For the northern areas the main is the principal source of supply, with the reservoirs contributing a smaller proportion, and therefore there is always a heavy demand on the line. For the metropolitan area the reservoirs are the main sources of supply with the Mannum-Adelaide main as a supplement, and therefore the requirement for pumping depends primarily on the holdings of the reservoirs at the time when spring rains decline. Last year the Estimates provided £75,000 for power for the Mannum-Adelaide main in the expectation that about 2,000,000,000 gallons would need to be pumped in the period October to May. Actual pumping, which was required only for the Millbrook system, was closely 4,500,000,000 gallons, the cost being £180,000. This year it is again clear that pumping will not be required to supplement Mount Bold reservoir, and will be restricted to supplementing the Millbrook system. In the expectation that reservoirs will be practically full at the end of September, but that the demand will have increased since last year, provision is included in the Estimates for the pumping of 5,500,000,000 gallons. As there has been an adjustment in the method of charging

for this service by the Electricity Trust, the estimated cost of £170,000 is a little less than last year's cost despite the estimated increase in volume. The actual requirement for the year will, of course, be affected by seasonal conditions from October to May.

The Harbors Board will have appropriations totalling £1,697,000 this year, £151,000 more than actual expenditures in 1963-64. The proposed appropriation will cover the cost of the board's normal maintenance programme and increased operation of bulk handling facilities. The first bulk handling plant was commissioned at Wallaroo in 1958, it was followed by plants at Port Lincoln, Thevenard, and Port Pirie, and in January last the new installation at Port Adelaide was brought into operation. All the plants have handled grain shipments. Thevenard has also handled large quantities of gypsum and Port Adelaide has been used for salt shipments. In total the plants have now handled 3,400,000 tons of these commodities. The capital investment in the board's bulk handling plants, excluding wharf structures and dredging, is £1,350,000. Grain is also shipped through the Ardrossan installation of the Broken Hill Pty. Co. Ltd.

The Government has also supported the bulk handling projects undertaken by South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited. This company, in the eight years since its inception, has built silos aggregating 30,000,000 bushels of storage capacity, located at over 80 centres in the country and at shipping ports. The largest silo of 2,000,000 bushels capacity was completed at Port Adelaide in time for last season's harvest. The volume of grain handled during this period of eight years totals 200,000,000 bushels. An extensive construction programme is under way this year so that an additional 8,000,000 bushels of silo storage will be available for the coming harvest. A considerable proportion of this will be for bulk barley to enable growers to deliver directly to seven country silos as well as to four of the terminal port installations. The South Australian Government has given substantial financial assistance to the company in the form of bank guarantees to the extent of £1,200,000 already covered by legislation, and has currently undertaken to guarantee a further £500,000 towards the construction of additional barley silos. Legislation to authorize the latter will be submitted shortly. The Bulk Handling Co-operative now has a membership of 22,000 growers who have contributed £4,500,000 in tolls towards financing the building of silos.

The proposals for Railways Department total £15,056,000, an increase of £796,000 above actual payments last year. Of this increase, some £520,000 is to cover the cost of the recent increase in the basic wage. The department has continued the programme towards greater use of diesel-electric locomotives, and the Loan Estimates presented recently made provision for additional units. The increasing use of modern rolling stock has been the main factor responsible for a reduction in the annual fuel bill from some £2,500,000 (12 years ago) to the current provision of £622,000. In the development of the State's natural resources the Mines Department continues to provide valuable services. The appropriation this year for the department is £904,000, which includes the Government's contribution towards the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories, previously presented under the "Special Acts" group of payments. The Australian Mineral Development Laboratories Act Amendment Act, 1963, based on a new agreement between the Government of South Australia, the Commonwealth Government, and the Australian Mineral Industries Research Association, was proclaimed in March of this year. The new agreement provides for a guaranteed annual income to Australian Mineral Development Laboratories of £240,000 for each of the five years commencing with 1964, the State Government guaranteeing £120,000 of the annual income, and the balance being guaranteed equally by the Commonwealth Government and the mineral industry of Australia. Each guarantor is, of course, entitled to order work from the laboratories up to the extent of its guarantee, though up to date a portion of the State payment has, in fact, been a free subsidy. As instalments due by the State were paid to the laboratories during the first half of 1964 at the previous annual rate of £135,000, an adjustment will be made this financial year, and an amount of £112,500 is accordingly provided in the Estimates for Mines Department. The facilities at Parkside and Thebarton were provided and staffed in the first instance to deal with the problems of recovery of uranium oxide from Radium Hill ores. With the decline of uranium search and treatment, the Commonwealth Government and the mineral industry joined this State in providing financial backing to enable the organization to continue to make services and facilities available to the Government and to the mineral industry of Australia. Considering the demand for the services provided by the laboratories during the past five years, and the current demand which is still

increasing, and knowing the high regard in which the work is held, I believe there are good prospects that the undertaking will steadily reduce its dependence on subsidy, and ultimately be fully self supporting.

GENERAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT MATTERS.

Following two difficult years the 1963 season was a favourable year for farmers, particularly in the drier cereal areas. With widespread late April rains, followed by frequent useful rains in May and June, the State experienced one of the best openings ever to the cereal season. While the above average winter rains delayed or prevented seeding in some of the heavier soils, cereal acreages were the highest for nearly 30 years. The 2,900,000 acres sown to wheat was the greatest acreage since 1938, and a 10 per cent increase over the previous year's sowings. The declining acreage of barley was arrested last year when sowings rose slightly to 1,100,000 acres, while the area under oats rose by more than 10 per cent to nearly 1,000,000 acres. Despite the dry spring, crops yielded well, and the wheat harvest of 55,500,000 bushels was a new record for this State, exceeding the previous record production of 48,000,000 bushels reaped in 1931-32. Barley crops were more affected by the dry finish and yields were variable in some districts. Despite this, just over 25,000,000 bushels was harvested, a yield well above the harvest of the previous two years. Over 9,000,000 bushels of oats was harvested. With the early break to the 1963 season, pasture made excellent early growth, preventing stock losses arising from rapidly dwindling reserves of fodder. Pastures in the cereal areas were outstanding, allowing heavy fodder conservation programmes to build depleted reserves to a safe level. Sheep numbers held on farms continued at a high level, and the industry experienced an excellent season. The favourable growing season, combined with a rise in the price of wool to the highest point in seven years, created an unprecedented demand for sheep, and sheep values continued to be buoyant.

It was also a good season for fruitgrowers. The stone fruit harvest was good and, with the excellent drying weather, there was an increased tonnage of very good quality dried tree fruits. Wine and drying grapes yielded well with a larger portion of the crop being dried. The prospects of overseas sales of canned fruits have improved this year, and the picture for dried fruits is favourable,

but I would anticipate some problems in disposal of wine stocks. The apple crop was the fifth successive crop of over 1,000,000 bushels, and large quantities of excellent fruit were shipped overseas. An above-average crop of citrus is now being harvested, and a record export pack is anticipated. While the opening to the present season has been a little patchy, seeding proceeded satisfactorily, and indications are that the area sown to wheat has risen to nearly 3,000,000 acres, a slight increase over sowings of last year. The barley acreage has remained much the same at 1,100,000 acres, while the area under oats has risen slightly to 1,000,000 acres, of which more than 600,000 could be harvested for grain. In general, crops have made good growth and, with normal spring rainfall, yields are expected to approach those of last year. In recent years there has been a dramatic increase in wheat production. In the last five years the wheat acreage has more than doubled. However, this pattern of rising cereal production has not been at the expense of alternative forms of production, which are also showing a steady increase. Sheep numbers are high and beef cattle numbers are increasing in the inner areas. In the South-East, beef cattle numbers have trebled in the last 10 years and doubled since 1960. In other agricultural areas numbers have more than doubled since 1956. Because of northern drought conditions cattle numbers have declined in pastoral areas. Recognizing the need to maintain soil fertility to meet the increasing production, the Agriculture Department has directed an active extension programme in recent years to encourage farmers to grow more clovers. This has led to record seed sales of various annual clovers in the cereal growing areas, and it is estimated that in the 1963-64 season the amount of clover sown was double that of any previous season. This, together with the increased use of superphosphate, can be expected to have favourable effects on the overall agricultural production in South Australia in the future.

The past 12 months has seen one of the most important events in the history of the development of this State with the discovery of natural gas at Gidgealpa. Although there is much work still to be done to establish reserves, there are good prospects that natural gas will become an important factor in future power and fuel supplies and in industrial growth. In petroleum exploration the number of wells sunk during the past year reached a new peak, and the drilling tempo will increase still more in the current year. The Government has reached agreement with the Broken Hill

Pty. Co. Ltd. for the use of vast reserves of high-grade lime sands at Coffin Bay. The company plans to spend several million pounds in constructing a 24-mile railway from Coffin Bay to Port Lincoln, in erecting a modern ship loading plant, and in providing storage bins and other plant. The lime sands, which will be used in the production of pig iron, will be mined at the rate of about 750,000 tons a year initially, increasing eventually to about 1,300,000 tons a year.

In secondary industry the State has continued to expand, with many large established industries extending the scope of their operations, and a number of new plants being established. At Whyalla the Broken Hill Pty. Co. Ltd. is forging ahead with the establishment of a complete steel-making plant. The structural rolling mill commenced production in April last. A second blast furnace, bloom mill, and basic oxygen steel-making plant are planned to be operating in 1965. The ship-yards are also being expanded, and the fortieth ship, a 20,000 ton bulk carrier vessel, was launched recently. In 1939 Whyalla was a small ore-loading port with a population of 1,000. Today it is a thriving city with a population of 18,000 people, and it has bright prospects of rapid future growth.

The Government has been concerned for some time to ensure the best use of the increasing softwood resources of the South-East of the State. A major step towards that aim has now been taken with the decision of Apeel Ltd. to undertake a £6,000,000 expansion programme at the pulp and paper mill at Snuggery, near Millicent. The expansion is planned to increase employment from 150 to about 350 in two years. Further expansion is expected to increase employment to about 525 by 1970. The use of timber by Apeel Ltd. will grow rapidly from the present rate of 40,000,000 super feet a year to a rate of 80,000,000 super feet a year. With further expansion, and the development of the Australian market for crepe tissue and other products, timber usage should increase to some 130,000,000 super feet a year by 1970.

As a result of the establishment of the oil refinery at Port Stanvac, the South Australian Gas Company has constructed an 18-mile pipeline to bring refinery gas to the metropolitan area, and a catalytic reforming plant at Brompton to treat the gas for distribution. The plant would be able to process natural gas should it become available in sufficient quantity, as we would all desire. Large-scale expansion is in progress at the three principal motor

vehicle manufacturing plants at Elizabeth, Woodville, and Tonsley. Other large-scale developments have recently been completed, are in progress, or are planned for the production of cement, steel sheet, tyres and rubber products, clay bricks, earthenware pipes, plaster board, and batteries.

The developments that I have reviewed briefly could not take place without the Government's assistance in the provision of basic services. The Loan Estimates introduced last month provided for a balanced programme totalling more than £64,000,000 to enable water, sewer, transport and power projects, educational and health facilities, and housing to be constructed to meet the growing requirements of the community. The Estimates now before the House include large provisions so that those capital facilities may be used to the greatest advantage. I believe that in the rapid industrial growth in South Australia since the Second World War another factor has also been vital: the very good industrial climate due to the responsible outlook in labour relations by both labour and management. Last year we saw marked increases in production as labour and resources moved towards full employment after a period of temporary difficulty. This year I expect that the further demands on those physical resources will cause some strains and pressures. In this situation I am confident that the responsible attitude of the average South Australian will help to avoid speculation and excesses, and will assist in further steady development. The Government, for its part, will continue to implement those policies that have been so singularly successful over the post-war period.

I pay a tribute to the Treasury officers for the work they do in connection with the management of the State's financial affairs. I think honourable members will appreciate that, with a Budget now involving a Loan and Revenue Expenditure of well over £100,000,000, it would be impossible for any Minister, even if he had no other duties to perform, completely to watch every item of expenditure and examine every proposal that came forward. A vast amount of work in this connection must continue to fall upon Treasury officers and, despite the heavy demands made upon them, they continually rise to the occasion. Honourable members are well aware of the way in which those officers provide information from day to day in connection with Parliamentary questions; it is never too much trouble for them to supply the most detailed information that is available. Indeed, the Budget Papers

that I have presented are an extremely good example of the highly efficient way in which our Treasury officers perform their duties. I refer particularly to Mr. Seaman, Mr. Carey and Mr. Barnes, upon whom, of course, the heaviest work falls.

Another department deserving of special mention in connection with the Budget Papers is the Printing and Stationery Department. Again, every honourable member must realize the tremendous amount of printing involved (as well as the vast amount of checking to see that every figure is correct) in the presentation of the Budget. This work is undertaken at the same time as the printing of the Auditor-General's report, because obviously the two papers are required at the same time. I thank the Government Printer for his efforts, in extremely bad working conditions, in so efficiently producing the Treasury and Parliamentary Papers as they are required. I point out that the Auditor-General's Report will be available for honourable members before the Estimates are reached. The latter are before the Government Printer now, and will be available as soon as they are printed. Those Estimates will be tabled on the day Parliament resumes after the show adjournment. I formally move the adoption of the first line.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

FESTIVAL HALL (CITY OF ADELAIDE) BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 27. Page 655.)

Mr. RICHES (Stuart): When this Bill was last before the House I stated that I was opposed to it in its present form. Also, I believe I indicated some of the grounds for my opposition in the Address in Reply debate. I make it abundantly clear that my opposition to this Bill does not mean that I would not be thrilled to see a festival hall built in the city of Adelaide. However, to build it merely for the sake of keeping up with the Joneses or for prestige are not sufficient reasons for calling upon the State to raise £1,000,000 at this juncture. If the people of Adelaide are so keenly interested in the arts (as we have been led to believe by members who have supported the Bill), then ways and means can be found under the Local Government Act for financing such a hall as this in precisely the same way as every other town or city in South Australia has to finance its halls. Proportionately, halls in other cities are undertakings that are just as big as the building of the festival hall in Adelaide.

I object to clause 5, and I presume that is the clause to which other members also object. We will probably be charged with being parochial in outlook and of not trying to visualize the development that can take place in the State. I suppose we will be told that we do not have sufficient vision to fully realize the advantages that can accrue from lifting the State to the extent of providing a festival hall. I have seen a few festivals. The member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) said that he hoped the Adelaide Festival, in which this hall is to play such a prominent part, would eventually grow to a stage where it would compare with the Edinburgh Festival. On seeing the Edinburgh Festival last year, my impression was that some of the people in Edinburgh could do worse than come to South Australia and see how a festival is performed here.

Perhaps the member for Torrens would be interested to know that the outstanding feature of the Edinburgh Festival was the tattoo. I notice that the leaders of the British Exhibition, soon to stage a multi-million pound exhibition in Sydney, are concentrating on presenting a tattoo there. The general music of the the tattoo is provided by bagpipes, and a festival hall is not necessary for hearing bagpipes to their best advantage. These bagpipes are certainly the biggest attraction at the Edinburgh Festival. It is not uncommon for festivals to be held out of doors. The new conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra recently conducted symphony concerts in the Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen. Again, this did not require a festival hall. If a festival hall is needed, I am not against it, and all power to those who will plan and build it. However, I am opposed to the present financial arrangements outlined in clause 5 of the Bill. I am entitled to ask why the Adelaide City Council cannot finance this building in the same manner that is used by councils in every other city or small town or community in the country. These places have to finance the halls they build.

Mrs. Steele: Why should only Adelaide people pay for the hall?

Mr. RICHES: Why should the Whyalla people be the only ones who pay for the hall at Whyalla? Does the honourable member think the people at Whyalla are the only ones who attend the hall there?

Mr. Coumbe: The people at Prospect erected a new hall and paid for it.

Mr. RICHES: Yes; I believe the people of Adelaide could do likewise, and nothing has been mentioned in this debate to indicate that

that could not be done. Borrowing powers are available to the Adelaide City Council, which is in a stronger position than most, if not all, councils in the State, because it actually finished with a credit balance, and this is unheard of in most councils. In addition, if the State is going to provide the means for cultural activity, surely it could provide them in areas where they do not now exist. I am concerned about areas that do not enjoy television or have picture theatres. In Adelaide and the metropolitan area huge theatres are being reduced in size, and those theatres would have seated the number of people some members have said will be seated in this proposed hall.

Mr. Jennings: Do you want Paganini at Peterborough?

Mr. RICHES: Why not?

Mr. Jennings: How are you going to get that?

Mr. RICHES: An opera company went on tour this year. I am reminded that it went to Port Pirie and the soprano sang such a high note that the ceiling began to crumble. If the people of Port Pirie want to build a hall in which an opera company can perform, they have to raise the money themselves or go to the bank and borrow it at the full interest rate. In the city, where the people are supposed to have a greater appreciation of the arts, they apparently are not required to do anything like that: they can build a £1,000,000 hall, with the Government's making a gift of half the money and the other half to be paid back at 4½ per cent. Country cities and towns would be thrilled if they could get a loan at 4½ per cent. I believe that the Select Committee, after it has made its inquiries, should tell the House, first, why this hall cannot be financed under the Local Government Act; secondly, how is the Government going to finance it? The Treasurer, when introducing the Budget, said that it was necessary to increase the cost of fares and services. Meanwhile, he is budgeting for a deficit, and this after severely pruning expenditure in many departments. It therefore appears that the money cannot be provided from revenue. When he introduced the Loan Estimates I asked him whether he could stretch his borrowing powers in order to carry out works that are essential to the State and urgently needed in my district. I refer to the need for constructing a traffic island at the approach to the Great Western bridge at Port Augusta. The Premier told me that the State could not afford the cost of this and he went on to say:

If the Government were to allocate a larger share of Loan moneys to the Highways Department, other departments would be adversely affected. The Loan funds cannot be stretched like elastic because a definite sum for this purpose is fixed by the Loan Council. Therefore, if the Government allocated increased funds to the Highways Department obviously the Loan moneys available to some other department would have to be reduced. It is something that the Government cannot adjust by taxation or in any other way.

What other departments are going to be affected by the provision of this £1,000,000? No mention has been made in the Budget or in the Loan Estimates of this hall, but will the Premier pull £1,000,000 out of the blue and tell the Adelaide City Council that half the money is a gift and the other is to be repaid at 4½ per cent interest? If country areas received that treatment, something concrete could be done to encourage an appreciation of music and the arts. If the State is in such a position that it cannot afford, or has to postpone for 12 to 18 months, the construction of a traffic island at Port Augusta, then it cannot afford this hall. If it cannot incur additional expenditure for Aboriginal welfare, can it afford this hall? If buildings for adult education centres throughout the country cannot be constructed (and the expansion of work through this organization would affect more people than the building of the hall), or have to be delayed or curtailed, then how can the Government afford to build this hall? It is like a cockie wearing a silk hat, riding on a plough. I have no objection to his doing that, if he likes it. A labourer could wear a silk hat while sitting on a tractor. He is just as much entitled to a silk hat as is the cockie, or a Minister of the Crown, if they like silk hats, that is their business, but I object to being called upon to pay for them.

I have no quarrel with the first four clauses, which give the Adelaide City Council power to construct the hall. I do not quarrel with the fact that it may be regarded and put beyond doubt that it is a permanent work and undertaking within the meaning of the Local Government Act, or that the council has authority to expend funds. I support the provision, which goes far enough, that in addition to any other power included in the Local Government Act the council has full power to borrow money. The Bill authorizes the first £100,000, and the remainder of the money will be paid as the building progresses.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: When will it start?

Mr. RICHES: I do not know. If it is like the Port Augusta hospital, it will be in 10

years' time. We should discuss in this House the way in which this hall is being financed. If members think I am on the wrong track and they wish to put me back on the rails, I could be converted if I were told that members were prepared to do the same thing for people who wish to build a hall at Napperby or a civic centre at Port Pirie or any other city or country town in the State. Let a policy be determined and applied generally, and it will have my full support. The people who find it most difficult to get these things are the ones who have to struggle hardest to achieve them, and I object to that. This is not the first example of this kind of thing. It is much easier to get things in the place where so much is already provided.

Let the Select Committee consider why this cannot apply generally, or determine some policy that could have general application, for then no-one could object to this type of legislation. The member for Frome (Mr. Casey) advanced arguments that have not been replied to, and those points could be the subject of an inquiry by the Select Committee. Several world authorities on music have stated that it is impossible to successfully combine a concert hall with the theatre, and that the globe is littered with white elephants where this has been attempted. Nearly all the supporters of the Bill visualize that this hall is to be used for many things, from the Beatles to Beethoven. Cockroaches to white ants may be nearer the mark. I do not intend to delay the House on this matter. However, I am opposed to clause 5, and I would not vote for the Bill in its present form. I ask that when the Select Committee is appointed, as I am sure it will be, the matters raised will be thoroughly investigated and reported upon.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (Mitcham): I do not agree altogether with the line of argument put forward by the members for Whyalla and Stuart and others. In fact, I do not agree with them at all.

Mr. Riches: Would you like to finance Windy Point the same way?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Windy Point can be talked about when it comes before the House; I wish it could be financed. I think that this is a special project for the State and that the only logical place to erect the hall is in Adelaide, because, whether we like it or not, this is the biggest centre of population in the State. Naturally, the whole State looks to Adelaide as the capital, and I do not think it is right to say that country people, to use

the expression of the member for Stuart, will not get any use or benefit out of the festival hall.

Mr. Riches: I did not say that.

Mrs. Steele: Adelaide is called the festival city, anyway.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: That is right! Although I appreciate the points that some honourable members have made, I do not agree with them because, as I say, this is a special project for which Adelaide is the only logical site. I wish to raise two other points, the first being in connection with the actual site. The Adelaide City Council has entered into certain negotiations to buy Carclew at North Adelaide, although the fate of those negotiations remains to be seen. That, on the face of it, seems to be a good site for a festival hall but, on the other hand, we are spending much money—and the Government is proposing to contribute much money to this expenditure—and we want to be certain that the best site for the hall is obtained.

When this Bill was introduced I was prepared simply to let it go through and not to speak on it at all, but I must say that I was arrested by the comments of the members for Whyalla, Frome and Stuart. I was disturbed, too, to read in the *Advertiser* that various planners (and I think Mr. Perrott was the particular spokesman) did not consider the North Adelaide site to be the best one. I hope that the Select Committee that is appointed will carefully inquire into that matter and not merely accept what has already been done in fixing the site of the festival hall. The suggestion has been made (and on the face of it it sounds a revolutionary one) to use the present site of Government House for the hall. That is not, I think, as silly or as perhaps impudent to His Excellency the Governor as it at first sight appears to be. I think the suggestion should be considered carefully. I am issuing these warnings only in a respectful way to those of my colleagues who will be members of the Select Committee, because we are embarking on a large project of which we hope the whole State will be proud and which we hope will endure for a long time.

I am surprised that a further point has not been raised. Most members have concentrated their remarks upon clause 5, but I should like to direct their attention to clause 3 (3) which, if I may say so, with great respect, the Minister rather glossed over in his second reading explanation. That subclause is as follows:

The festival hall shall be constructed and provided in accordance with designs approved by the Treasurer.

That matter was explained, and I think honourable members are prepared to accept the fact that if the Government is to provide money for this hall it should have some say in the plans. However, another sentence in this sub-clause, which I think could be dangerous, reads:

Such designs shall be set forth and shall contain such particulars as the Treasurer may require.

To me that means that the Premier and Treasurer could absolutely dictate the plans and design of the festival hall. I may be misreading the clause, but I am quite certain that that provision is open to argument, and I believe it is far too sweeping a power to give any man. We all know who the present Premier is; he is the member for Gumeracha, and we all assume that he will continue to be the Premier for years to come. Indeed, that is one of the unconscious compliments that the Opposition always pays him. However, we must face the possibility that he may not always be the Premier. Naturally, I am assuming that we are prepared to trust his artistic judgment.

Mr. Loveday: I do not!

Mr. Jennings: The member for Mitcham is being sarcastic.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Not at all. I am assuming that we are prepared to accept his artistic judgment, but if there should be a change for one reason or another—

The Hon. Sir Baden Pattinson: It is really an academic argument. There is no real risk of a change in the foreseeable future.

Mr. Loveday: Whistling in the dark!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I do not think the next elections will bring about a change, but any number of other reasons could. The Premier could be run over by a tram, suffer a serious illness, or be incapacitated, and there could be somebody else—

Mr. Clark: Surely you will admit that the other Cabinet Ministers are highly cultured gentlemen.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I would not deny that, but it is one thing to admit that and another thing to entrust to one man, as I believe this clause does, such a great discretion in the design of the festival hall.

Mr. Clark: You do not think for a moment that he would do it himself, do you?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The clause states:

Such designs shall be set forth and shall contain such particulars as the Treasurer may require.

I think there is little doubt that, although he may not do it, he well could. I hope this clause will be scrutinized by the Select Committee. As it is at present drawn I think it is too wide, and I consider that the Select Committee should examine it and recommend some modification. Whoever the Premier and Treasurer may be, and whatever his tastes may be, I do not think it right that one man should have such a veto or say in the design of the hall. I support the second reading.

Mr. CLARK (Gawler): I found myself in a rather unusual position during the first part of the member for Mitcham's speech, for I was almost in complete agreement with his remarks. However, I cannot say that I followed his latter remarks, because his argument, to make use of the Minister of Education's words, was an academic one.

Mr. Millhouse: I am glad to hear that you think so.

Mr. CLARK: I should be happy to take the whole thing out of the hand of the Premier and Treasurer. I am not suggesting for a moment that he would not be a good judge of culture, but I am suggesting that he should not be the man who should have to judge the design. In listening to the remarks of the members for Whyalla, Stuart and Frome, I had a good deal of sympathy for their apparent claim that the Adelaide City Council, a wealthy local government body, was receiving benefits completely denied many other local government bodies. Possibly those members were justified in making that claim. However, I believe the successful erection of this hall will benefit everybody in the State inestimably. I regard the festival hall in the way I regard the University of Adelaide or the Adelaide Teachers College or, possibly, Parliament House, although I know there will be some argument whether or not Parliament House is a cultural institution. A university had to be built first in the city, obviously; I hope that universities and teachers colleges will be built in country areas before long, but a start must be made in the city where the bulk of the people live. The same thing applies to the festival hall. If it is found later that the State can afford to build festival halls in other centres, I would be the first to vote for that.

The Hon. Sir Baden Pattinson: We are going to build a hall at Gawler wholly at the Government's expense.

Mr. CLARK: I believe to a large extent that is so, and I am happy to hear it. When the adult education centre is completed it will

be one of the finest in Australia, and it will be a cultural centre. The member for Port Adelaide, whose antecedents came from Gawler, would know that it is a cultural centre, and I believe that it will continue to be such. The word "culture" has been bandied about in this debate, but like the word "democracy" it is often loosely used. I shall not try to define "culture", as many people much more talented than I have tried to do without success, but this building will assist enormously what I like to think of as culture in South Australia.

It is fairly obvious that most members will support the Bill, and I believe that all members support it in spirit. However, some disagree in certain particulars. It is so obvious that most will support the Bill that I was not going to speak on it had I not been invited to do so by the member for Gouger (Mr. Hall). While he was speaking (or rather while he was wandering around this subject) I became a little worried because it appeared to me that he was doing his cause more harm than good. I interjected and said, "If you are not careful you will convert others to the member for Whyalla's point of view and I think probably that would not be a wise thing to do", or words to that effect. The honourable member replied, "The member for Gawler can speak for himself and I shall be happy to listen to him." I am often happy to listen to the honourable member, but on this occasion unfortunately, I cannot return the compliment he paid me. It appeared to me that he was making weird analogies that had nothing to do with the subject. In the words of somebody else about another person, when the honourable member got up to speak it seemed that only the honourable member and the Almighty knew what he was talking about, and when he had finished only the Almighty knew. I support the Bill.

Mr. McANANEY (Stirling): I support the Bill. I believe the people in the district of Stirling will make considerable use of the hall to be erected. When the new South Road is completed, Victor Harbour, which is the largest centre in my district, will be almost a suburb of Adelaide, and many residents there will make use of this building. I do not believe this is the time to consider the design. Much evidence will be supplied to the Select Committee, and that committee must be given plenty of time to examine the evidence placed before it. I have travelled to many parts of the world and I have seen many cities only one-half or a quarter as big as Adelaide that have halls for cultural entertainment. The

City of Adelaide, assisted by many private organizations, has demonstrated fully that it can adequately carry out the Festival of Arts, provided it has a satisfactory building. At this stage it is necessary for the Government to take part in financing this project, because charges must be reasonable if we are to fill a hall of this size. The younger people should be given an opportunity to make use of the hall, and they will not be able to do so if the charges are too high.

It has been suggested that the City of Adelaide should provide the cost of building by borrowing the money. If it borrowed £1,000,000 at 5 per cent, the repayment would be £50,000 a year, or £1,000 a week, for interest alone. If entertainment were held in the hall one night a week the entrance charge would have to be 12s. just to meet the interest payments. I believe the Government should take the lead in assisting with this building so that cheaper entertainment can be provided. It has been said that the Adelaide City Council is a wealthy concern because it has completed a year with a credit balance, and that country councils cannot do that. I was a member of a country council for 12 years, and I know that at least once a year a council must be in credit. That time is at the end of the year. If the City Council was in credit at the end of June it would now have a considerable overdraft, and therefore I believe that it would be beyond the council's present resources to incur a large debt in providing money for this hall.

If we look at this from another angle we can see that, even if the City of Adelaide provided all the money for the hall, country people ultimately would pay because the ratepayers of the City of Adelaide are, in the main, big business people; they all work on a cost-plus basis, and if they had to incur expenditure for this project they would pass it on in greater costs and, as usual, country people would pay their share towards it. If there is to be a hall, I believe it is essential that the Government should take the lead in financing it so that the cultural entertainment could be given at a reasonable price. I trust that many of those attending will be young people, who cannot afford to pay high charges.

Mr. HUGHES (Wallaroo): As a country member, I do not wish to give a silent vote on this measure, which I support. Many country people are opposed to Parliament's voting an amount towards the erection of a festival hall;

they maintain that this money could be spent to better advantage on water reticulation and road building. Others maintain, if Parliament can subscribe towards the erection of a hall, similar assistance should be given for halls being built in the country. The foremost query by many people is how the Government can justify the gift of £500,000 when Government departments have been directed to prune expenditure. We have been treated to one distasteful episode of that within the last few weeks. I am not answering those queries, but I believe the Premier should inform Parliament of his intentions before proceeding with such matters and should not ignore the peoples' representatives on whom he depends to pass such legislation.

The general public is deeply concerned at the Premier's continued refusal to inform Parliament of his proposals, and his announcing them in the newspaper or on television. This situation must be deplored, and I condemn the Premier's attitude. Members opposite think that we should not criticize the Government for its policy in these matters. What is the use of Parliament if members are not allowed, at the appropriate time, to criticize and condemn the Government's action.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: You are not denying that right?

Mr. HUGHES: No, but some members opposite consider that members on this side should not exercise it.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: I have not heard of that.

Mr. HUGHES: I have, on more than one occasion.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: It is exercised unwisely!

Mr. HUGHES: I have noticed that members opposite object to members on this side of the House condemning the Premier's practice of making announcements to the general public by television and newspapers before this Parliament hears them. Most people, irrespective of their political views, subscribe to fair play. Parliament has been treated not fairly but with contempt. Every announcement on television or radio that the Government is going to do something eventually requires the sanction of this Parliament. South Australia, and particularly Adelaide, which is becoming known as Australia's festival city, have exceptional promise for the future. If Adelaide is to realize to the full its great prospects in becoming the cultural capital of Australia, however, we shall need wisdom and foresight, and we shall need to build a festival hall

worthy of world-wide publicity. The outstanding success of the recent Festival of Arts focussed attention on South Australia from every part of the world. South Australia is at a period in its history when it must grasp with both hands the opportunities for development, and the Festival of Arts has presented that opportunity for people all over the world to visit and assess this great country. I am confident that much business resulted from the last Festival of Arts in this State. I hope that action that will delay the building of a festival hall can be avoided, as the hall must contribute to a larger, greater and more prosperous Australia, and will command respect throughout the world.

Most country districts have an arts group meeting regularly, and I emphasize that all associated with those groups take an active part in their affairs. From time to time groups visit each other and contribute towards cultural advancement. Members of the Tanunda Liedertafel Choir recently visited Kadina and provided a programme that was greatly appreciated. I understand they will visit the same town at the end of this month. If a vote were taken in country groups on building a festival hall in Adelaide, a large majority would favour it and would not object to Government assistance.

Mr. FREEBAIRN (Light): Like the member for Wallaroo, I shall not cast a silent vote on this Bill, as I intend to speak briefly to indicate my support as a country member for the Bill. Many country members are interested in this hall, and perhaps many more country folk are interested than may be generally realized. The Government is to be commended for its determination to ensure that South Australia has a festival hall of which it can be proud, and it is to be congratulated for accepting some responsibility for financing this project. I suggest that a fine building with a concert platform instead of a stage, designed to be able to present large-scale concerts, is urgently needed. As a country member, I know that people in my district will appreciate this hall. I am pleased to support the Bill.

Mr. FRED WALSH (West Torrens): I support the Bill. As on other Bills of this kind, there are a variety of views, and strangely, the variety comes from this side of the House.

Mr. Bywaters: We are a progressive Party!

Mr. FRED WALSH: I agree, but I cannot agree with some of the views expressed by my colleagues from country areas.

Mr. Bywaters: We also believe in freedom of speech.

Mr. FRED WALSH: True, and I am prepared to accord country members their rights in that regard. Nevertheless, I want them to appreciate my views, as I am sure they will. I respect their views, and I am not unmindful of the fact that at least two who have opposed the Bill are, and have been for many years, closely associated with local government work. I am sorry they took the line they did, however, because to me it savoured of the attitude of "What I cannot have for my town, the State should not assist to give for the City of Adelaide". I believe those members missed the point about the main purpose of the hall. I do not think it is intended that it will provide for every class of entertainment.

The member for Frome (Mr. Casey) mentioned Doctor Neel, who said that theatrical productions and concerts should not be held in the same hall. However, Her Majesty's Theatre is here for theatrical productions, whereas the festival hall will cater for concerts of a high class. In other parts of the world and in other States of Australia these concerts are given in separate halls because they cannot be catered for in a theatre like Her Majesty's. Like the honourable member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney) I have seen halls in other parts of the world designed for other than ordinary theatrical performances. In San Francisco, for instance, there is an auditorium, and the Cow Palace is used for conventions; and in Hollywood there is the Hollywood Bowl, which is a natural amphitheatre seating 18,000 people. This is an open amphitheatre with a sound shell on the same lines as that in Elder Park, but on a much larger scale. Big concerts and recitals are held there. The Beatles performed there because apparently it was not possible to accommodate a large audience in any other part of Los Angeles, but normally this type of performance is not held in the Hollywood Bowl. I could mention halls in Chicago, London, Paris, and other places, but if I did I would be boring members.

Arguments have been advanced to show why the Government should not be required to provide money for this hall, but have we not been in recent years called upon to advance money to seaside councils to repair storm damage? If we get down to basic arguments, is that a Government responsibility? It could be argued that it was the responsibility of seaside councils, but I say that it definitely is not. To a certain extent, it is a State responsibility because not only people who live near the

beaches but people from all over the metropolitan area and the country enjoy the facilities and amenities provided at the beaches. Although the beaches are under the jurisdiction of seaside councils, to a certain extent the responsibility must be shared by the State when undue cost is caused by storm damage. When the Government is asked for assistance, no arguments are advanced in opposition.

Mr. Riches: Assistance is not limited to Adelaide, though.

Mr. FRED WALSH: No, but in the main the assistance is for metropolitan beaches, and the same argument applies in relation to the festival hall as applies to the beaches. I think the siting of the hall is admirable, and I contrast it with the position of the Adelaide Town Hall, which should never have been built where it was. I think Victoria Square should have been made the civic centre of Adelaide, and that Government offices and the Town Hall should have been built there, as were the courts. There was a lack of foresight, but, as nobody could foresee how the city would grow, I cannot condemn anyone for this. I have certain ideas about the suggested Victoria Square fountain and about the design of the square, but I will not deal with these matters now. I do not say that the Town Hall is not a beautiful place; it is, particularly since it has been renovated, but it is not suitable for present-day needs. As we must look to the future, we must build a festival hall, and I do not think we can find a better site than that selected. Parliament House should not have been built where it was; it should have been near where the festival hall will be built, as its beauty is lost because it is crowded in a narrow street. However, that cannot be helped, and we are stuck with it. I do not deny that the other section of North Terrace is a beautiful thoroughfare. I entirely agree with the member for Wallaroo (Mr. Hughes) that the Premier should inform Parliament of his intended moves before making public announcements over television or the radio. The Premier makes a mistake when he does this sort of thing; he should take the House more into his confidence, particularly when Parliament is sitting.

Mr. Ryan: Would that not be playing politics?

Mr. FRED WALSH: If my suggestion were accepted, I do not think the Premier would be placed at a disadvantage, for he would still be able to colour the facts the next day if he wished. I certainly would not deny him the opportunity to speak to the people. Before

the Budget was presented today, its contents were already in the *News*, and we were expected to sit here calmly for an hour and 20 minutes and listen to the Premier read something that we had already seen in the press. This hardly bears comparison with the Commonwealth Budget presented recently, for nobody knew a word about that until it had been delivered by the Hon. Mr. Holt in the Commonwealth Parliament. That, too, should be the case in South Australia.

As to the granting of moneys, honourable members will recall the rivalry between Western Australia and South Australia in connection with the Empire Games a couple of years ago. Western Australia, backed by the Lord Mayor of Perth was striving its hardest to secure the games. Originally our Premier was also keen to get them, but when he learned of the cost involved and the benefits that might or might not accrue, he started to hedge a little. Whether Western Australia benefited from those games is another matter, but we do know that the stadium that was erected specifically for the games is now a white elephant. The authorities refuse to allow it to be used for league football, although I am sure that they will eventually agree to that. The swimming pool is a decided asset and I think the village will prove its worth in due course. What was once a swamp, which would have taken many years to develop had it not been for the Empire Games, will ultimately be a great asset to the metropolitan area of Perth, and thus the costs involved will ultimately be recouped. If the money had been spent in South Australia, some dividends might have been forthcoming even at this stage, and certainly would have been evident soon. We must face these matters squarely and not just make an assessment of the tangible benefits that may accrue. Many of us want to see the festival hall completed, and it is our duty to look to the future. Although it might be suggested that money could well be spent on some other project such as education, it is possible that, if the money is not spent on this hall, it might not be spent on other works either. We have seen that happen before.

Finally, I agree with the Member for Mitcham—and it is not often that I do—that it is wrong to give the right of veto in regard to the design of the hall to one man. The Premier may not be Premier when the hall is designed, and I do not agree with the relevant clause of the Bill. I do not agree with my colleague, the member for Adelaide, that the Government should have a say in the control of

the hall. I agree with clause 4, which provides that the festival hall shall remain vested in the council, which shall have the care, control and the management thereof. If the Government were given this power, it would automatically assume certain responsibility for the maintenance of the hall. I suggest that, if the Select Committee's report is favourable and the hall is ultimately established, that should be the end of the Government's responsibility on the matter, as this would, I believe, be in the best interests of all concerned.

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE (Minister of Lands): I represent a country constituency, and I am sure that people living in towns such as Clare, Jamestown and Berri would want to know my thoughts on this matter and how I voted on it. I do not think that my portfolio exempts me from my responsibility in that regard. I am wholly in favour of this project. It has been an interesting debate and, as usual, the member for West Torrens has contributed much for our consideration. I think country members who opposed the Bill on the ground that the Government should make similar grants to their respective districts were a little off beam, for I am sure that their constituents would not entirely agree with them on that point.

The festival hall will be for a specific purpose, and if it is built in Adelaide with Government assistance I do not see why a similar subsidy should be made to provide for every country hall in the State. A new high school was to be built at Clare but, because of a greater demand at places such as Whyalla, Port Pirie and Port Augusta, we shall have to wait. Honourable members do not hear any terrific protests on that score, despite our urgent needs at present. We are prepared to do that for the country. As the member for West Torrens said, the Adelaide Town Hall was built by the people of Adelaide. Admittedly that was years ago, but the festival hall is something for the whole State which country people as well as city dwellers will be able to appreciate. The mere fact that a country town is a hundred miles away from Adelaide will not preclude country people from attending special performances in the festival hall. In these days of good roads and cars, country people can travel to the city easily, and those who may find it difficult to come individually can usually travel with friends and share the cost.

Mr. Loveday: Did anyone say they would not?

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: I did not say that any member did. It seems that some members are saying they will not vote for this Bill unless similar facilities are made available in country towns. I do not think honourable members can substantiate that.

Mr. Riches: I don't think anyone said that. I said you should have a policy that could apply generally.

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: There is no policy at present.

Mr. Riches: Except that anyone else's request is met with a stone-cold "No".

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: The site selected is not entirely suitable for this hall. I know the area well, and I think the hall would rapidly outgrow the area around it. The parking problem would be awkward. The member for West Torrens said that we should take a leaf out of the Americans' book: they do not build such halls in the middle of cities. In European countries, these buildings are erected out of the cities and located in isolation in a large area. Parliament House at Canberra was erected on a large area with much land around it, and this is how I should like to see the festival hall built. I will not say where it should be built, but the metropolitan area is too restricted. Many large open areas are available where people could be accommodated. A hillside slope would be ideal, and would accommodate the many people who would attend. The traffic problem is increasing in the city to such an extent that we are almost overwhelmed by it. Perhaps this hall should be built for posterity, and the building envisaged may soon be too small for the increasing population. Notwithstanding the amount to be contributed by the Government, it would be better if the building were placed in an area allowing easy access and in a commanding position somewhere in the eastern foothills where transport would be easy, parking would be no problem, the surrounding area could be landscaped, and the hall could be in a garden setting. It could be an isolated building standing out in the best possible setting so that we could proclaim to the world our interest in cultural pursuits. It would be a mistake to build the hall in the restricted metropolitan area. I do not object to the Government's providing this money: it is something for the whole of the State. I would not object to subsidies being paid for country halls if that were Government policy. Many country towns have built their own halls, and many suburbs have halls within a mile of each other.

Mr. Shannon: Whyalla has a beautiful hall.

The Hon. P. H. QUIRKE: It has but, as the member for Whyalla said, circumstances forced it to be built where it has been built. It, too, would have been better located if it were on its own. As a country member, I support the building of the hall somewhere close to the metropolitan area and the bulk of the people. I am confident that, in supporting it, I am supported by the majority of people in my district, who think it should be built where it will serve the greatest number of people with the greatest ease. It should be a central focal point for the whole State so that people will gladly come to it. I ask that the suggested location be reviewed and that more thought be given to the future rather than to the immediate present.

Bill read a second time and referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon. Sir Baden Pattinson, Messrs. Coumbe, Jennings, Lawn, and McAnaney; the committee to have power to send for persons, papers and records, and to adjourn from place to place; the committee to report on October 6.

APIARIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 25. Page 582.)

Mr. BYWATERS (Murray): I support the second reading. Possibly the Leader of the Opposition would not have made the comments he made if it had not been for an item that he read in a newspaper about the dental view on honey. Before dealing with that, however, I wish to say that I believe the Bill is essential to the industry because diseases have broken out in abandoned hives. I realize that this has been overlooked in the past where apiarists have left areas and have left some discarded boxes about, thus causing disease amongst other hives brought there later. I understand that a serious outbreak of disease took place in my district during the last year. Quite unwittingly a beekeeper, who had a severe outbreak of disease in his hives, caused many other hives in the locality to be affected. With modern transport, bees are taken from place to place by people who move around country areas in caravans and take advantage of the blossom and nectar available and thereby produce fine honey. This leads to the situation the Bill is designed to correct; and that is, the breaking out of the various forms of diseases which are named in the Schedule to the Bill and which could be a serious menace to the industry.

It does not take much to start something like this, but it is extremely difficult to overcome. Because of this, I believe the Bill is warranted, and it is necessary to protect the industry. It is quite right that an inspector should have power to enter premises for inspection purposes and that each registered beekeeper should brand at least one box in ten. These are necessary precautions, and it is necessary to enlarge the Act to provide that where hives or boxes are abandoned they should be destroyed effectively by responsible people. That is the main purpose of the Bill, and I wholeheartedly support it for the reasons I have given.

The Leader's comment, which the member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Shannon) took up so quickly, was about a matter which, if left unchallenged, could do some harm to the industry. I commend the Leader for drawing this to the attention of the House, because sometimes such matters escape the notice of members. This had certainly escaped my notice. Yet, many people could be influenced by reading that honey can be injurious to teeth. I suppose that if anything were taken to its full conclusion, as was suggested in this article about the dental view on honey, one could get many kinds of findings. Certainly this expert, as he classes himself (Mr. Giddings), has gone to extreme measures to come to his findings. He suggested that powdered enamel of teeth had been subjected to dissolved honey, which had caused deterioration. I often wonder whether some of the people who make statements of their findings to the press are sure of their facts. In this instance, the statement could be construed to mean that honey has had, and could have in future, a harmful effect on teeth. I draw members' attention to the value of honey. The Bible refers to goodness as something flowing with milk and honey, and we know that honey is a helpful and energy-giving substance that is good for human beings.

Mr. Millhouse: Producers call it Nature's own sweet.

Mr. BYWATERS: I think that is most apt and that honey is the most natural form of sweet. Doctors often prescribe it for young children.

Mr. Loveday: You call your best girl "honey".

Mr. BYWATERS: I can go further; we refer to the happiest days of our lives as our honeymoon. People who have had experience with health foods recommend the use of honey from a dietitian's point of view.

Recently I read a book on Nature's foods which stated that honey played an important part in the arguments used by dietitians. I was pleased to read of so many health-giving features in the use of honey. I hope that those who have read Dr. Giddings' article will take some notice of the benefits of honey and not use the doctor's findings against the industry, because honey has so many fine attributes. I support the Bill, and I am sure all members will do the same. I know that honey is a health-giving food and that we could do much worse than use it more and more.

Mr. HARDING (Victoria): I support the Bill. I congratulate the previous speakers who have made a study of honey's good points. I do not wish to speak about the health-giving qualities of honey because I do not think that subject is mentioned in the Bill. I shall speak about bee diseases, because we do not want people to believe that a disease in bees has any effect on human beings. Honey from bees affected by disease has no harmful effects on human beings. To the beekeeper, some bee diseases are serious because they are incurable. No other incurable diseases affect animals used in primary production.

[*Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.*]

Mr. HARDING: Diseases in bees are far more serious to the apiarist than are the diseases known to other types of producers. The powers of an inspector have been queried, for at first glance these powers seem wider than it is wise to give to any person. Regarding diseases known to other producers, the apple orchardist has to contend with codlin moth, but this can be dealt with without it being necessary to destroy the orchard. Then there are gummosis in apricots, various types of scale on oranges and lemons, mastitis in dairy herds, and footrot and foot abscess in sheep. No-one would ever think of giving an inspector power to enter a property and destroy a person's very livelihood by authorizing the grubbing out of an orchard, vineyard, or orangery, or causing sheep or a dairy herd to be destroyed. Other ways exist to deal with those diseases. Before going on to deal with bee diseases, I wish to read an extract from a book *Teach Yourself Beekeeping* so that it will be included in *Hansard*. It reads:

The principal brood disease is foul brood. There are two distinct diseases—American foul brood, known as A.F.B., and European foul brood, known as E.F.B., each caused by different organisms. The Government has already taken steps to assist in the extermination of American foul brood by making an order

imposing penalties for failing to deal with the complaint. The cause of American foul brood is an organism known as bacillus larvae and is found in larvae affected by the disease. The beekeeper should constantly be on the watch for this disease. Every time a hive is examined a careful watch should be made. Look for the patches of brood, and if there are a number of misses in the regular cappings, look and see what is in the uncapped cells. Sealed brood usually occurs in blocks and a good number of uncapped cells give the first clue. Then see if any of the cell cappings are concave instead of the healthy convex cappings. Many of the cappings may be partially removed by the bees in their effort to get rid of the foetid contents of the cells. A recognized symptom is the foul smell emitted from the decaying larvae. Smell is not a safe guide as to the presence of foul brood. Some smell may or may not be present. In the case of A.F.B., the brood does not die until after it has been capped. In the case of E.F.B. the larvae are affected and die prior to sealing. Infected larvae have not got the pearly whiteness of healthy larvae. They appear flabby, yellowish brown and then turn slimy. The disease is spread from hive to hive through robber bees and drifting bees. It can generally be prevented by the beekeeper taking the following advice: Always purchase bees from a known breeder of repute who can certify his apiary free from the disease. Never feed your bees on "strange" honey. Never purchase old combs for use in your apiary. Never interchange combs in "doubtful" hives. Always disinfect borrowed equipment before use and always disinfect it before returning it. Always wash your hands after "handling" another's bees. The safest treatment is destruction of the bees, combs and mats and the scorching of the brood-chamber. Neither A.F.B. nor E.F.B. can be cured by the use of any known drug or disinfectant. That is why I support the Bill where it refers to the fact that an officer appointed by the Agriculture Department shall have full power to go on to a person's property and even have the hives burnt and the infected material, such as combs, burnt and destroyed. The remains must be buried. This disease can remain alive in an old hive or an old wax comb for many years—perhaps 25, although I should not like to say how long. If a fresh hive or a new, clean swarm of bees entered an old hive or comb (it could be a rabbit warren or a cave in a cliff where the bees had died out and it might have happened 20 years ago) and lodged and rebuilt in that infected hive or cavity, it would in the course of time become diseased and probably be so infected that it would be a matter of only a year or so before it too would die out.

For that reason, I strongly support the suggestion that the officer of the department shall have full power. No officer, however capable he might be in detecting this disease,

would, if he had any doubts at all, take the action of having the hive burnt unless he was absolutely certain. If he had any doubts at all, he would have the bees quarantined and laboratory tests made, and then take the appropriate action. I do not think there will be any opposition to the Bill.

Mr. Shannon: Are native bees subject to infection by or from foul brood?

Mr. HARDING: The greatest problem that we have is along the coastline, in some homes, and especially in ventilators. I know of one place in particular at Robe that had 23 hives or swarms of bees in a grand old home. The lady occupying it said, "Mr. Harding, I cannot understand what happens. These bees seem to come and go." That was one of the worst places infected by foul brood along the coastline. The infected hives were in rabbit warrens and cliffs, and the Agriculture Department advised apiarists to avoid that area because of the disease there. It matters not whether they are native bees or introduced bees of various types, they can spread foul brood if the hive has been infected and not destroyed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 7 passed.

Clause 8—"Hives to be branded."

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I should like to ask the member for Victoria, who is a recognized authority on beekeeping, why only one hive in 10 need be branded. Would it be more advantageous to brand every hive?

Mr. HARDING: This provision arises from slovenliness on the part of some apiarists who often do not practise beekeeping on a full-time basis. They might move to another area and leave a few hives behind, which could perish through lack of water. It is necessary to have such hives branded so that an apiary inspector can identify the owner. That provision applies in other States. It was the custom years ago to have a notice at the apiary bearing the owner's name, but there is some objection to that from people who shift their bees to an area many miles away, as the hives are at the mercy of thieves. I agree with the Agriculture Department that adequate identification would be established if one hive in 10 were branded.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (9 and 10), schedule and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

PUBLIC FINANCE ACT AMENDMENT
BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 27. Page 645.)

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): Undoubtedly, it is necessary to increase the extent of the Governor's Appropriation Fund from £400,000 to £600,000, and the Bill also increases the amount that may be appropriated for new lines from £100,000 to £200,000, a 100 per cent increase. This is reasonable, and, therefore, I support the Bill.

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

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

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 25. Page 568.)

Mr. HUTCHENS (Hindmarsh): I shall not delay the House because this is a matter which has to be referred to a Select Committee for consideration and report. I support the Bill because the work proposed in it is the result of representations to the Government by the councils of the City of Woodville and the Town of Henley and Grange. For a considerable time the member for West Torrens has urged the introduction of the legislation and the implementation of the scheme. The residents consider it not only necessary but urgent. During last winter those in the Fulham Gardens area were in great difficulty because of the lack of drainage. In fact, many of them lost their fruit trees. Septic tanks were rendered useless because the soil would not absorb the liquid therefrom, and the area became very much a health hazard because of the lack of drainage. The councils concerned are in complete agreement with the scheme and with the financial arrangements that have been made. I understand that the total estimated cost is £386,300. The Government will pay £193,150, and the other half will be advanced to the councils by way of long-term loans. I believe this to be satisfactory to all the parties concerned.

Mr. SHANNON (Onkaparinga): The Public Works Committee inquired into this matter, and we were most impressed with the attitude of the parties concerned and with their acceptance of the ratio of cost. One or two knotty problems had to be resolved, but this did not prove too difficult. I wish to utter a

word of praise to the two councils concerned and to their officers who were responsible for preparing the evidence presented to the committee. Compared with the attitude adopted in a former investigation of a similar problem in the south-western districts, it was a pleasure to deal with the parties in this project. In the previous investigation we had a few recalcitrants who did not want to come into the scheme in any event; they did not mind sending their water on to other areas, but they did not want to take any responsibility for it. In this present case this did not apply, and in fact the Woodville corporation has accepted the lion's share of the charge. That council is quite happy with the arrangement, which I think is a just one.

The committee was impressed with the method the two councils adopted in preparing their statements for presentation to the committee. Their co-operation was obvious, and in my opinion this is something to be desired in this type of problem which, unhappily, involves more than one council area. The Government's paying half of the total cost is a big help, but there is still a big charge on the ratepayers. However, the ratepayers accept that position. We were very pleased with the approach we had from both these councils on this problem.

The SPEAKER: The question is "That this Bill be now read a second time".

Mr. Jennings: Who are "we"?

Mr. Shannon: Oh, come on!

The SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members are distinctly out of order in interjecting when the question is being put.

Bill read a second time and referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon. G. G. Pearson, Messrs. Bockelberg, Hutchens and Fred Walsh, and Mrs. Steele; the committee to have power to send for persons, papers and records, and to adjourn from place to place; the committee to report on September 29.

PUBLIC SERVICE ARBITRATION ACT
AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 25. Page 567.)

Mr. FRANK WALSH (Leader of the Opposition): Various associations representing employees and officers are greatly interested in this matter, and when explaining the principal Act in 1961 the Premier stated that it was introduced following discussions with the

Public Service Association. No such assurance has been given regarding the amendments this year, and I should like to know whether the Public Service Association was consulted on this occasion and whether the amendments are the outcome of those discussions.

The Bill contains several machinery amendments; for example, clause 4 clarifies the subject of the salaries to be paid to the arbitrator in the event of the remuneration to him from other appointments exceeding that for which he would be eligible under this Act as a full-time arbitrator, and clause 5 makes several amendments to facilitate negotiations prior to reference to the arbitrator. The most important clause of this Bill, however, appears to be clause 3, which empowers the Governor to make proclamations to determine who shall be classified as public servants for the purposes of the principal Act. That is reasonable enough, but the principal Act has so many weaknesses in it that it is not as effective as was hoped when it was passed. The Public Service Arbitrator deals only with the salaries of the applicants and makes no determinations in regard to conditions of employment; therefore, the State legislation is very restrictive when compared with the Commonwealth legislation. In contrast with our legislation, the Commonwealth Arbitrator has power to determine all matters relating to conditions of employment.

Any organization registered under Commonwealth laws can submit claims and the arbitrator must forward a copy to the Public Service Board or the Minister, both having the right to object to the claim within a prescribed time. If an objection is lodged, the arbitrator calls a conference and determines the claim and if no objection is lodged he determines the claim in favour of the claimant party. Similarly the board, a Minister or a department may apply to vary any determination, in which case the arbitrator forwards copies to the other parties concerned, and any registered organization may object within the prescribed time when the arbitration procedure is exactly the same as when an employees organization lodges a claim, because, if there is an objection, a conference is called and the matter determined, and if no objection is lodged the arbitrator determines in favour of the claim made by the Public Service Board, the Minister or the department. The Commonwealth Public Service Arbitration Act gives the arbitrator power to determine all matters relating to conditions of employment, which are defined in that Act as "salaries, wages, rates

of pay or other terms or conditions of service or employment."

This means his determinations may cover all or any industrial matters. Similarly, the Industrial Code gives the South Australian Industrial Court power to deal with industrial matters and gives the various industrial boards power to make determinations in relation to similar subjects. In both Commonwealth and State legislation the definition of "industrial matters" includes "salaries, wages, allowances, overtime rates, holiday rates, rates for special work, hours, age, sex and qualifications, custom and usage, interpretation of awards, agreements and determinations," but the principal Act with which we are dealing relates only to the subject of salaries. It would have been far better for the Government to consider enlarging the scope of the legislation to include most of the items to which I have just referred, and which relate to conditions of employment, before it considered the necessity for issuing proclamations to bring people under the definition of "public servants" and to be subject to arbitration legislation which is not very effective.

If the legislation was effective one body of public servants that could be covered is that of the other ranks of the Police Department, but the Bill before us does not enlarge in any way the subjects with which the arbitrator can deal. He is still tied down to the consideration of salaries but employees are concerned with many other conditions of employment as well as salaries. It is not much use having an arbitrator unless he can deal with the full range of industrial matters, the definitions of which are similar under both State and Commonwealth legislation. Recently the Police Association went before the Industrial Court of South Australia when Judge Pellew held that annual leave was fixed under Police regulations and therefore he had no authority to deal with it.

This proposed legislation that could have the effect of bringing members of that association before the Public Service Arbitrator would not alter that position because, to my knowledge, there is nothing in the principal Act or in this Bill that allows the arbitrator to deal with leave or any other matters relating to working conditions. The Bill in its present form was not asked for by the Police Association which, I understand, has placed several propositions before the Government but they were rejected out of hand. Members of that association wish to appear before the arbitrator instead of making their approaches through

the Industrial Court, but they do not consider that it is appropriate for them to make their approaches via the Public Service Board. In brief, the request from the association to the Government was for something similar to what is in operation in Victoria where there is a Police Classification Board consisting of an arbitrator, a representative from the department and a representative from the Police Association.

As from January this year, the Public Service Board, in its wisdom and correctly so I might add, made a return granting a salary adjustment to the Clerks of Parliament and Assistant Clerks and to all members of the Government Reporting Department. No doubt this justified correction was made as the result of applications from the respective officers, and in February a person well known to me made formal application for his salary parity with that of reporters in the Government Reporting Department to be restored. This was exactly the same procedure that occurred approximately three years ago when the Deputy Public Service Commissioner thoroughly investigated the claim and acknowledged comparability. All that has been asked on this occasion is that the wage relativity of this person within the salary scale of the Government Reporting Department be retained. To me, that seems a most reasonable and simple request and yet six months have elapsed and the only information to be derived is that there is some hold-up. There certainly is, and it does not say much for the practical operation of the existing legislation.

I have indicated to the Government where I consider the present legislation is ineffective and have made several suggestions where I consider improvements could be made, and I believe the Government should give more thought to these suggestions. In the meantime, I support the second reading of the Bill because, even though it does not give anything, it does not take anything away from the Public Service.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Premier and Treasurer): The Leader of the Opposition raised one or two queries on this matter. If I had attempted to answer them when he raised them, I should not have been in a position to do so because this matter is normally under the control of the Chief Secretary. However, I have the relevant docket here, which I have had an opportunity of looking at since then. I find that this matter arose from a deputation that was before the Chief Secretary on June 9 of this year.

It is not an outstanding matter: it has been dealt with fairly extensively, but since that time Parliament met for only a few days at the beginning of this session, and this Bill was introduced early this session. There was a deputation from police commissioned officers and, besides that deputation, a number of other authorities were concerned, including Mr. Kimber (President) and Mr. Mitchell (General Secretary) of the Public Service Association. Superintendent Lenton was in the original deputation. So the answer to the first question raised by the Leader is that this Bill arises from a request by the police commissioned officers for the right to go before a tribunal, and legislation since it has been drafted has been submitted to both the authorities that waited on the first deputation.

I mentioned the Public Service Association. This is what Mr. Mitchell wrote in this matter:

I thank you for your letter of June 23, 1964, and appreciate the action of the Government in introducing necessary amendments to the Public Service Arbitration Act to bring the Police Commissioned Officers within the jurisdiction of the Public Service Arbitrator. My association will look forward to the passing of this legislation, and I can assure you that it will be taken advantage of by the members concerned. I note your remarks regarding the submissions made at our recent deputation asking the Government to agree to an interim salary increase for the members concerned, and have to advise that this matter is receiving further consideration by my association.

There was a somewhat similar letter from Superintendent Lenton, for the police officers, the last sentence of which reads:

As a member of the deputation meeting you on this matter I should also like to extend my personal thanks for your efforts on our behalf. So that, as far as I can gather from the docket, the Bill arises from a request by the police officers to have the right to approach the Public Service Arbitrator. It will, incidentally, enable other organizations to follow suit and to come in if necessary. I will not take this Bill today beyond the second reading stage because I have an amendment that will be necessary to deal with the Prices Department.

Mr. Frank Walsh: What about members of the Police Force who are not commissioned officers?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: As far as I know, a proclamation can be made to cover them. If the Leader will look at the Bill, he will see that it enables a proclamation to be made, and I think that is right. However, I will take the Bill only to the stage of bringing it into Committee this evening so that it

can be examined from the point of view of one or two amendments that I myself propose to make.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

HONEY MARKETING ACT REVIVAL AND AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 25. Page 570.)

Mr. HARDING (Victoria): In supporting the Bill, I shall refer to a short statement I made during the Address in Reply debate, when I said:

Many problems have had to be overcome, and no doubt the experience gained by the South Australian Honey Board has greatly assisted the Commonwealth Board in many ways, particularly in the grading of honey to satisfy overseas requirements. I believe that in order to produce a successful scheme the main thing required now is an equalization of prices for honey in the various States. In other words, if any State has a surplus this should be exported and not dumped on an adjoining State, thus depressing the home market. The producers in the States exporting at a loss should be compensated by members supplying the home market. The matter of renewing or rejecting an extension of the South Australian Honey Board is entirely the concern of the apiarists of this State. It is no concern of any other organization and I have no intention (although I have been Chairman of the board since its inception) of persuading the members to vote one way or the other: it is in their interests and it is up to them to decide their own future by working out whether a State board is desirable or not. The South Australian Honey Board requested the Apiarists Association to indicate its attitude to an extension of the Honey Marketing Act on December 23, 1963. The earliest that a Beekeepers Association executive meeting could be held was January 28, 1964. The executive decided that all beekeepers in the State owning 10 or more colonies should be given the opportunity to discuss the matter and to make suggestions as to how the board's operations could be improved. The closing date was fixed as March 26, and this was followed by a general meeting held on April 10, 1964, when a majority decision was made to continue the function of the Honey Board, subject to beekeepers being given the right to elect their own producer members to the board. The Minister referred to a petition that requested that a poll be conducted to determine whether the Act

should be continued or not, and he implied that about 180 signatories were against the Honey Marketing Board's continuation. This petition was signed by two members of the Honey Board and by several supporters of the board because they considered that such a poll would be a democratic way to determine the issue. In 1948 beekeepers asked for a board to be established to stabilize the industry, which had been adversely affected by overseas market fluctuations. The board without the aid of the Government, arranged its own finance to enable it to pay advances to beekeepers while the honey produced was awaiting sale on local and overseas markets. The board, by fixing the buying prices of agent-packers and establishing its own controlled equalization scheme, gave beekeepers an equalized price according to the grade of honey sold. The board has removed the state of affairs where competition among beekeeper-sellers forced beekeepers' prices down for honey sold on the local market. All packers paid the same price for their honey as fixed by the board. Many beekeepers recognize the benefits they have obtained from the operations of the Honey Board. As with other industries, the freedom of the interstate trade has had its effect on board operations, and in particular on the quantity of honey sold through the board.

Naturally, when overseas prices rise above local prices, the need for the board's assistance is not so necessary and that is why the board last November decontrolled honey. Today, when overseas demand has fallen away and overseas prices have been reduced the need for the operation of the Honey Board will be necessary if beekeepers are to be able to receive financial advances ahead of sales. The Bill gives beekeepers the right to elect their own members to the board. The subdivision of the State into four districts fairly divides the areas where the majority of beekeepers reside. For the proper functioning of the Honey Board, members must be able to report on conditions, honey flows, and stocks in all parts of the State; hence the need for a proper overall representation. Under the past and future Honey Marketing Act, beekeepers have been and will be free to deliver their honey to board agents, to sell under a producer exemption on the local market, and to sell to interstate buyers. The board has not at any time prevented a beekeeper from disposing of his honey; its only request has been that when beekeepers sell they should, in the interests of beekeepers as a whole, observe

prices. My experience of uncontrolled marketing has been a sad one. My mind goes back to the 1930's, when producers were pouring honey down rabbit warrens because it did not pay them to deliver it to the market. I was told of one man who took a truckload of honey to the market, went to his usual buyer, and asked what it was worth. The buyer told him that he had stopped buying honey but, when pressed, said that he would give the beekeeper 1s. a tin. That did not cover the cost of the container. The beekeeper left the honey with the buyer and visited the various agents, but eventually returned and sold his honey for a bob a tin. He went home with 30s., which was all that he received. Orderly marketing has some advantages but, when the price is good and cash is plentiful, people do not want any type of orderly marketing. However, when there is a glut of honey on the local market, beekeepers go through another stage where they peddle their honey from shop to shop. This does not do the processors or the agents, who are good business people, any good, because the producers sell the honey for whatever they can get. In the interests of any industry, I advocate orderly marketing. Beekeepers reserve the right to hold a poll and decide whether they consider that orderly marketing under a State board is worthwhile. Incidentally, I have achieved one of my ambitions is as much as today we have a Commonwealth marketing plan which has adopted a number of the tried policies of this State board, particularly regarding grading, and that is one step forward. Whether or not we will now have a State board is a matter that is in the hands of the apiarists of this State.

Mr. SHANNON (Onkaparinga): I want to warn the House at once that I have some interest in this matter, and although members may not agree with all I say they will appreciate that I know a little about the problems that have arisen from time to time in the honey world. In my view, the Minister has done a very good job. Those agents and producers who have an interest in their affairs have conferred with the Minister on this problem, and I consider that he has produced a Bill that meets the majority of the wishes of the honey producers and the marketing interests. In fact, I do not think there is any doubt about that.

The member for Victoria (Mr. Harding) put his finger on the difficulty that arises when the industry produces more than the local market requires. It is very difficult to assess the annual flow of honey, for this varies considerably with the seasons. The honey

people can tell months ahead what the flow is likely to be, but even possessing that information does not assist when it comes to dealing with the problem of interstate free trade which is available to all people. The honourable member referred to certain producers taking cash, even if it were a little less than the board's price, because they felt that if they put their honey through the board there would be a waiting time before they could get their full payment. Some producers want their money reasonably quickly, and when cash is offered those people it is a little incentive to them to sell. Buyers from other States come in quite readily, and in fact this has happened with every board where we do not have an over-riding Commonwealth authority.

I heard the member for Victoria say that many of the factors relating to the honey business had been accepted by the people in the Eastern States who are interested in honey. Although that is some help, it does not overcome the difficulty that will arise when the board that we will set up under this legislation seeks to create an orderly market for the volume of honey available for sale in a particular season. The board does not have the power to prevent people coming from other States, buying and taking honey back over the border or, worse still, sometimes bringing honey to South Australia when the State already has more than it wants and when the overseas market is, perhaps, flagging. That frequently happens. The member for Victoria mentioned the various grades of honey. A serious problem faces the producer of the manufacturing type of honey—not the good table honey. It is good honey as far as its wholesomeness is concerned, but it is used mainly in manufacturing and, although there is a small market in Australia, the major market is overseas. When the market becomes glutted these low-grade honeys are difficult to quit. The previous board had some serious problems with low-grade honey.

Under the Bill, beekeepers will be given an opportunity to decide whether the legislation will continue to operate. The growers will have a poll, but polls worry me because enthusiasts will vote but those who are, perhaps, a little negligent of their own interests will not worry to vote. In these cases if a poll is carried and a board is set up, the people who have not voted become vociferous and criticize the board that is set up. They say they do not want a board despite the fact that they had an opportunity to vote against it and did not do so. This

happens in all primary industries. I believe the House would be wise to pass the Bill in the form in which it was introduced and let the growers decide whether or not they agree to setting up a honey marketing board. I am interested from the point of view of the South Australian Farmers Co-operative Union, which is an agent of the Honey Board. The company has no fear that the Honey Board, if set up, will do anything to hurt the business. The company is a processor and prepares various grades of honey, including the candied type. It has an excellent plant and a first-class manager in charge who understands honey thoroughly. I think the member for Victoria knows Mr. Stevens pretty well.

Mr. Harding: Your expert in honey sells his honey to Victoria.

Mr. SHANNON: The Honey Board itself will sell honey in Melbourne or Sydney if the market is favourable. If there is more honey than necessary to meet the State's requirements it is sold to other States, and that is regarded as better than selling it overseas. It is sometimes sold on consignment, which is not a satisfactory way of selling. I think the member for Victoria will agree that that type of selling got the previous board into trouble. Generally speaking, I believe the House can accept the Bill as the Minister presented it, and leave the matter to the industry itself.

Mr. Clark: You won't stop the honey coming from another State!

Mr. SHANNON: No, I have explained that. Under Section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution, no State marketing board can prevent interstate trade. I suppose there are advantages in interstate trade, but there are disadvantages in it when one is trying to set up an orderly marketing scheme. Interstate trade tends to break down orderly marketing. I favour orderly marketing, which I consider is a good thing for the grower.

Mr. Clark: Will the grower favour it?

Mr. SHANNON: I am not a grower, and I am not a good judge of producers. I have no idea what the result of a poll would be. I could not give an intelligent guess, but if they want it and vote for it they can have it.

Mr. BYWATERS (Murray): The Labor Party is in favour of orderly marketing, which has always been stated in our policy. Because of that, we support the Bill. It has been introduced to provide that the old Honey Marketing Act can continue in case the growers themselves decide to cancel it. We on this

side of the House consider that it should be left to the producers to say whether they want orderly marketing or not. That is democratic, and under this Bill they will be given the opportunity to hold a poll to decide whether they will continue the Act or not.

Mr. Clark: Would you be prepared to make a forecast of the result?

Mr. BYWATERS: No. I think that the member for Onkaparinga was wise in saying that he was not prepared to forecast the result.

Mr. Shannon: I think you and I are in agreement.

Mr. BYWATERS: It is not often that we do agree, but we do on this occasion, although we may not before I finish speaking. Apathy will either defeat or carry this. I am afraid that, as it is not a compulsory vote, many apiarists may not exercise their franchise. I would like to see all engaged in the industry exercise their right to vote. I understand that about 1,200 beekeepers registered with the Agriculture Department are entitled to vote. Here is a situation where the tail can wag the dog, as in this instance a person with only 10 hives is eligible to vote. I know we must start somewhere to determine the number of hives, and possibly this is a good starting place, but this is an industry that is often carried on as a sideline. I do not criticize that, as I think it is necessary for farmers to have sidelines to supplement their budgets, but the majority of full-time producers could have their wishes thwarted by a majority of small producers. That is not always good and I could link this with another industry that could possibly have the same effect; I refer to the egg industry, but I will not develop that theme.

The purpose of the Bill is to try to rectify some anomalies that are apparent. One thing that concerned the beekeepers who do care about their industry is that they were not able to elect the people they would like as their representatives on the board. It is difficult for some of these people to take an active part in administrative affairs because they live so far away. Some of them live many miles from the metropolitan area, so, for that reason, it may not always be possible to get the best man to sit on the board. However, I trust that, if this legislation is continued, the growers themselves will take sufficient interest to put up candidates of high calibre to sit on the board. That is essential.

The poll that will take place will give every man who is registered, provided he lives in a certain district, the right to vote.

He will have the opportunity of voting for a person not necessarily living in his own electoral district, but this is legislation similar to what we have in our Parliamentary elections, which was recently of course introduced into the egg industry for the election of members to the Egg Board. So this is wise and can be of some advantage.

Perhaps someone who had retired from the industry would desire to stand in the locality from which he had formerly operated. This being the case, he could be a great asset to the industry by offering himself as a candidate for election. It is evident that in the former set-up much discontent prevailed. We know that a petition was circulated to the Minister for the abolition of the Honey Board. This is still the wish of some people. Only as late as last week some honey producers came to see me, and their immediate reaction to this Bill was, "Let's get rid of the board as quickly as possible." As I have said before, the Labor Party's policy is orderly marketing, but at the same time we believe in the democratic vote of the producers, that they should be the ones to decide. This being so, we hope we shall get a true consensus of opinion from the industry either one way or the other and that it will not be either abolished or carried on by a small group of people deciding the issue. I hope there will be a keen interest in this poll and that the producers will decide what they require by going along and recording their vote.

Possibly the main reason for the objection of the people who carried this motion at the Burnside meeting and who eventually presented the petition was the serious mistake involved in the transaction, some years ago, between the Honey Board and Walworth Industries Limited. This, of course, combined with the operations of the Australian Honey Producers Co-operative Society, which was closely allied with the board, caused a great deal of discontent. I have here a report to the Minister from the Auditor-General which sets out in much detail just what the Auditor-General thought of the position. A large amount of money (about £29,341) was owing when Walworth Industries Limited went into liquidation. It would appear that in this instance a grievous mistake was made with honey producers' money. I shall not set myself up to judge who was at fault but it appears that the letters of credit that should have been forthcoming were not demanded. This being so, it allowed a sale to take place which was disastrous to those who had supplied honey to the board.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: It is a little late to bring it up again.

Mr. BYWATERS: Maybe, but I am explaining the reason for the discontent, and that is legitimate. I know there is no secret about it and I think it is legitimate for me to bring these matters to the fore because some honourable members may not know the position. However, I hope that sanity prevails in the industry because we have to try to get a board that will be satisfactory to the industry. The Bill gives the producers the right to elect their own board (or the majority of it, being four members), as well as the right to determine whether the board should continue to function or not.

Mr. Harding: In fairness to beekeepers I should point out that they have the right to nominate six people to the board.

Mr. BYWATERS: Yes. They were allowed to submit a panel of names of members of the Apiarists' Association but I understand that only a small percentage of beekeepers were members of that association. Because of that fact many people were not in the position to have their names included on that panel.

Mr. Harding: I would not say that it was a small percentage.

Mr. BYWATERS: I should say that it represented about one-fifth of the beekeepers in this State.

Mr. Harding: I believe it was three-quarters of the industry.

Mr. BYWATERS: I think my figures must differ from those of the honourable member. I was told that fewer than 200 apiarists were members of the association, whereas 1,200 were registered with the Agriculture Department. That is the situation that was presented to me. Now, of course, they have the right to submit their names for election if they so desire.

Mr. McKee: Don't you think the same position could occur again?

Mr. BYWATERS: Yes, I think it could happen again but I hope it does not. I hope the apiarists will take sufficient interest in its future to nominate members. Of course, the Bill will decide that right but if the board is to be continued I hope it will take sufficient interest and win the confidence of sufficient people so that it can represent them by having a vote on certain major issues. Only the future will decide the outcome of this matter. At present a panel of names is submitted to the

Minister, which is something to which I have always been opposed, and I know that the Minister himself shares a similar view, because he raised this matter in Parliament when he was a private member. He considered that the producers should have the right to elect members of the board. Many people will doubt the fairness of a selection system. Indeed, a person may decide that the Minister bears a grudge against certain producers which is the reason for their non-selection. This applies especially to people whose names have been offered for selection but who have been defeated. Under the proposed system it is up to the people concerned to say whether they will have this or that person. The Auditor-General, in his concluding remarks, made this pertinent suggestion:

In my opinion the board should be reconstituted to provide for three producer representatives, three packer representatives and an independent chairman without direct interest in the honey industry.

This is not new, but it may be a good suggestion.

Mr. Millhouse: I think it is a good one.

Mr. BYWATERS: It may be a good one if it is possible to find someone outside the industry with good administrative ability who would be independent of thought. That could have been something that was lacking in the old board, and I say that with no disrespect.

The Hon. P. H. Quirke: Why equal numbers of producers and packers?

Mr. BYWATERS: That was the Auditor-General's suggestion.

Mr. Shannon: Would you support it?

Mr. BYWATERS: I would prefer to see more producers.

Mr. Shannon: That is what the Bill provides.

Mr. BYWATERS: The Auditor-General's suggestion could have some merit if someone outside the industry with qualifications as an administrator were chairman of the board. I shall not oppose the Bill, because I prefer to see more producer-elected representatives than anyone else on the board. I support the Bill and look forward with extreme interest to the conduct of the poll. I shall be particularly interested to see how many are interested in this poll and exercise their rights of franchise. I believe in orderly marketing, and I hope the situation will resolve itself and that this industry will go on to bigger and better things, because it should be encouraged.

Mr. FREEBAIRN secured the adjournment of the debate.

CREMATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

In Committee.

(Continued from August 26. Page 632.)

Remaining clauses (2 and 3) and title passed. Bill read a third time and passed.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (STAMP DUTIES AND MOTOR VEHICLES) BILL.

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the 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 Stamp Duties Act, 1923-1960, as amended by the Banks Statutory Obligations Amendment Act, 1962, to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1959-1963, 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 enabling me to give my second reading explanation now. It is not proposed to deal with the Bill until after the show adjournment, but my explanation of the Bill will give members an opportunity to study it together with the Budget, of which it forms a part. The Bill gives effect to the stamp duties revenue proposals to which I referred in my Budget speech. It also makes a minor enactment to correct an anomaly in the matter of duty on conveyances to trustees where no beneficial interest passes in the property conveyed. I shall first give a short statement of the revenue proposals and then, by reference to the Bill, give some greater detail of those proposals that represent new or varied measures of taxation in the State.

The first proposal is to impose a stamp duty on applications to register motor vehicles or to transfer the registration of motor vehicles. For many years it has been the policy in South Australia to devote the entire net proceeds of levies upon motorists and motor vehicles to the construction and maintenance of roads. This means that, of about £5,900,000

received from vehicle registration, road maintenance contributions and drivers' licence fees, revenue is recouped only £300,000, being the costs of the Motor Vehicles Department, while the remaining £5,600,000 is used for road purposes. The motorist has not been required previously to make a contribution toward the cost of other State services arising directly from road traffic. It has been estimated that the cost of police services in controlling traffic, investigating accidents, administering traffic laws, testing drivers, inspecting vehicles and the like is about £750,000 a year. A further cost is incurred by the Government in ambulance services and road safety measures. These are matters which have concerned other State Governments. New South Wales takes from motor taxation a contribution to revenue toward the cost of police services, and in addition imposes a stamp duty on the registration of motor vehicles to further recoup revenue for the cost of special services. Western Australia has adopted the New South Wales procedure of a stamp duty on registrations, while Victoria imposes a special surcharge on third party insurance policies and an additional fee based on vehicle horsepower for initial registration and on transfer of registration.

The Government has concluded that it is necessary and desirable for Revenue Account to be recouped part of the cost of special services provided because of road traffic, and this Bill authorises the imposition of a stamp duty on applications to register motor vehicles. The duty will be calculated at one per cent of the value of the vehicle at the time when the initial application for registration or the application for transfer of registration is made. That is to say, the duty will not be an annual one, but will be payable once only during each ownership of a vehicle. It will be payable on both new and second-hand vehicles. It is estimated that such a duty will contribute to Consolidated Revenue about £625,000 in a full year and probably between £400,000 and £420,000 in the present financial year.

The proposed rate of duty of one per cent on the declared value is in excess of the rate charged in New South Wales and Western Australia, but, on the other hand, registration and other fees and road maintenance contributions are generally rather lower in South Australia than elsewhere. I shall comment in greater detail on the procedures involved and the incidence of the duty when dealing with the actual provisions of the Bill.

The second proposal relates to contracts and notes or memoranda made pursuant to the Money-Lenders Act. In a review of the effect of stamp duty on hire-purchase agreements, the Government has noted that there has been an increasing use of other forms of agreement and security in the financing of purchases by instalments and that these other instruments are stamped at a lower rate than the rate applicable to hire-purchase agreements. Particular use has been made of personal loans made pursuant to the Money-Lenders Act, supported in a number of cases by a bill of sale or some other collateral security. In these circumstances, the person financing the sale is in a comparable position, as far as security is concerned, as if a hire-purchase agreement were executed. The Government has therefore decided to introduce a stamp duty on contracts and notes or memoranda issued pursuant to the Money-Lenders Act. The rates of duty will be the same as those which apply to hire-purchase agreements, that is to say, one per cent of the amount financed, and the duty will be payable by the lender. This extension of stamp duty will overcome the anomalies which have recently become apparent and is expected to yield additional revenue of the order of £60,000 in a full year. The benefit to revenue this financial year may approach £40,000.

Mr. Riches: How will you prevent the lender from passing the charge on?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: As honourable members know, there is some restraint under the Act as far as the rates that can be charged are concerned. The main purpose of this amendment is to recover the revenue which is currently being lost through the use of this method of financing instalments purchases instead of the use of hire-purchase agreements. At the same time the Government appreciates that financial institutions are performing a very useful function in providing "bridging finance" for home purchasers pending availability of long-term loans and also in the matter of providing second mortgage finance. While the Bill provides that the duty on documents issued under the Money-Lenders Act shall be payable by the lender, the Government would not wish to make such advances in connection with home finance less attractive to the lender or more expensive to the borrower and, accordingly, contracts or notes in respect of loans made by money-lenders, which are secured by mortgages over real property, will not be subject to the new stamp duty.

The third proposal relates to licences of insurance companies. All States require insurance companies to pay an annual licence fee by way of a stamp duty calculated either on premiums received in the preceding year or on the value of current policies. In this State, companies conducting fire and general insurance business pay a stamp duty calculated at the rate of 25s. per cent on net premiums. In two other States the comparable rate is 5 per cent on net premiums and, in the remaining States, where the licence fee is based on the value of policies, the rates fixed attract revenue comparable with that which would be attracted by a rate of 5 per cent on net premiums.

I believe that the South Australian community does not receive the benefit of the lower stamp duty payable here, because the experience in costs and claims in all States tends to be merged by the companies in an overall Australian assessment and therefore any lower costs in South Australia, to the extent that they may be passed on, tend to be spread by way of lower premiums to all Australian policyholders. Incidentally, I have checked on some of these rates and find that, while the heavier tax is being borne in South Australia, the charge on the premium is exactly the same as in South Australia. The Government accordingly proposes to increase the rate to 5 per cent to accord with rates imposed in other States. The increased rate is expected to provide additional revenues of about £450,000 a year. As the assessment on companies this financial year is payable during the period January to March, 1965, on net premiums in 1964, it is expected that a full year's revenue at the increased rate will be secured in 1964-65.

No change is proposed in the licence fee based on net life assurance and personal accident insurance premiums. The rate of stamp duty in these cases will remain at 10s. per cent on net premiums.

The fourth proposal is to increase the stamp duty on mortgages and comparable documents from 2s. 6d. per cent to 5s. per cent on the amount secured. At the present time Queensland and Tasmania stamp mortgages at 2s. 6d. for every £50 secured, South Australia and Western Australia at 2s. 6d. for every £100 secured, and Victoria and New South Wales do not levy a stamp duty on this type of document at all. But all the States except Western Australia impose a higher rate of stamp duty on conveyances of property than does South Australia, so that the net effect of the proposed increase will be that in relation to property

transfers involving mortgage finance the total stamp duty payable in South Australia will be less than in New South Wales and Victoria because the higher rate of duty on the transfer in those States, based on full value, will more than offset the duty on the mortgage document, which relates only to portion of the value. It will be materially less than in Queensland and Tasmania and slightly greater than in Western Australia only. This amendment is expected to yield £225,000 additional revenue in a full year and about £160,000 in the present financial year.

The fifth proposal relates to the duty payable in respect of share transfers. The present effective rates in this State are very much lower than elsewhere, in part because the nominal rate is only about half of that levied generally in other States and in part because in this State the rates applies to the face value of shares whilst in other States it applies to current value, which is ordinarily much higher than face value. The greater proportion of the revenue is secured in South Australia by a stamp duty on the broker's contract notes of 1s. per £50 of face value on each of the notes delivered to the buyer and the seller. If the transfer is not made by a broker, then the transfer document is dutiable at the rate of 2s. per £50 of face value. In all other States but one the duty is payable primarily on the share transfer document at the rate of 7s. 6d. per £100 of current value, and in addition stamp duties at lower rates are in several instances payable on broker's contract notes. An effective overall rate of 8s. for each £100 of actual value would be a fair assessment of the aggregate of duties payable in other States in respect of share transfers, and these amendments are designed to make a levy at that rate in this State. It is achieved by amending the rate on a broker's contract note to 2s. for each £50 of value and upon a transfer other than through a broker to 4s. to each £50 of value. It is expected that the amendment will practically quadruple revenue from this duty, raising them to about £180,000 in a full year. The net increase this year is expected to be about £90,000. These are the measures to which I referred when presenting my Budget.

I turn now to the Bill itself and, where the particular clause merely increases an existing rate of duty, I will not add materially to comments I have already made. Clauses 1 and 2 refer to short titles and provide the machinery for bringing the amendments into

force. It is desired, in the interests of the State's finance, that they be brought into force as soon as possible. Clause 4 enacts new sections 42a, 42b 42c, 42d and 42e of the Stamp Duties Act. These sections should be read in conjunction with clause 8 (b), which provides for the rate of stamp duty, the minimum amount of duty, and exemptions from the duty, and clauses 9 to 20, which amend the Motor Vehicles Act to provide the machinery whereby the Registrar of Motor Vehicles may require an applicant for registration to pay the requisite stamp duty before registration of a motor vehicle can be effected.

New section 42a of the Stamp Duties Act makes it clear that applications for renewal of registrations, whether the registration was previously current in South Australia or elsewhere in the Commonwealth, are not subject to the duty. New section 42b places the onus on the person making application for registration to state in writing the value of the motor vehicle and to pay to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles the amount of stamp duty chargeable on that stated value in accordance with the schedule. The Registrar of Motor Vehicles will act as the agent of the Commissioner of Stamps in this matter. He will collect the duty payable, having regard to the stated values, and will pay the duty to the Treasurer and account to the Commissioner of Stamps for duty so collected. When the Registrar has reason to consider that the value stated on the application is not the correct value of the vehicle, he will accept the amount of duty tendered and refer the matter to the Commissioner of Stamps. Section 42b (4), (5), (6) and (7) provides the machinery whereby the Commissioner may require the applicant to furnish him with evidence of value, may obtain further evidence if not satisfied or, if no evidence is submitted by the applicant, may make a further assessment and recover any further duty payable, or may make any refund which may be due. The right of appeal of an applicant against the Commissioner's assessment is preserved by section 24 of the Stamp Duties Act.

Section 42b (8) is purely a machinery section that permits the Commissioner to waive the duty in those cases where applications for registration have been forwarded prior to the date when the new duty comes into operation. Section 42c deals with the procedure to be followed by applicants claiming exemption. Section 42d gives the Commissioner power to make refunds where too much duty has been paid or where duty has been paid on applications subsequently shown to be exempt from

duty. Section 42e gives the Governor power to make regulations and in particular to effect by such regulations variations to the classes of applications exempt from duty.

To complete this explanation of this duty, reference should be made to clause 8(b), which inserts in the schedule of dutiable documents contained in the Stamp Duties Act a paragraph dealing with applications for registration, the rate of duty, and the exemptions. It will be noted that a minimum duty of £2 is prescribed. A number of motor cars and motor cycles are sold daily the value of which would be less, and in some cases considerably less, than £200. I believe it to be reasonable to require persons who purchase such vehicles and who wish to put them on our roads to make some reasonable minimum contribution to police traffic costs and the costs of achieving road safety. Where an application is made for transfer of registration of a motor vehicle by a person who is entitled to the vehicle under the will or intestacy of a deceased person, the duty payable will be £1 irrespective of value. This is the same rate of stamp duty as applies to conveyances of land transferred to beneficiaries of a deceased estate.

The Bill sets out eight classes of exemption. Exemptions 1 and 2 relate to applications made by new car dealers and used car dealers where registration is made in the name of a car dealer purely for the purposes of demonstration or resale. Applications for persons who are entitled to free registration pursuant to section 31 of the Motor Vehicles Act are exempt from stamp duty (exemption 3), as also are applications made by or on behalf of the Crown (exemption 5). It is proposed to exempt applications for registration of trailers from duty (exemption 4). There is a large variety of trailers, ranging in weight from a few hundredweight to several tons. Many of them are used only at certain times of the year, some at weekends only, but in each case they have to be drawn by a motor vehicle the size and value of which will have a relation to the trailer it is required to draw. The Government considers that the purposes of the amendment will be served if the owner of the trailer pays duty when he acquires or replaces the power unit only.

Exemption 6 refers to cases where duty has already been paid in connection with the transfer of a motor vehicle. Applications by executors for transfer of registration to the estate or to the executors are exempted by exemption 7 if the application is made for the purpose only of selling the vehicle for the benefit of

the estate or transfer to a beneficiary. Exemption 8 deals with applications by owners to transfer registration of vehicles on hire-purchase which are repossessed, or by owners of vehicles which are returned to them on the termination of a hiring agreement. To complete this explanation of this phase of the Bill, it is necessary to turn now to clauses 9 to 20. In each case registration of a motor vehicle is contingent upon both the prescribed registration fee and the prescribed stamp duty being received by the Registrar. Most of these are quite straightforward, and I mention only those that appear to me to be of importance or major interest.

Clause 14 applies the duty to applications to register interstate vehicles. Clause 15 applies the duty to articulated motor vehicles. Clause 16 provides for the same action on dishonour of a cheque lodged in payment of stamp duty as applies if a cheque in payment of registration fee is dishonoured; that is, if the registration becomes void.

I return now to the earlier clauses of the Bill. Clause 5 inserts a new section 59a in the Stamp Duties Act to give the Commissioner power to have a valuation made where he is not satisfied with the evidence of value shown in a contract note or in any conveyance of marketable securities, to assess the duty payable on the basis of such valuation, and to recover the costs associated with making such a valuation against the person liable to pay the duty. This provision gives the Commissioner similar power to that which he already has pursuant to section 66b of the Stamp Duties Act in connection with conveyances. Clause 6 provides that a conveyance made to a trustee and under which no beneficial interest passes shall not be charged with duty as a conveyance operating as a voluntary disposition *inter vivos*.

The particular clause to be amended had for many years until recently been interpreted not to require normal duty as a conveyance when no beneficial interest passed, for the word "and" was understood to indicate a second exemption rather than to indicate a second condition necessary for exemption. However, a recent ruling has in effect withdrawn the exemption which I believe was

intended by the earlier legislation, and would seem just and reasonable. Accordingly, this opportunity is taken to clarify the matter and to reinstate the situation which had previously been applied and intended, that is, that this special kind of transfer would pay only the £1 duty applicable to a transfer which is mainly one of convenience, and would be relieved from the duty at £1 per £100 applicable to those conveyances of property where a beneficial interest actually passes. The sort of situation this amendment will cover will be that where persons who intend to be out of the State for some time wish to appoint a bank or some other trustee to receive dividends or deal with any other necessary matters in connection with their investments. In these cases the shares or other securities are transferred to the trustee, who manages them for the owner but acquires no beneficial interest.

Clause 7 inserts a new section 75a in the Stamp Duties Act to provide that any duty payable on a money-lender's contract or note or memorandum shall be paid by the lender. The application of the new duty on such contracts or notes or memoranda is achieved by clause (8) (j), which inserts an appropriate new paragraph in the schedule to the Stamp Duties Act. The rates of duty are the same as those which apply to hire-purchase agreements. Clause 8 (a) amends the basis of calculating the duty payable by insurance companies on an annual licence from 25s. per cent to £5 per cent on all net premiums of the preceding year, except in relation to life and personal accident premiums, the duty on which remains at 10s. per cent. Clauses 8 (c) to 8 (i) give effect to the proposal to increase the duty payable on share transactions, and at the same time to base the assessment of duty on value instead of face value. Clause 8 (k) gives effect to the proposal to increase the rate of duty on mortgages and comparable documents. I commend the Bill to honourable members.

Mr. FRANK WALSH secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 9.24 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, September 2, at 2 p.m.