

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, May 18, 1965.

The SPEAKER (Hon. L. G. Riches) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

QUESTIONS

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Can the Premier say, first, what matters the Government intends to introduce before the Address in Reply debate is concluded; secondly, whether the Supplementary Estimates are included in these matters and, if so, what time will be allowed to consider them?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: It is intended to seek the suspension of Standing Orders tomorrow afternoon after the Leader of the Opposition has completed his speech in the Address in Reply debate, to enable certain legislation concerning the Public Works Committee to be introduced. If there is time afterwards, the Address in Reply debate will continue. After question time on Thursday I intend to seek a further suspension of Standing Orders so that Supplementary Estimates may be introduced and so that the Bill to be introduced tomorrow may be debated. I ask members to be prepared to sit next Tuesday evening. I have already told the caterer that the House will probably sit on Tuesday evening until both matters are terminated.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: The Supplementary Estimates will be debated only on one day?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: Yes, and at night if necessary. Members will have the weekend to make up their minds how far they are going with the matter.

Mr. Coumbe: Is that all?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: As a rule, I had less time than that. However, I am giving members the privilege. The House will not sit on any other evening until I return from Canberra.

PORT ADELAIDE POLICE STATION.

Mr. RYAN: On December 17, 1963, the Public Works Committee recommended that a new Port Adelaide police divisional headquarters and police station be erected on one of the main corners at Port Adelaide, and that plans and preparatory work would take about six months, while the completion of the building itself would take about 12 months. Money was appropriated for this work in the Loan Estimates last year, but as yet, with only several

weeks to run before the end of this financial year, it has not been commenced. Can the Minister of Works say when this important and long-overdue project will commence?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Many works that have been approved by the Public Works Committee could be said to be urgent but, of course, we can carry out certain recommendations only when finance and manpower are available. The Director of the Public Buildings Department reports:

The Public Works Committee recommended on December 17, 1963, the erection of a new divisional headquarters and police station at Port Adelaide for an estimated cost of £145,870. The present station is on the north-west corner of Commercial Road and St. Vincent Street and will be demolished. The new divisional headquarters and police station will be erected on the same site. It is proposed to erect a two-storey structure of concrete framed construction to provide accommodation on the ground floor for the uniformed section, C.I.B., police medical officer, women police, and vehicle maintenance, and on the first floor the divisional headquarters, prosecuting section, water and shipping police amenities, and single men's quarters. In addition to this the scheme covers the erection of a new cell block for male, female and juvenile accommodation.

Work has proceeded on the preparation of contract documents to enable tenders to be called. Whilst the department will be in a position to call tenders during August, 1965, and a nominal provision has been made on the 1965-66 Loan Estimates, it is considered that insufficient funds will be available to meet the contract commitments if tenders were called at this time. It is anticipated that sufficient funds will be available to meet contract payments during the remainder of the 1965-66 financial year if tenders were called and a contract let towards the end of this calendar year. The funds position will be closely watched by the Departmental Planning Committee in an endeavour to improve on this date and call tenders as early as possible, after the documents are ready.

GRAPES.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Last week, when touring viticultural areas in my district, I was alarmed to see considerable quantities of grapes still hanging in some vineyards. I understand, from a report by one of the leaders in the viticultural industry, that about 5,000 tons of grapes in this State is estimated as unsold. Can the Premier say exactly what tonnages of grapes are unsold? Secondly, will grapes that have been sold fetch the price recommended by the Prices Commissioner? Finally, can he now answer the question I asked last Thursday as to his reported statement that he considered that an investigation by a Royal Commission into the wine-making industry was essential?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: I am not a short-hand writer and the honourable member has sought much information. If the reply that I have had prepared fails to answer some of his questions to his satisfaction, I suggest that he put those questions on the Notice Paper. During the short time the Government has been in office many conferences have taken place with the Prices Commissioner, grape-growers and winemakers. As a result it has been established that about 3,000 tons of grapes was surplus. My answer may not cover all the areas represented by honourable members and, if it does not, other areas will also have to be considered. Following representations from the Wine Grape Growers' Council the Government has agreed to the provision through the State Bank under the Loans to Producers Act of about £67,500 to finance an emergency co-operative to process up to 3,000 tons of surplus grapes. Finance is also being provided by the State Bank out of its own funds and out of Loans to Producers Act funds provided by the Government to allow regular wineries and, particularly, permanent co-operatives to help absorb surplus grapes. The Government takes the view that it is much more desirable that the grapes be absorbed through the regular channels than through an emergency co-operative. In fact, the Government regards the latter procedure as a potentially dangerous one, likely to act in the longer run contrary to the interests of growers generally, the regular co-operatives and the industry. Because of the situation existing in the industry when the Government assumed office and the lack of time and opportunity to take other than emergency measures, the Government agreed to provide finance for the emergency co-operative on the same basis as the 1964 emergency arrangements. The co-operative intends to make a harvesting payment for grapes of £5 a ton and pay a transport allowance to bring the grapes to the winery. It has arranged for the grapes to be processed by the Penfold winery in the Barossa Valley on an agency basis and it seems likely that the product will eventually be converted into brandy. Other than for the harvesting and transport payments the growers supplying to the emergency co-operative will await realization for their payments.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: Recently a large meeting of the wine-grape growers at Loxton, which I was invited to attend, was asked to estimate what surplus grapes the growers would have. Figures were given to me and I handed them over to the secretary of the grapegrowers council. Those figures were subsequently

given to the Prices Commissioner. The figure for the Loxton area alone was stated to be about 3,000 tons. The Premier said earlier that the State Bank had made available £67,500 to cover a surplus of 3,000 tons, that this amount would go into an emergency pool, and that an advance of £5 a ton, plus transport charges, would be made. Is this the upper limit of money that will be made available by the State Bank, or, if subsequent figures prove that the surplus exceeds 3,000 tons, will the Government make available additional money to cover the total surplus and thus enable each grower to get the equivalent of this advance of £5 a ton?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: It was expected that there would be a surplus of 1,500 tons over the season, but the figure has reached 3,000 tons. I do not know whether the 3,000 tons we have agreed to process and finance is related in any way to the 3,000 tons the honourable member has mentioned. It seems to me that the grapegrowers, either through their organization or in some other way, have been unable to give an accurate estimate of the surplus. I assure the honourable member that I have been waiting anxiously for the grape-growers to provide an accurate estimate. Up to the present we have agreed to process 3,000 tons and I doubt whether there will be much advance beyond that figure. I do not know whence that quantity is to be harvested or carted, because I have not asked for that information. All I can say is that we have agreed to the 3,000 tons and, unless there is positive accuracy regarding additional surplus and until some request is made by an authoritative organization, I can give no other answer than that which I have given. We are prepared to process and finance up to 3,000 tons, and that is as far as we can go at present. I understand that that was the limit that could be accepted having regard to processing facilities and storage capacity.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: A deputation waited on the Premier on April 12 to discuss the grape price crisis. I understand that the wine-grape growers asked the Premier whether members for the districts affected by the crisis could attend the deputation. The Premier invited the Minister of Agriculture, and the members for Chaffey and Barossa, but omitted to invite any interested members from this side of the House. As this deputation was heard some five weeks after the election, I ask the Premier whether it was particularly significant that only Labor members, irrespective of their experience, were invited?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: I did not intend to ignore any honourable members. I do not recall any representation being made by the growers of any particular area. I was confronted with something that was almost foreign to me, but I did receive advice. I found that grapegrowers were not the easiest people to meet, probably because of their long experience with previous Governments, particularly that of which the honourable member was a Minister. Difficulties arise because they are not sure of their facts and usually want something more than they originally asked for. This statement is no reflection on growers. I assure the honourable member that there may be ample opportunity for all representatives of grape-growing areas to submit a case. I do not know when this will occur, but they will not be ignored. I made a decision on the merits of the case after accepting certain advice which I appreciated and which I acknowledge.

KIDMAN PARK SCHOOL.

Mr. BROOMHILL: At present small children from the Kidman Park area must travel some distance to school at Seaton with no bus service operating. Can the Minister of Education say when tenders are likely to be called for the construction of the Kidman Park Primary School?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I shall be pleased to obtain that information for the honourable member at an early date.

KYBYBOLITE RESEARCH CENTRE.

Mr. RODDA: Can the Minister of Agriculture say when a permanent officer in charge of the Kybybolite research centre will be appointed to replace Mr. Geytenbeek, who has been promoted to a higher position in the department?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: At the present time a Mr. Nines is acting in that position at Kybybolite. Several attempts have been made to fill the position with a permanent officer, but so far without success.

WATER STORAGES.

Mr. HUGHES: Can the Minister of Works give the present holdings of water in our reservoirs?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The position is now somewhat better than it was at this time last year, and following the recent rain we have been able to discontinue pumping. It is hoped that the rains will continue and that we will be able to supply the necessary water to all areas without returning to pumping. The total holding of the metropolitan

reservoirs is now 10,575,900,000 gallons. The present holding in the Tod River reservoir is 1,581,500,000 gallons, compared with 1,133,900,000 gallons last year.

SALISBURY SCHOOL.

Mr. CLARK: Some time ago, after much agitation, it was agreed that a new toilet block be built at Salisbury school. Some weeks ago everything had been completed except the plumbing and, naturally, the building could not be used. Infant and primary scholars are using the same toilet. As many students attend this school, will the Minister ascertain the reason for the delay, and will he expedite the matter?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I shall call for a report and do whatever I can to ensure that this necessary work is expedited.

BEDFORD PARK UNIVERSITY.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I understand that university authorities have requested the Government for a grant to erect a suitable building or buildings to accommodate students. This is of considerable importance to country people who desire tertiary education because, apart from the present university colleges, these people have much difficulty in obtaining accommodation in Adelaide while attending the university. Can the Premier say whether the Government has approved of this request?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: To the best of my knowledge, the answer is "No". However, I shall obtain a report and inform the honourable member.

MILLICENT SOUTH SCHOOL.

Mr. CORCORAN: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the calling of tenders for the Millicent South Primary School?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The Director of the Public Buildings Department states that tenders for the erection of the Millicent South school are expected to be called on May 24, 1965.

GILES POINT FACILITIES.

Mr. FERGUSON: I read with some concern an item appearing in the *Advertiser* on May 6, which stated that the construction of deep-sea loading facilities at Giles Point had been deferred. This announcement was a great shock to the people of southern Yorke Peninsula. The article added that further investigations would be necessary before this project could be proceeded with. The Harbors Board made a complete survey and an extensive investigation of the site for these loading facilities,

and the Public Works Committee, after an exhaustive inquiry, recommended the construction of these facilities. Can the Minister of Marine say whether this construction has been deferred and, if it has been, for how long has it been deferred? Also, why is it necessary for further investigations to be made into the construction of these loading facilities?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The honourable member was a member of a deputation, led by the Hon. C. D. Rowe, which waited on me when I explained that the matter had been deferred to an undetermined date. I intend, for reasons I outlined to the deputation, to inquire into the necessity for bulk handling facilities throughout South Australia. This is as much as I can say at present, other than that arrangements have been almost completed to set up a committee to inquire into these matters. As soon as this committee is set up and I have received its report I shall have further information available. The word "deferred" does not mean that the Government has determined that the terminal will not be proceeded with in the future. When I am asked to approve a project, I intend to ensure that it will be in the best interests of all concerned and will be provided at the right time. When I receive the report I shall inform the Hon. C. D. Rowe and the member for Yorke Peninsula.

EGG MARKETING.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Is the Minister of Agriculture aware that a petition for a poll of producers in relation to the proposed legislation on egg marketing is being prepared for him and has about 1,000 signatures? I believe that this petition contains the names of some large poultry producers (and not only small producers, as has been suggested) but, of course, it also contains the names of many smaller producers. If the Minister is aware of this petition, and of the size of it, will he reconsider his earlier decision not to conduct a poll of producers, for which he has the authority of this Parliament as a result of legislation passed last year?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Obviously, the member for Alexandra knows the size of this petition better than I. As yet, the only knowledge I have of the petition circulating is what I have read in the press. I shall await the presentation of this petition, and only then will I determine future policy.

FILTER PLANT.

Mrs. STEELE: Can the Minister of Works say whether the Government intends to estab-

lish a filter plant for the purpose of treating metropolitan water supplies?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Government has not considered that matter up to the present.

CARRIETON SCHOOL.

Mr. CASEY: Towards the end of last session the then Premier said that approval had been given for a new classroom to be erected at the Carrieton school early this year. Will the Minister of Education take this matter up with his department to ascertain when that classroom will be commenced?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I shall be pleased to obtain the information for the honourable member as soon as possible.

KAROONDA WATER SUPPLY.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: Some time ago an approach was made to the then Minister of Works regarding an improved water scheme for Karoonda. This matter had reached the stage (even before the previous Minister of Works was in office, I think) where some of the persons to be served had rejected the rating. Since then, a new project has been submitted to the Engineering and Water Supply Department and I understand that, just prior to the last elections, an investigation was to be made into the cost of the scheme and into the individual assessments in relation to properties adjacent to the main. Has this matter been brought to the notice of the Minister of Works? If it has not, will the Minister ascertain whether his officers can make an assessment, so that those affected will know what rate they will have to pay and whether they will favour such a scheme under the proposed rating?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Although the member for Ridley previously intimated that he would ask this question, I regret that I have not yet been able to obtain a report from my department. However, I have spoken to the Engineer-in-Chief (Mr. Dridan), and I understand that the town of Karoonda is at present supplied from a bore, but is not connected with any River Murray supply. The proposal, I understand, is to connect the township to the River Murray supply. This matter was investigated by my predecessor and by departmental officers, but no satisfactory arrangements could be made. Mr. Dridan assured me this morning that his department was about to make a further investigation into the matter and to have discussions with the people concerned. On receipt of a reply from the

department, I shall be pleased to advise the honourable member of the outcome of this investigation.

APPILA SILO.

Mr. HEASLIP: A report appeared in the *Advertiser* of March 24 this year, in which the Premier has assured me he was reasonably correctly reported, to the effect that Cabinet had turned down a proposal for a silo at Appila because it was nowhere near a railway system. Under what Act has the present Government—or any Government, for that matter—the right to turn down a proposal to build a country silo merely because the site is not near a railway system?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: I am not responsible for some things that have occurred prior to my assuming office as Premier, but I shall obtain a reply to the honourable member's question as soon as possible, which I hope will be reasonably correct, and which I hope will not mislead honourable members in any way.

MOUNT GAMBIER WATER RATES.

Mr. BURDON: Numerous requests have been made to the Government for a reduction in water rates in the Mount Gambier water district. Can the Minister of Works say whether requests for a reduction to the 7½ per cent rate as applies in the metropolitan area will be granted soon?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The honourable member's predecessor, the late Mr. Balston, made continued requests to this end.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: He was hot stuff on it!

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Yes, and so is the present member in advocating such a reduction. The matter was being considered, but I think I can safely say that the whole system of water rating is under consideration by the Government, and that until those considerations are finalized it would be unwise to deal with individual requests for reductions or variations.

KIMBA WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: The recent rains on Eyre Peninsula were not sufficient for Kimba's requirements, and water carting is still costing the Government much money each day. Can the Minister of Works say when the main from Lock to Kimba, already approved by Cabinet, is likely to be commenced?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: As the honourable member is aware from the announcement made in March, Cabinet has approved the

construction of a main from Lock to Kimba at an estimated cost of £1,132,000. The scheme involves laying about 68 miles of pipe from Lock to Kimba, the installation of three pumping stations and the construction of a balancing service reservoir near Darke Peak. The new main will serve Kimba and Darke Peak and farms along the route of the main. Water will also be available for several branch mains extending some miles into farming areas. The Government's decision followed favourable recommendations by the Public Works Standing Committee and the Engineer-in-Chief. It had been proposed originally to supply Kimba with River Murray water by means of a main from Iron Knob, but the project had been deferred to enable the department to continue its investigations into the Polda Basin on Eyre Peninsula which, it was thought, could supply enough water to give a reliable and valuable addition to the limited water resources on Eyre Peninsula including a large area of farm land between Lock and Kimba. As a result of these investigations, the Engineer-in-Chief (Mr. Dridan) had reported that the Polda Basin could be relied upon to supply substantial quantities of water year in and year out without any serious deterioration in quality and, secondly, that the quantity available from this source would be sufficient to provide more water for further development of the areas already served. However, in recommending the Kimba scheme, Mr. Dridan considered it unwise that additional heavy commitments should be made until a great deal more was known about the Polda Basin.

The Lock to Kimba main will be of immense benefit to the towns of Darke Peak and Kimba and the rural areas to be served. Kimba will be able to enjoy the amenities which most other towns in the State have enjoyed for years and many farmers will be spared the onerous and costly task of carting water for domestic and stock purposes. The Engineer-in-Chief considered it prudent to provide for the enlargement of the trunk main over portion of the scheme and to incorporate two branch mains running west of the town of Darke Peak into the hundred of Darke. Present planning anticipates commencement of the construction of the main early in 1966.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Minister of Works has referred to the exploratory work and testing being done to determine the limits and capacity of the Polda Basin on Central Eyre Peninsula. Before the House rose last session the Government approved of the clearing of access roads and of a much enlarged

programme of boring and testing of this basin. I understand that this work has been in progress for some months. Because of the importance of discovering the limits and resources of this basin, will the Minister obtain a detailed report on, first, the amount of exploratory boring that has been done and, secondly, how many selected holes have been tested for the output of water under pump-test conditions? Can he say what results have been obtained from such tests?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I thank the honourable member for his helpful and considerate attitude during the changeover between his retiring from the Ministry and my taking over the position. I deeply appreciate this. In reply to the question, I am unable to give details, but I assure the honourable member that I will obtain a detailed report and inform him when it is available.

DRAINAGE.

Mr. LANGLEY: During the last Parliament the Attorney-General and I referred to the state of the drainage systems in our districts. The then Minister said that an authority would be set up to deal with this and several other matters. Can the Minister of Works say whether preliminary plans have been made to form a drainage board or authority?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The honourable member informed me that he would ask this question and I called for the dockets, but they came to hand only today. The Leader of the Opposition and the member for Flinders realize that much attention has been given to this matter, but I cannot inform the honourable member of the position until I have had time to examine the dockets. When I have done this, I shall inform the honourable member of what progress, if any, has been made.

ST. KILDA FORESHORE.

Mr. HALL: My question concerns beach and foreshore improvements in my district. Over several years the St. Kilda Boat Owners Association, the St. Kilda Progress Association, and what was then the Salisbury and Elizabeth District Council have combined to work out a scheme whereby trailer boats would be able to reach deeper water off St. Kilda Beach. On a scheme being submitted by an engineer, the then Minister of Works was good enough to have the department investigate it. This scheme would have cost over £1,000,000 and, of course, it was too ambitious for St. Kilda. A scheme was commenced by the council allowing for free dumping in a

controlled manner so that an embankment could be formed from the St. Kilda foreshore towards deeper water. This has been a great success and the embankment now extends about 300 yards and is a substantial earthwork. Money will be required to finance the scheme, enlarge it, and provide amenities when the embankment reaches the full extent of its path towards deeper water. During the last election campaign the Liberal and Country Party undertook to make greatly increased advances for offshore improvements. The Premier promised to carry out these promises as well as those of his own Party. Can the Premier say whether we can expect more money to be made available for St. Kilda foreshore improvements?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: First, I should like the honourable member to get his facts correct. If he can show me where I have agreed to take action on this matter I shall be pleased to read such a statement. I recall saying that, if the Labor Party formed a Government, any promises concerning public works would be honoured, but I do not recall referring to foreshore improvements on that occasion. At a by-election held in the district of Stirling I said that, if our candidate, and, therefore, a Labor Government were elected, I would make money available for improvement on the South Coast. However, my sense of geography tells me that St. Kilda is a long way from the South Coast. If promises have been made by the previous Government about the foreshore at St. Kilda, all I can say at this stage is that the question will be examined and, if any money is available, the matter will receive consideration along with other matters.

HOUSING TRUST HOUSES.

Mr. HURST: Can the Minister of Housing indicate the number of £50-deposit houses being erected by the South Australian Housing Trust in the Taperoo-Osborne area; the number of rental houses to be erected in that area; and whether it is the Government's intention to build cottage flats for elderly citizens in my district?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: I shall be pleased to obtain the information and inform the honourable member.

TAILEM BEND TO KEITH WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I understand that the Minister of Works can inform me of the progress being made on the Tailem Bend to Keith water scheme. For my information and

for the information of the Minister of Agriculture, can the Minister say whether there is any substance in the rumours circulating in my district that work on the project is to be curtailed? If those rumours are untrue, can the Minister indicate now (or as soon as possible) the earliest date by which the work is likely to be completed?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Rumours will always be spreading about various matters. Finance may compel us to cease some works at a certain point, but I cannot say offhand whether the scheme referred to is one of those works that will be stopped temporarily. It is hoped that any works temporarily stopped can be carried on to a point where they will be serviceable as far as they have been extended. I appreciate the generosity of the honourable member in giving some credit to the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. G. A. Bywaters), because they have worked together on this project and both have inquired fairly frequently as to progress. The Director and Engineer-in-Chief of the Engineering and Water Supply Department has supplied the following progress report:

The first contract let for pipes comprised 22½ miles of 30in. and nine miles of 24in. pipes. Pipes are laid to a point 9½ miles from the site of the new pumping station south of Tailern Bend. An additional 5½ miles of pipe is on site, but not laid. The present laying rate is about 1½ miles a month. Tenders have been received for the construction of two surface storage tanks, and these are at present under consideration.

I am afraid I cannot give any further information at this stage.

EDEN HILLS SCHOOL.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: My question relates to the Eden Hills school in my district and certain proposals which have been made over the last few months particularly, and earlier than that even, by the school committee for additional land for playing areas for the school. I have been handed correspondence going back to June 4, 1964, between the secretary of the school committee and the Director of Education. The latest letter (dated January 14, 1965) states:

In reply to your letter of December 21, 1964, concerning the acquisition of additional land for the Eden Hills school, I have to advise that this matter is receiving attention. The usual information is being obtained with a view to purchasing the land, and it may be several weeks yet before finality is reached.

The letter goes on to say that the head teacher will be advised. So far as I am aware (and I have been so informed by the school com-

mittee), nothing has been done about the purchase of the land. I do not expect that the Minister of Education has the information in his head about this matter, but I should be glad if he would inquire with a view to having the negotiations and, I hope, the purchase speeded up. Will the Minister look into the matter?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I shall be very pleased to get the information for the honourable member and to see what can be done to finalize the matter.

WALLAROO HARBOUR.

Mr. HUGHES: I was concerned regarding a report of the Wallaroo council, which appeared in the local press on May 6, that a letter of protest was to be sent to the Minister of Marine and to me about information supplied in a letter from the Minister that a recent proposal for oil bunkering at the port of Wallaroo had not changed the economic position since the dredging of the harbour. Can the Minister of Marine clarify the present position?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The honourable member has asked a question regarding an item in which the Honourable Mr. Rowe has shown great interest. In anticipation of a question, and with a view to replying to correspondence from Mr. Rowe, I sought a report from the General Manager of the Harbors Board. That report states:

1. The Board does not engage in the bunkering of ships which is a purely commercial undertaking between ship owner and oil company. Neither does the Board provide bunkering facilities, *i.e.*, pipes, hoses, etc.

2. The Board would have no objections to the establishment of bunkering facilities at Wallaroo.

3. As stated before, the provision of bunkering facilities at any port is primarily the business of the oil industry with, of course, the permission of the Board whose agreement will have to be sought regarding safety, pipeline routes, etc.

4. The berth depth at Port Lincoln is 32ft. L.W. and at Wallaroo is 31ft. L.W.

5. The construction of waterfront silos does not increase the amount of grain available for export. They were constructed primarily to replace country storage, cheapen handling costs and accelerate deliveries.

6. The number of overseas vessels calling at Wallaroo during the period November to April inclusive was 28 compared with 30 for the same period of the previous year.

7. Bunker oils are cheaper by some 10s. a ton at Fremantle and Sydney (Botany Bay) than in South Australia and vessels normally would tend to avoid taking full bunkers in this State as a result.

8. Two types of overseas vessel call at Wallaroo—phosphate rock ships and grain ships. The former rarely bunker in Australia by design as they can obtain oil much cheaper at overseas ports. The latter, which are in the majority and which are on Single Voyage Charter, carry sufficient bunkers to complete the round voyage without refuelling in Australia. These ships, however, do on occasions “top up” their bunkers by taking on 40 to 60 tons only and these requirements would not justify the establishment of permanent facilities at any out port.

AUDITOR-GENERAL.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: For some years the previous Government made available to honourable members free access to the Auditor-General for the purpose of getting explanations they desired regarding the financial affairs of the State. Has the Government made any decision that this access to the Auditor-General shall not now be available to honourable members, or is the Government prepared for honourable members to receive the same assistance from the Auditor-General as they previously received?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: The Government has not considered this matter. The matter will be considered and, if it has been customary to do as has been suggested, the same opportunities will be presented. However, certain other information will have to come through the various Ministers. I will examine the matter and bring down a report for the Leader.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Premier has placed some inhibitions on the Auditor-General's giving information to honourable members on the public affairs of this State. Bearing in mind that the Auditor-General is an officer appointed to advise Parliament, I should like to know what right the Government has to direct him otherwise than to give full information to honourable members?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: Mr. Speaker, I fully appreciate what the Leader has said. I do not reflect on the Auditor-General when I say that certain matters should be discussed by my Cabinet, and I do not intend to be under an obligation to the Leader of the Opposition (or to any other honourable member, for that matter). I think that I am entitled to expect certain courtesies, and I can say only that, when an issue has to be considered by Cabinet, and when my colleagues have met and determined that issue, the Leader will be informed of Cabinet's decision.

Mr. SHANNON: Is this House to assume that any information sought from the Auditor-General is to be vetted by Cabinet before

members of Parliament obtain it? If that is the case, does the Auditor-General serve Parliament or Cabinet?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: I do not intend to alter anything that I have already indicated on this matter.

SOUTH-EASTERN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY.

Mr. RODDA: Can the Premier say what progress has been made with the reticulation of Electricity Trust power to the Frances, Hynam, Kybybolite, Wrattontully, and Robertson districts?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: I will consult the appropriate authority and obtain a report for the honourable member.

ATHELSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mrs. STEELE: Has the Minister of Education an answer to the question I asked last week about the future of the Athelstone Primary School?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The new Athelstone Primary School building is expected to be ready for occupation in June, 1965. It is intended to retain the old Athelstone Primary School on the Gorge Road initially to accommodate possible school population in the area but, if it is found that the buildings are not needed for this purpose, consideration will be given to their being used to accommodate special classes.

SOUTH COAST TOURIST TRADE.

Mr. McANANEY: When I entered this House as a new member in 1963 the then Leader of the Opposition, in welcoming me, said that, when he had visited my district during the election campaign, he had found that several things had been neglected. He also said:

Accordingly, I expect the honourable member to take up some matters that concern the interests of the people of the district of Stirling. If there is any doubt in his mind as to what should be done, he can, on an approach to me, receive valuable information on this matter. If it is his desire to insist that these matters should be carried to a successful conclusion, he can certainly rely on my support to achieve this. On the other hand, if he would prefer that I introduce the matters for and on his behalf, and on behalf of the district generally, I ask only that he give me the necessary support, because the matters about which I am vitally concerned are in the interests of the State, and it certainly will be to the advantage of the member for Stirling to give serious thought to this particular matter.

Can the Premier say whether the South Coast can look forward to a period of assistance from the Government for such industries as the tourist industry?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: When I was Leader of the Opposition, the member for Stirling approached me on one occasion, but when I suggested certain matters for his consideration he apparently declined the assistance I was offering for he did not approach me again. Perhaps he considered that the advice and information I gave him as Leader of the Opposition was not suitable. In the interests of the South Coast, and of the tourist trade generally, if it is humanly possible to assist the South Coast and to promote it as a tourist attraction, or to improve it in any way, when we are considering this matter under a certain Budget that will be introduced this year, this will be done. It certainly would have been done without the honourable member's assistance, but let me assure him that, on the question of service, if he has something better to offer I shall be pleased to hear from him.

CEDUNA AREA SCHOOL.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: During the latter part of last year classrooms were built at Ceduna Area School for woodwork and domestic arts classes, etc. However, as certain plumbing work has not been completed, these rooms cannot be used. I believe that tenders were called some time ago for that work, but that the local plumber did not tender for it, because of certain work involved in draining water to the foreshore. This would have involved his having to purchase special machinery, which he was not prepared to do. I understand that plumbers from the Public Buildings Department are at present working at Yalata. Will the Minister of Education ascertain whether this work at Ceduna can be carried out by those plumbers when they have finished working at Yalata?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I shall be pleased to see what can be done to expedite finalization of the work.

EXPLANATIONS.

The SPEAKER: I should like to remind honourable members that they cannot give explanations to questions, except by obtaining permission of the Speaker and the leave of the House. Some honourable members may have the impression that they have got away with it this afternoon without seeking leave to make explanations, but this has not gone unnoticed. If an explanation is necessary in

the future, I now ask honourable members to seek the leave of the House before making it.

HACKNEY BRIDGE.

Mr. COUMBE: Can the Minister of Works say whether the rebuilding of the Hackney bridge over the River Torrens is proceeding without delay, when it will be completed, and what it will cost?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I will call for a report on this matter and inform the honourable member as soon as it comes to hand.

LEAVING HONOURS CLASSES.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Last November I wrote to the Education Department seeking information on establishing fifth-year classes at country high schools, particularly at the Bordertown High School. Can the Minister of Education say whether an affirmative decision has been reached in this matter and, if it has, will Bordertown be included?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I shall be pleased to obtain that information for the honourable member.

HILLS DEEP DRAINAGE.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: My question concerns a matter I have raised on many occasions in this House in regard to deep drainage for the hills areas in my district. I was encouraged to note in the Governor's Speech that major sewerage schemes were proposed for the metropolitan area. I was also encouraged to read a news item in the *Coromandel*, the local hills newspaper, at the end of last week stating that the annual meeting of the Blackwood sub-branch of the South Australian Labor Party would be held last night, and that deep drainage for Blackwood and surrounds would be discussed, the outcome of those discussions to be forwarded to the Labor Party's headquarters with a request that the matter be raised "more persuasively" in the House of Assembly.

Mr. Clark: You are doing that now!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I shall welcome any help I can get from honourable members, especially from those opposite. Has the Minister of Works considered this most important matter since assuming office, and if he has, can he say when a scheme for deep drainage in the hills will be formulated and submitted to the Public Works Committee?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I have seen something to this effect in a docket, but I cannot remember the details. However, I

will call for a report and inform the honourable member when it is available.

TOTALIZATOR AGENCY BOARD.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: The Premier will remember that some time ago a deputation waited on him to discuss the establishment (in progressive stages) in this State of a totalizator agency board system similar to that operating in Victoria. Can the Premier say whether Cabinet has considered this matter and, if it has, can he say what it intends to do?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: Cabinet has not considered the matter as yet.

ADMINISTRATION OF ACTS.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Last Thursday I asked the Premier whether he would obtain a report for the benefit of members showing the portfolios of Ministers and the Acts of Parliament that individual Ministers would administer. Has the Premier obtained that information?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: Last Friday I asked my secretary to give particular attention to this matter and today he informed me that the matter was receiving all possible attention. I told him that it would be better for him to consider the departments that came within the ambit of each Minister rather than the Acts. I believe this information would be adequate for the Leader of the Opposition. I have asked my secretary to have such information printed as soon as possible.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I listened with interest to what the Premier said about the control of departments, but I point out to him that a number of functions in this State are not directly within a department at all, and in those circumstances it is a very great convenience to members to know what Acts are administered by the various Ministers. For example, what Minister is in charge of the operations of the Electricity Trust? Is it the Treasurer, or is it the Minister of Works? Obviously, it could be either. I ask the Premier again to consider making available a simple paper to Parliament detailing the Acts for which various Ministers are responsible. This would facilitate the working of the House, the work of Cabinet, and the administration of the State generally.

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: I think we have reached the stage where I should say to the Leader: can we have a little time in which to consider this matter? I have already given certain answers on this subject, and I should appreciate a little more time being given to my staff, which is doing more than a reasonable

job at present. If further information is needed after a report is brought down, the Leader can then ask for that information. I have already given the Leader answers to this matter this afternoon. I was in the Opposition for 24 years.

Mr. Ryan: Too long.

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: The Leader was head of affairs of Government for 27 years.

Mr. Lawn: Did they ever provide you with this information?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: Never did we have to ask for the same thing.

Mr. Jennings: There was only one Minister then.

Mr. Casey: He was the Government.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: How many of us went to the Auditor-General?

The SPEAKER: Order! This is a question and the Premier is answering. It is not a time for debate.

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: I will supply the information as soon as possible. If any further information is sought after the reply is brought down, I shall be pleased to consider the matter further.

LAND FOR ABORIGINES.

Mr. QUIRKE: Recently it was announced that certain land would be made available for Aborigines to enable them to engage in primary production. Can the Minister of Lands say what lands the Government intends to use for this purpose, whether Crown lands or existing reserves, and where will they be located?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I cannot give the honourable member the desired information at this stage. No areas to be made available have been suggested, but the possibility suggested by the honourable member could arise soon and will be referred to me by my colleague, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and then considered by me.

LOXTON HIGH SCHOOL.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: Recently I visited the Loxton High School and was alarmed to see the large cracks in the eastern side of the school, near the oval. The headmaster told me that the foundations had shifted and that this was causing cracks. Will the Minister of Education see whether the foundations can be underpinned or something else done to rectify the position?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I will take up the matter for the honourable member.

YANDIAH SIDING.

Mr. HEASLIP: Last weekend I visited the Yandiah railway siding after representations had been made to me by various property owners about the loading ramp there. I found that it was unserviceable; it had been in this condition for more than a month and anyone who wished to truck sheep would have had to bring along his own equipment and fix the side of the ramp to prevent sheep from escaping. Will the Premier see that this loading ramp is repaired and made serviceable as soon as possible?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: I will ask my colleague to attend to the matter and obtain a report on it.

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT.

Mr. QUIRKE: Recently it was announced that certain ex-servicemen's land settlement areas on Kangaroo Island were to be offered for sale by auction. Can the Minister of Repatriation say whether any conditions are listed in the information about the sale concerning restraints that could be put on people who already own land valued at more than £12,000?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: These lands are to be offered for sale under perpetual lease and, because of that, restraints will apply.

TRAFFIC OFFENCE PENALTIES.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: No doubt the Attorney-General, with other members, is concerned at the large increase in car stealing and joy riding. As the Attorney-General knows, a person convicted of breaking into a house and stealing an article worth only £5 may suffer a more severe penalty than a person convicted of joy riding in a car worth £1,500. In view of the increase in this type of offence, has the Attorney-General considered increasing the penalty as a deterrent?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Cabinet considered this matter and decided that there would be no alteration in the prescribed penalties. The point is that very considerable penalties may be imposed for illegal use of motor vehicles, and, indeed, in many cases substantial terms of imprisonment for a first offence of illegal use have been imposed by the courts. Unfortunately, in some cases light penalties are written up when a magistrate, on full investigation, thinks that that is the appropriate penalty for the particular case, and many cases of severe penalties are not given great publicity. It was felt that little would be served in altering the court's discretion in providing penalties for illegal use. Already very heavy penalties can be inflicted. It was

felt that the answer to this question of illegal use lay rather in the better provision of young people's facilities in the community. Much activity in joy riding arises from larrikin activity of young people who are bored and at a loose end. The new Ministry of Social Welfare will be expanding into the work of preventive care of young people in the community, and it is hoped that in due course the provision of satisfactory youth facilities and co-ordination of them may lead to a reduction in undesirable spare time activity.

LAND VALUATION COMMITTEE.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: The Premier will know that a report of the Land Valuation Committee, under the chairmanship of Sir George Ligertwood, was tabled in this House towards the end of last session. That report contained recommendations regarding land tax and certain matters relating to probate and succession duties. Has the Government considered the report, and does it intend to introduce legislation to give effect to the recommendations of the committee?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: We have not yet considered the matter. All I can say is that the matter will be considered at some time in the future.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

Mr. SHANNON: Can the Minister of Education say how far the primary school library programme has progressed and what success the department has had in the training of librarians and the further use of librarians?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I shall be pleased to bring down a report on those two matters as soon as possible.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

The Legislative Council notified its appointment of sessional committees.

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The Hon. F. H. WALSH (Premier and Treasurer) moved:

That during the present session, unless otherwise ordered, the House meet on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in each week, at two o'clock.

Motion carried.

The Hon. F. H. WALSH (Premier and Treasurer) moved:

That during the present session, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and after the 6 o'clock adjournment on Wednesdays, Government business take precedence over other business, except questions.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): I do not oppose this motion but I ask the Premier whether he will consider, only when it is necessary, that time be made available for debates on motions by members of the Subordinate Legislation Committee for disallowance of regulations. Previously, the Opposition (which is now the Government) often approached the Government and pointed out that motions for disallowance of regulations, which were moved by members of the Subordinate Legislation Committee were not private members' business. The Government often made additional time available for discussion on the disallowance of regulations. The occasion may arise when the Notice Paper will be congested with motions for the disallowance of regulations. I ask the Government to consider this matter, otherwise the implementation of the regulations, which are important to the community, could be delayed until the end of the session. If this happened, they would have to be dealt with in Government time. Time for their consideration could be unduly restricted, and their operation could be delayed in some instances.

The Hon. F. H. WALSH (Premier and Treasurer): I am prepared to be most helpful in this matter, and I think I have been more lenient than was the previous Government.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: That would be very good!

Mr. Lawn: A change of Government is always good when it changes this way.

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: The Leader of the Opposition will have ample opportunity on Thursday to consider another matter. With the wisdom that may prevail in another place in addition to that which may prevail at a Party meeting, it may be possible to resolve the unpleasantness that exists in another place.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: I think the Premier is unduly optimistic.

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: Whether I am or not, I say in all fairness that it is most gratifying to know that they are trying to help, particularly to help the Opposition in another place.

Motion carried.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The Hon. F. H. WALSH (Premier and Treasurer) brought up the following report of the committee appointed to prepare the draft

Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor's Speech:

1. We, the members of the House of Assembly, express our thanks for the Speech with which Your Excellency was pleased to open Parliament.

2. We assure Your Excellency that we will give our best attention to all matters placed before us.

3. We earnestly join in Your Excellency's prayer for the Divine blessing on the proceedings of the session.

Mrs. BYRNE (Barossa): I move the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, and in doing so I am conscious of the honour paid to the electorate of Barossa and myself, a new member, in having this responsibility given to me on this historic occasion, and to be the first member to do this for an Australian Labor Party Government after 32 years in Opposition (through no fault of our own but because of the existing electoral system in this State) makes me very proud. Although the proverb says "Justice will prevail", sometimes it takes a long time.

I express my gratitude to the people in the Barossa electorate who voted for me. I assure everyone that, while I am their representative in this Parliament, I will work in their interest, and will co-operate in overcoming the many problems that I know they have. Living in the electorate and having been in every part of it and contacted many electors in their houses, I have learned much of their needs and will learn much more so that I can represent them adequately. I am the second member to represent Barossa as a separate electoral district since it was formed in 1956 as part of a reshuffling of the electoral boundaries. My predecessor, Mr. Condor Laucke, was elected in 1956 and represented the district for nine years. I thank and compliment Mr. Laucke for the clean campaign he conducted. Occasionally I may have to mention his name in this House, and I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that it can be mentioned only with respect.

I thank the Australian Labor Party for endorsing me to contest the Barossa seat, and by doing so, and my subsequent success, of giving me the honour of being the first woman elected to the House of Assembly in South Australia representing the Australian Labor Party, and the second woman to be elected to this House, this being 71 years after women's suffrage was granted in South Australia. I thank members on both sides of the House for their consideration to me as a new member, and all members of the staff for the help they have given me.

I assure His Excellency the Governor of our loyalty to the Throne, and I wish Sir Edrie and Lady Bastyan continued good health. I, too, join with other members and extend my sympathy to the relatives of the late Mr. James Corcoran and of Mr. K. E. J. Bardolph both of whom I was privileged to know. I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to your office. As a senior member of this House who has given 32 years of service to Parliament, your elevation is well earned, and you will fill the position with dignity, distinction and impartiality. I congratulate the member for Adelaide on his election as Chairman of Committees. Although I am new to Parliament, I know my colleagues well and have great respect for their ability and their determination to act strongly and expeditiously in giving effect to a policy which is known to all, which was voted for many times by a majority of the people, and which acknowledges and accepts all the responsibilities of government.

The Premier is a leader who will lead in the true sense as only the leader of a good team can lead. Many have been quick to charge that we lack experience, but events have already proved them wrong. Our Cabinet has had experience, bitter experience, gained through the years in Opposition when we were so unjustly denied the right to govern, despite the wishes of the people. We are starting an era when all Cabinet Ministers will really be in charge of their departments and will know what decisions they have made, without waiting to be so informed by the press, radio or television.

In speaking in support of my resolution, I have an endless list of things to which I should like to refer, but I must be satisfied with referring briefly to a few only. I have no doubt that many of the other matters will be dealt with competently by following speakers on this side. I expect to hear some interesting debates from honourable members on the other side, too, because, after all, any criticisms of existing conditions and past mistakes can refer only to their own activities, and criticism of our proposals can be based only on extremely insecure foundations. First, however, I make this point clear: our Government's policy is based on a platform evolved from ideas originating from rank and file members, which have gone through a thorough testing by open debate (open also to the press), through various levels of the Australian Labor Party, and then put before the electors who voted us into office. Any lack of knowledge of our platform or policy cannot be blamed on us, because we

have always welcomed public scrutiny. I have given my pledge to support that policy, part of which has been put forward as our immediate programme in His Excellency's Speech.

The Government's programme has been outlined by His Excellency, and the methods of financing it have been considered carefully. It is not extravagant. This is a measure of the Government's aim to govern responsibly; to ensure the fullest development of South Australia; and to ensure that all South Australians will be treated equitably and allowed the fullest opportunities. We realize that even the most thoroughly considered propositions can require alterations dictated by changing circumstances, and we shall use every means in the time available to get as wide an opinion, and approval for any changes needed, as possible. Where we believe that the electors should themselves decide any issue, we shall ensure that they have the opportunity to exercise that right, and it has already been stated that referenda will be conducted in those circumstances.

I turn now to problems that affect the people in the district I represent. In the near metropolitan section of Barossa there is intensive housing development, and naturally a greater incidence of problems associated with building and buying houses. A constant demand for advice and assistance in this field is apparent, and I was quickly convinced that an urgent need existed for effective protective legislation for house buyers. Complaints about cracking walls, falling plaster, improper ventilation, inadequate foundations, warping woodwork, and leaking roofs and windows, have been made by house buyers. Many of these people have referred confidently to what has been agreed to, but have been amazed to find, on close study of their agreements, that there is no reference to those things, and have realized that they have been the victims of clever sales talk. Even in contracts and agreements it is possible for them to be caught. For instance, they may specify a particular process, and then find that by the addition of one word, such as "type", they are entitled only to the builder's version of that particular process.

They receive glib promises of finance at bank rates, but often find first of all that the temporary finance is at usurer's rates, and then later perhaps that the house is not even passed for bank finance. It is easy to say house buyers should get expert advice, but

that costs money, and few of the people concerned have money to spare after paying a house deposit; in many cases they have to make do with a bare minimum of furniture for the first year or two. The malady in the building industry—particularly housing—is not peculiar to my district, and recent criticisms of the building industry have been too widespread and penetrating to be dismissed by ascribing them to a few disgruntled individuals. The infection is showing up in almost every sector. Complaints are coming in from master builder, architect, tradesman, unionist, building economist, trade supplier and customer.

Symptoms of the sickness seen, particularly in the housing field, are as follows: shoddy construction; falling standards of skill; uneconomic tendering; unbusinesslike methods; bankruptcies, liquidations, receiverships and official managements; and excessive working hours and conditions generally. The industry's loss of bloom has coincided with the rapid growth of subcontracting (the emergence of firms which are not builders, but which organize building to be done), and the appearance of self-styled builders who have had too little business experience, and who over-estimate their ability to carry out major work.

In the Adelaide metropolitan area, which has notoriously poor building soils, thousands of pounds worth of damage has resulted from lack of knowledge about suitable foundations or from attempts to economize in the design or construction of foundations.

We know that one inherent fault in building in Adelaide is the prevalence of Bay of Biscay soil which causes bad cracking. The existence of this type of soil in any particular locality can be checked with the Mines Department, which suggests the particular footing required for that area, but these recommendations are not always carried out, as under the Building Act only the minimum requirements have to be complied with, and the house is often built without the necessary foundation for this type of soil.

The builders are, of course, not always at fault. Most people buy a house or choose their building design on the basis of appearance; they give little thought to the suitability of the soil for the structure they want. The present state of the industry is causing serious side effects.

The future of building trade apprenticeship seems to be in the balance, because young people are losing the incentive to gain gradually in experience and remuneration while they see

opportunities to make bigger money by other methods. Lack of tradesmen for the building industry is causing concern at present, but it will cause even graver concern in the future. Children of the early post-war period are now becoming of marriageable age, requiring houses, and by 1970 the demand for houses and for house-building will be at a peak, which at present cannot be envisaged.

Before a palliative can be suggested, however, it should be established to whom the responsibility belongs to maintain proper standards in the industry. All involved in the building of a dwelling, including tradesmen, contractor, agent, owner and council, look to the lending authority to control the overall standards. In my experience, the owner invariably assumes that the authority financing the venture keeps a careful watch on his interests to ensure that the building is constructed according to proper standards. The unfortunate truth is, however, that lending authorities vigorously deny that they undertake to do any such thing, and that the absolute limit of their interest in any project is to ensure their investment equity. The result is that owners are lulled into a false sense of security by the knowledge of visits from an inspector from the finance body that holds the first mortgage.

Usually, when private mortgages are arranged through solicitors, a certificate of structural soundness is obtained from an architect, but I know of no instance where this is required by public and semi-public lending institutions. As no authority is at present accepting the responsibility, it is obvious that the Government must step into the breach in the interest of the public as a whole. The previous Government would not accept any responsibility for this position, and did little, if anything, to correct the present situation, its aim being to have the largest number of houses possible built in this State at the lowest possible cost, for statistical reasons. Deputations met Ministers of the previous Government, asking that such activities be controlled and the interests of house purchasers protected, but nothing was done.

An immediate full-scale inquiry into all aspects of the building industry must be held. The Government should provide that the Ministry of Housing shall be responsible for the following: the administration of all acts and departments concerned with the building industry; the registration and control of builders' contractors and subcontractors; the

de-registration of builders' contractors and sub-contractors; the quality and standards of building work including that now controlled by local councils; and for the bonding of contractors.

The Government should introduce legislation, similar to Californian legislation, requiring all contracts and subcontracts over a minimum value to be carried out by registered operators only. Registration should be contingent on trade qualifications, and financial backing should be in keeping with the operation envisaged and dependent on the employment of apprentices. Registration should be cancelled for failure to complete contract, failure to carry out terms of specifications, bad workmanship, violation of building, safety, labour and compensation laws, lack of reasonable diligence, withholding of money, association with suspended or revoked contractor. The Government should introduce legislation similar to that in New South Wales, establishing the main contractor as employer of all workers on site, and no subcontract price should be legal if less beneficial than the amount of award wages plus legitimate business costs. There should be certain basic requirements in contracts, plans and specifications, and the Government should curb the activity of land salesmen by ensuring independent advice to purchasers. The Government should insist on a high standard of services by land subdividers to prevent speculation, without stopping development. The South Australian Building Act should be revised to bring it into line with legislation in other States.

When a person buys a house he wants not only a well-built house but also adequate finance at a reasonable rate, without waiting several years, as at present in some cases, to get it. During this time he is paying for temporary finance at high interest rates and is being exploited. The merging of the State Bank and the Savings Bank of South Australia would help to solve this problem because the appropriate departments of both banks would be merged, thereby leading to increased availability of funds and to increased efficiency. If all Government and semi-government institutions, such as the Housing Trust, the Electricity Trust, and several lesser State undertakings, were required to bank with the amalgamated bank, additional money would be available.

People purchasing new houses are usually forced to furnish their houses by hire-purchase, and because of the high interest rates and their heavy commitments, they often fall into difficulties. The merging of the two banks would again help the average family in this respect,

as it would enable the bank to provide hire-purchase facilities. Hire-purchase is commonly regarded as the small man's overdraft, but hire-purchase rates of interest average 15 per cent to 20 per cent compared with an average of 6 per cent for overdraft. This venture would be successful, as witness the last Federal Labor Government's regime, when the Commonwealth Bank conducted successfully a hire-purchase department.

The public, when purchasing goods through hire-purchase, or by any other means, must have consumer protection. Those firms producing and marketing reliable products have had to sell at prices that cannot compete with the cheap-jack manufacturers, and in some cases have been struggling to continue in production. One effect of consumer protection would be to force standards up to a reasonable level and enable the reputable manufacturer to compete on even terms, which is all that they ask. Thus consumers will get much better value for their money and will not so easily be the victims of high pressure salesmen. The goods they would purchase may be higher in initial cost, but would last longer and cost less to maintain and, in fact, the cost over a period would be considerably less.

When in Opposition, the Labor Party was able to force through legislation that protected the consumers. Some protective measures for purchases under hire-purchase agreements were obtained and have proved their value, even if they were limited by the conservative outlook of the previous Government. This Government recognizes its obligation to the people in this field and will honour it.

Now let me turn to the problems of the elderly citizens. The first of these concerns pensioner flats. A survey of requirements for pensioners' flats is needed in Barossa and other areas, followed by early action. To date, 697 cottage flats have been built and retained by the trust, and all are in the metropolitan area except 11 at Elizabeth. Advancing years and the need for an easing of the burden of caring for family-size houses are forcing the older generation to move to where such accommodation is available, if any, or into houses where these people lose their independence. They have earned the right in their last years to some ease and comfort in the districts where their friends and families live. This is not a charitable proposition but a recognition and reward for the significant part these people have played in developing this State to its present standard, against great odds.

It is only small recognition, but it will help them to avoid the things they dread—loneliness and becoming a burden to others. I deal now with pensioner travel concessions. Our policy, of which all members should be aware and of which pensioner organizations certainly are, is that, until adequate age, invalid, and widows' pensions are provided by the Commonwealth, free travel will be provided for pensioners on public transport. At this stage in the Parliament's life, it is impossible for me to predict when this policy will be put into effective operation as there are several associated problems that will have to be considered. Meanwhile, the Government should consider early administrative action to extend the current concession hours, which are from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. onwards. The suggested hours (from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and from 5.45 p.m. onwards) would not encroach on peak traffic hours to any noticeable extent. At present, pensioners in country areas are allowed two trips to the city each year at concession rates on Government transport, but no concession-rate country trips are allowed to metropolitan pensioners. This could be changed at no extra cost by imposing no limits on travel either way and, in fact, this could increase revenue. Early action could be taken to arrange reciprocity in concessions and concession cards between the States so that pensioners from other States visiting Adelaide would not have to go through the long, tedious process now required. The cost of these concessions would be little, if anything, and they would encourage full-fare patronage of public transport and thereby be a profitable move.

I now turn to the subject of deep drainage. As I stated previously, there is intense development in the near metropolitan section of the Barossa District, and the lack of deep drainage is an associated problem, septic tanks being installed in most houses when constructed. Although some aspects associated with deep drainage have already been the subject of a deputation to the Minister of Works, this matter is of such importance to the district I represent that I must speak about it in detail. With the rapid development of the area and the building of group-housing schemes, numerous complaints were aired about the difficulty of disposing of septic tank effluent, mainly because of the type of soil. To overcome this problem, the Tea Tree Gully Council investigated a method whereby common effluent-collecting drains were constructed into which effluent from individual septic tank installa-

tions could be disposed of. The ultimate discharge of the effluent is in a creek area, having first been treated by means of a biological filter or oxidation pond.

One of the first council-installed schemes commenced in January, 1963, and has worked most successfully since; this scheme serves about 150 houses at present and is capable of handling 200 houses when the area is completely built up. This installation resulted in an immediate benefit to the area, and the residents virtually enjoy sewer facilities at an annual cost of £5 a house connected to the drain. Since this installation, other proposals were submitted to the Central Board of Health, were approved, and were constructed throughout the district. In all new subdivisions it is a condition of approval that common effluent drains be laid for the purpose of disposal of septic tank effluent. There are now 41 schemes in all, and five underground stone filters, eleven oxidation ponds and four biological filters have been constructed. This means that in the 21 other sections the septic tank effluent is run into the natural surface drainage of creeks through common effluent drains or, where none exist, by using road gutters. This is believed to be a constant and serious menace to health. In the Highbury-Dernancourt area, for some considerable time there has been a constant, even if small, flow of effluent from that area across Lyons, Lower North East, and Reservoir Roads, into the Hope Valley service reservoir reserve. That effluent may not have reached the reservoir, but this clearly shows that deep drainage should be provided in any areas higher than a reservoir immediately development commences. It would be ideal for all areas to be planned on the drawing board first and then for all essential services to be connected before people moved in, but in most of these areas it is too late for this, so something has to be done to correct the existing situation. The immediate reticulation of the Highbury-Dernancourt area is necessary and urgent.

The immediate reticulation of all the outer suburban section of Barossa not connected to the deep drainage would be welcome, but it is realized that because of the tremendous expansion of the Tea Tree Gully-Modbury area and of South Australia generally this is not possible. All these matters are governed by available finance, but an immediate, if not permanent, sensible solution to suit all concerned (the people, the Government and the Tea Tree Gully Council) must be found. It is suggested that the Engineering and Water

Supply Department should consider, first, the supplying of sewer trunk mains to which all existing common effluent drainage schemes could be connected, thus eliminating the need to extend sewers through the various streets. This would save the Government the immediate expense of reticulating all the streets. It would save the council and the developers the cost of installing biological filters or oxidation ponds for further treatment of the effluent, and the people would have the immediate benefit of a better state of sanitation for the district.

Secondly, the department should confer and co-operate with the Tea Tree Gully Council so that all future effluent drains could be designed and laid at a depth that would suit future sewerage requirements. Again, this would save the Government money, because all future streets would be reticulated at little expense to the Government, as under the present arrangements the land developers would have to pay; and it would save future house-owners the expense of double costs for drainage, which many present house-owners will have to pay. I understand that the Tea Tree Gully Council first asked for this to be done when it was considering installing its first common effluent-collecting drainage scheme. A plan of the proposed common effluent drain envisaged was submitted to the Engineering and Water Supply Department. It was submitted that the work would cost about £10,000 and that it would seem more desirable that, if possible, the construction of this drainage scheme should be carried out in such a manner as to serve a useful purpose when sewer mains were eventually provided.

The Engineer-in-Chief was asked to co-operate in the planning, etc., of the scheme, and it was suggested that a joint inspection should be made of the area as soon as possible. In January, 1963, a reply was received from the previous Minister of Works, following questions asked in the House by the former member for Barossa, indicating that the Engineer-in-Chief considered that no advantage would accrue to his department by attempting to design effluent drains that would form part of the sewerage system. It was also stated that the Engineering and Water Supply Department was unable to examine in detail the proposals with the present staff available and that the Tea Tree Gully District Council would be informed that consideration had been given to its request and that the proposals had been examined, but that it was considered that no advantage would result either to the council or to the Engineering and Water Supply

Department in attempting to lay drains at a depth that would suit sewerage requirements. Because of this reply, the council decided to proceed with its previous plans. I contend, that, had the Tea Tree Gully Council's request been granted, then we should not have the drainage problem in this particular area that exists today and has to be solved at a greatly increased cost.

I now turn to the subject of hospitals. This is a question of priorities, and we realize that the Government has not unlimited finance. However, more regional hospitals must be established, especially as the Town Planner's Report states that Adelaide's population will have increased by 300,000 by 1976, showing conclusively that urgent action must be taken now in the building and staffing of more hospitals. A strong case exists for a regional hospital to serve the fast growing Tea Tree Gully and Modbury areas because there is no hospital in the district at present. It is pleasing that our Government recognizes this need and has already taken the preliminary steps. In this area, controlled by the Tea Tree Gully Council, the population is expected to grow into Adelaide's third largest local government centre.

The district's population has risen spectacularly from about 3,000 in 1958-59 to about 19,000 at March 31 of this year; the number of dwellings has grown from 900 to 5,218 at March 31; and by 1990 the district's population is expected to rise to 100,000. Present plans are based on a 500-bed general hospital, with general, maternity and pediatric patients, plus nurses' accommodation and other essential services such as kitchens, dining areas, boiler house, etc. The Government has had the benefit of the Town Planner's Report in this matter and finds that on the question of hospital needs generally some extremely good proposals have been made, supported by logical arguments and reasons. If anything, the report is inclined to be conservative because of the apparent aim of its compilers to make their conclusions convincing.

I hope sympathetic consideration will be given to "general practitioner" wards being provided in the proposed general hospital. They will provide hospital beds and facilities for the general practitioners in the area so that treatment can be given to local residents, thus ensuring that local people can use the hospital, or its purpose will be defeated and it will become an annex of the Royal Adelaide Hospital. I understand this arrangement exists with the Mount Gambier, Port Pirie,

Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Wallaroo and Barmera hospitals and one ward of The Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Of course, these wards will involve a different scale of staffing as the nurses will have to work according to the instructions of a number of doctors, resulting in a considerable increase in the work and the variation of treatment. However, the cost of hospital treatment will be considerably less than that involved if local practice patients are handled by several small private and semi-Government hospitals.

While the proposals outlined for hospitals are of great importance, there is one aspect of hospital accommodation on which I must touch. Because of the past concentration of industry in the metropolitan area, many—too many—of the younger people have been forced to move to the city to earn a reasonable living, and this has left country towns with a high proportion of elderly people who need hospitalization for ailments some of which they easily handled in their homes when they were younger and could be handled even now were there enough of the younger generation living closer, to help.

The small town hospitals are struggling to continue, but they provide an essential service for these elderly people within easy reach of their houses and relatives, and some of the loneliness that exists for these elderly people is eliminated.

If the hospitals close down we have a greater problem, perhaps not financially but in human terms. Forced to go elsewhere for treatment, possibly to the city, the patient misses the company of his or her lifelong companions, is lonely and is inclined to fret, and recovery is retarded. This is one problem that this Government will consider, because we owe it to these people who did so much for us when life was so much harder and who should now be able to depend on some practical recognition when it is most needed.

On the important subject of decentralization, every effort must be made to stop the drift of people from the country to the city for such reasons as education, employment, better amenities, and so on. If decentralization is to be achieved what is needed is a bold, responsible and co-ordinated programme covering all aspects of development, especially transport and communications, the availability and cost of power and fuel, the effect of rainfall and irrigation, matters affecting industrial, pastoral and agricultural expansion, the development of mineral and fishing industries, and the whole question of marketing and dis-

tribution, together with adequate provision for tourism, housing, education and entertainment—all in their proper perspective. As well as being essential for defence, the decentralization of industries and full development of the State is "good business". Time has proved that caution costs money whereas boldness usually produces extraordinary results for a relatively small outlay.

On the question of country industries, Labor has already given splendid leadership. The last Parliament, at the request of the Labor Party, set up a special committee to inquire into and report on decentralization. The previous Government seems to have paid scant attention to the report and its recommendations. I am pleased to note that the present Government has already set up a Premier's Department, as recommended by the committee, and I hope that this department will be able to stimulate interest in decentralization and take the initiative in negotiating for the establishment of new industries in country centres.

In the Barossa electoral district is the Para Wirra National Park and Wild Life Reserve of almost 2,000 acres, which was acquired and set up by the previous Government. I commend that Government for its foresight. The park contains 18 tennis courts, one oval, one lake, and two picnic grounds, and it has been advertised as a tourist attraction. The roads leading into it, however, are far from a tourist attraction and could be described as a "tourist deterrent". They may have been sufficient for previous traffic, with maintenance a small problem, but the increased traffic makes maintenance a major problem and the roads are in a perpetually cut-about condition. In addition to discouraging tourists, they are a burden to producers in the area who have to bear heavy maintenance costs on their vehicles and suffer considerable loss through dust damage to their produce and pastures.

At present, tourist coaches make irregular visits to the park, but these tours would be increased if the roads were better. Unfortunately, the number of private tourists has decreased, causing a loss of revenue to the park as it is difficult to let the tennis courts and oval. On one occasion only were all the tennis courts booked, whereas its counterpart, the Belair National Park, is nearly always booked out at weekends during the season. All approaches to the park need sealing, but I recommend that at least one road leading into the park be sealed immediately. This should be given a high priority because it is in the interest of the whole State.

A substantial part of Barossa is catchment area for reservoirs. The South Para reservoir is one of the tourist attractions of the district, but no toilet facilities are available. The installation cost would, no doubt, be expensive, because the pipes from the septic tanks would have to extend for a few hundred yards to clear the water catchment area. However, these facilities must be erected, and I suggest that this matter be investigated.

I conclude, Mr. Speaker, by pledging myself to work to achieve what is required for the Barossa District, and to help my Government and the Australian Labor Party, which I represent, to implement our refreshing programme and policy.

Mr. HUDSON (Glenelg): I am greatly privileged to be given the opportunity to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. May I first congratulate the honourable member for Barossa on her excellent speech. I am proud to be associated with the first Labor woman member of Parliament in commencing the Address in Reply debate, and I am confident that today will mark the first of many important contributions to be made to the work of Parliament by the honourable member for Barossa. May I also congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to your high office. Your long experience as a member of this House will mean that you will bring an expert knowledge to your task, and I am sure that you will continue to enjoy the confidence of members of both sides of the House. I also congratulate the member for Adelaide (Mr. Lawn) on his election as Chairman of Committees. I wish to thank members on both sides and the Parliamentary staff for their courtesy and for the helpful reception they tendered to me as a new member.

March 6 was, I believe, a great day for democracy in South Australia. On that day the most vicious gerrymander in Australian history was overcome and the Labor Party, which for some years has had a majority of votes, was at last able to gain a majority of seats in this House. I congratulate particularly the Premier on leading our Party to its magnificent victory. I am confident that, from the record of the Government over the last two months and from the legislative programme set out in the Governor's Speech, we are witnessing the beginning of a long period of legislative reform that has not been seen in this State for 70 years—a period of reform that is indeed long overdue. I have the honour to be the first Labor representative of the district of Glenelg since Glenelg became a separate

electoral district in 1938. I express my sincere gratitude to all who contributed to the campaign in Glenelg and to Labor's victory. That victory would not have been possible without the great co-operation and enthusiasm that marked the efforts of all who helped in the Glenelg campaign. I realize that, as a new member, I carry a great responsibility, not only to my own supporters but also to all the electors of Glenelg, and I shall endeavour to discharge that responsibility to the very best of my ability.

Glenelg is one of the most populous districts in the State, containing 35,000 electors. In the past, members for Glenelg have resided in the northern half, and I believe that I am the first representative for the area who has lived in the Brighton subdivision, the subdivision which now contains two-thirds of the total number of electors. However, it is true that previous members of this House lived in the southern half of what is now the Glenelg electorate while they represented other areas. I refer in particular to Sir George Kingston and Charles Cameron Kingston who lived for part of their lives in what is now known as the Kingston Park kiosk. Sir George Kingston, who was the first Speaker of this House, took out the original selection of Kingston Park in 1838 and caused to be built the structure which was at first called Marino Inn, but which at a later date became the Kingston family home. The two Norfolk Island pines, planted by George Kingston and named Charlie and Paddy after his sons, still stand today and serve as landmarks for an area which has tremendous tourist potential. The original Kingston selection took in all the beach area and extended out to sea, and in the 1880's and 1890's the wife of Charles Kingston insisted that the beach was private property, caused the area to be fenced off, and would chase intruders with a knife or axe. It is said that on one occasion Tom Price, the first Labor Premier of the State and a man of great courage and integrity, nearly came to grief when chased off the beach by Mrs. Kingston brandishing her trusty axe.

The area became the property of the Government when the Gunn Government purchased it in 1924 for the Tourist Bureau. The kiosk is now leased by two Dutch families who, together with another Dutch family, have done a wonderful job in renovating the buildings and carrying out improvements to the grounds. There is a magnificent site for a restaurant on the cliff and I recommend to the Government that money be set aside for this project,

and also for the full development of the surrounding area. If the full potential of the area could be realized and a boat haven established by erecting a breakwater, not only the local residents but also all South Australians would have available to them picnic grounds and other facilities which would be second to none anywhere in Australia. I hope that the Government will draw up plans for the full development of the whole area and that the Minister of Lands will see fit to restore the name Kingston Park to that area recently incorporated in the larger suburb of Marino.

The name "Kingston" is an illustrious name in South Australia and in Australian history. Sir George Kingston and, even more so, Charles Cameron Kingston, as Premier of the State from 1893 to 1899, were pioneers of legislative reform. Charles Kingston, in particular, ensured that South Australia 70 years ago had a reputation as a modern and progressive State that was foremost throughout the world. What a sad contrast exists between the progressiveness of Kingston's years and the tired conservatism of the previous Government in relation to matters of reform. Charles Kingston has the distinction of being the only man called on by the Governor to be Premier of the State while under bond to keep the peace. The circumstances are unusual. Kingston had become particularly irritated by the personal attacks made on him by one of the many Tory Legislative Councillors of the day, the Hon. Richard Chaffey Baker. Events came to a head when Baker said that Kingston "was well known to be as big a coward as he was a bully . . . and a disgrace to the legal profession". This brought the following retort from Kingston: "He had proved him politically to be false as a friend, treacherous as a colleague, mendacious as a man, and utterly untrustworthy in every relationship of public life, and now he had added to the accumulated disgrace of a lifetime the crowning ignominy of an unjust judge."

As a result of Baker's accusation, Kingston challenged him to a duel in Victoria Square on December 23, 1892. That day Kingston was himself arrested in Victoria Square, about the time of his proposed meeting with Baker, and was found in possession of a fully loaded revolver. Kingston had already dispatched a similar weapon to Baker by special messenger. When the case came to court (and I quote from the *Observer* of December 31, 1892), Kingston was required to find "two sureties of £250 each, and enter into his own

recognizances for £500 to keep the peace towards Richard Chaffey Baker and all Her Majesty's . . . subjects for a period of 12 months". It is interesting to note these further details reported in the *Observer* of the same date: "The sureties for Mr. Kingston are the Hon. Jenkins Coles (Speaker of the House of Assembly) and Mr. J. T. Hackett, B.A. Mr. Hackett went surety in place of the Hon. T. Playford, who would, we are informed, have entered into recognizances, but was prevented from being at the court because of his attendance at an important meeting."

Kingston, as I have indicated, was a great reformer, and one of his main aims (in which, unfortunately, he was not successful) was to reform the Legislative Council of his day. As a matter of some interest, he gave up attempting to shoot any Legislative Councillors after 1892. Charles Kingston's father, Sir George Kingston, also had very strong democratic tendencies and in 1855 he circulated a memorandum which, among other things, demanded: "The election to the Lower House to be by districts, for which purpose the colony shall be divided into electoral districts, comprising, as nearly as practicable, equal numbers." This demand was substantially followed in the 1856 Constitution. Sir George Kingston also demanded that "the franchise should be extended to every male 21 years of age and that the qualifications of the voters of both Houses should be the same."

While Charles Kingston was unsuccessful in his great aim to reform the Upper House, even though he went so far as to be elected to it himself in 1899, his period as Premier of South Australia saw the State develop as a pioneer of legislative reform throughout the world. In 1895, South Australia became the first State in the world to extend the franchise to women. The year 1894 saw the passage of the Industrial Conciliation Act, only four months after New Zealand had become the first country to legislate for conciliation and arbitration in industrial matters. The credit for initiating legislation rightly belongs to Kingston, as he had first introduced a Conciliation Bill into the South Australian House of Assembly in 1890, and Reeves of New Zealand made no secret of the help he received from Kingston. It was Kingston who first moved for the inclusion of arbitration powers in the Commonwealth Constitution. Kingston's regime saw the establishment of the State Bank, and a measure to establish a State Insurance Office also passed the House of

Assembly, only to be defeated by the Conservative Upper House. Kingston pioneered legislation for closer settlement; he introduced a graduated system of land and income taxation, having earlier legislated for a progressive system of succession duties. The capacity to pay of each taxpayer became the criterion for determining the burden of taxation. During his regime Kingston greatly extended the principle of employers' liability, the first measure along these lines having been introduced by Kingston as a private member's Bill in 1883.

Kingston made no secret that he was prepared to champion the cause of the working class. As Alfred Deakin put it, "No man more enjoyed the confidence of the masses, and no man more deserved it for he was wholesouled in their cause." It was in connection with his Conciliation Bill that Kingston first stated that he "wished to be classed as a State Socialist—as one who recognized that it was right for the State to interfere for the good of society." It is significant that Kingston's assumption of the Premiership occurred after the 1893 election which witnessed the first organized campaign by Labor. Kingston himself held one of the two seats for the district of West Adelaide, and held his seat after 1893 only because of Labor support. During his years as Premier, Labor held the balance of power but consistently supported Kingston, for he was fully attuned to Labor ideals. One of the chief reasons for Labor's acceptance of Kingston as a leader was his open support of the unions. He had publicly stated that in his opinion the maritime strike was provoked and continued by the masters, and his Conciliation Bill was designed with the express purpose of recognizing the rights of men to form unions. In 1890 he denounced in Parliament the non-union labour brought from Melbourne to work on the wharves at Port Adelaide. He described them as "the sweepings of Melbourne and the scum of the earth" and protested that South Australian unionists were not getting fair treatment in the courts. Charles Cameron Kingston was a great South Australian, and in Commonwealth politics a great Australian. In sponsoring legislative reform he stands as the most important figure in our history. I should like to see his name commemorated when, according to Labor's policy, Bedford Park becomes a separate university. I hope that the second university will be known as "Kingston University of South Australia."

I should like to refer to one important item of Labor policy which attracted a great deal of attention in the last week of the election campaign, namely, our policy to amalgamate the State Bank and the Savings Bank of South Australia. When our opponents became really desperate and the fear that the electors were about to catch up with them came to dominate their minds, they attempted a scare campaign, designed to misrepresent completely Labor policy, and to fool the people. Fortunately, the people saw this campaign for what it was and took no notice of the lying advertisements, the planted statements in the press, and, in Glenelg, the roneoed letter that was circulated by the previous member for the district. This letter stated, *inter alia*:

We are strongly opposed to politicians being given the power to over-ride the trustees of the Savings Bank—the people's bank—and use the savings of depositors to finance their socialistic schemes.

That was a complete misrepresentation and, coming as it did in the last two days of the campaign, it allowed us no opportunity to reply.

Our proposal to amalgamate the State and Savings Banks involves nothing more than an administrative rationalization. The suggestion that the Labor Party, if elected to power, would proceed to interfere with people's savings deposits was not only completely false but malicious as well. If one looks closely at our economy and attempts to see where there are shortages which need to be overcome in order to improve the overall efficiency of performance of the economy, one is confronted immediately with what Galbraith called "the contrast of private splendour and public squalor". In almost every case where there is a shortage, Government expenditure is necessary to overcome that shortage. This is true of education, hospitals, the provision of better roads, water supplies, sewerage, stormwater drainage, housing, the development of electric power, natural resources and so on. The list is endless. The point I wish to make is a simple one. Any political Party is faced with the need for greatly increased expenditure in this State if it is to act in the interests of the State when elected to power. Any State Government is faced also with very limited control over its revenue, and it would be neglecting its duty if it were not prepared to contemplate action which would help to harness and develop the financial resources available to the State. A political Party which failed in this duty would not deserve power, and a Government which was in power for 32 years

and failed to harness adequately the financial resources of the State would deserve the political decapitation that it received.

Labor's policy of amalgamation of the State and the Savings Banks is nothing more than a policy designed to harness our financial resources, and to develop a vigorous State banking system while at the same time fully protecting the interests of depositors. The State Bank is a relatively small institution with only a few branches—35 in all, including 29 in country areas. Yet it is the State's own trading bank, and a vigorous expansion of it could assist greatly in providing finance for urgent industrial development, particularly if State Government instrumentalities banked with it and provided a sound financial base for such an expansion. Any expansion of the State Bank would require a great increase in the number of its branches throughout the State, and initially considerable expense would be involved. However, a large part of this expense would be avoided if the State Bank were amalgamated with the Savings Bank.

The Savings Bank has many more branches, 123 in all, including 71 in country areas. In addition, it has over 700 agencies and the means, therefore, of judging finely when and where a new branch should be built. The Savings Bank's organization already exists and it is already State-wide, while that of the State Bank is not. Secondly, the Savings Bank, through the introduction of personal cheque accounts, has started to develop some of the features of a trading bank. Clearly it would be a stupid policy to build new branches of the State Bank in places where branches of the Savings Bank already existed and where these branches were already providing some trading bank facilities. Then we would have the ridiculous spectacle of the Government *via* the State Bank competing with itself *via* the Savings Bank. An alternative would be to develop the Savings Bank as a trading bank and leave the State Bank as a relatively useless appendage which was allowed gradually to wither away. Obviously, this would not be sensible as it would mean that the knowledge and expertise that the State Bank and its officers have in the field of trading banking would not be available to the Savings Bank in its new development.

The only sensible alternative is amalgamation—it is the only rational approach when an expansion of trading bank facilities is desirable and necessary. When a private trading bank starts a savings bank, and all except the Bank of Adelaide have done this, does any-

one suggest that it should build separate branches, staffed by entirely new officers and housed in a separate building? And does anyone suggest that when a private bank provides savings bank facilities in its existing trading bank branches that it intends thereby to interfere with its customer's savings bank deposits? Of course, not.

Well, the analogy is almost exact, except that here what is proposed is to use partly the existing buildings and staff of a savings bank to provide trading bank facilities as well. Indeed, it will be a simple matter, if necessary, to provide in the legislation amalgamating the two banks that the interests of Savings Bank depositors are fully protected. The savings bank business would be conducted through a separate set of accounts, just as is done in the Commonwealth Bank or any private bank. The legislation would provide that only certain kinds of assets could be purchased with savings bank funds, and could well provide also that the savings bank should maintain an asset structure which was variable only within certain limits. Nothing could be simpler than this, and it would give the lie completely to the false charges that our opponents raised during the election campaign.

In fact, a vigorous expansion of trading bank facilities would in all probability help to enhance and strengthen the savings bank side of the business. Just as a savings bank brings trading bank customers, as the private banks have discovered, the process will work in reverse and the provision of trading bank facilities will bring more savings bank depositors. Of course, it would also provide vigorous competition with the private banks—perhaps this is what our opponents fear. Do they believe in enterprise, not when it is free but only when it is private? Amalgamation, coupled with vigorous expansion, could help provide not only increased finance for industrial development but also could help provide more finance for housing and help fill a gap which is becoming more serious every day.

The need for more housing finance is urgent. One of the foremost impressions I have as a new member is the virtual impossibility of providing assistance to people who seek accommodation in the south-western suburbs of Adelaide. The Housing Trust has a long waiting list for these suburbs and can do little to help individuals in urgent need of assistance. It is true I think, for reasons which should be obvious, that the trust received little encouragement from the previous Government in recent years to build in any of the suburbs of the

Glenelg district. Furthermore, people who have been in the queue for Savings Bank finance have been confronted, prior to the election, with a switch in bank policy which has changed a 12 to 18 months' wait into a delay of three or four years, or even more. This change has serious consequences for individuals, even if economic conditions do not deteriorate towards the end of this year. But the consequences for individuals may well be disastrous if the Menzies Government indulges in yet another of its infamous credit squeezes.

A typical housing story, with which I am sure all members are now familiar, goes like this. A family with limited funds may have approached the Savings Bank 15 to 18 months ago and on being informed that the waiting period was 15 to 18 months may well have gone ahead and purchased a house. Often a second mortgage would be taken out with a hire-purchase company and the amount of the prospective bank loan would have to be taken out in temporary finance at 8 or 9 per cent, if the prospective buyer was lucky. In this way, through a combination of second mortgage and temporary finance, the house purchase was made. In the intervening period the Savings Bank experienced considerably greater competition from the private savings banks, which have been offering special preference to anyone depositing £1,000 or more for six months or longer. As a result the Savings Bank began to lose deposits and had to protect its position by offering similar terms, for example, a loan within three to four months once £1,000 had been deposited for a period of six months. This change in Savings Bank policy could only be carried out by upsetting the whole basis of existing priorities within the Savings Bank—the little people with no money to deposit would have to wait longer. They are now told, after waiting up to 18 months, that it will be another two or three years.

But, in the meantime, the temporary finance must be re-negotiated, and if the houseowner is forced to go to a hire-purchase company, he will be offered temporary finance at 1½ per cent a month or 13½ per cent per annum. It is a simple matter to work out what all this means. For example, £1,250 on second mortgage repayable over 10 years at 7 per cent, plus £2,750 on temporary finance at 13½ per cent, would involve payments of £11 a week. If one can afford that sort of payment for housing one could just about afford to be a member of the Adelaide Club. Yet, many families are paying as much as this, and payments between £8 and

£10 a week are common for those who are still waiting for a bank loan. The payments are made while employment remains secure, while overtime is regular, and while the housewife can readily get paid employment if necessary. But, what will happen later this year when the friends of the L.C.L. in Canberra are forced into another credit squeeze because of a deteriorating balance of payments and because they refuse to adopt alternative policies. Families in the position I have illustrated will be forced out of their houses and perhaps made bankrupt if a credit squeeze renders them unemployed, unable to keep up the weekly payments, and forced to sell a house quickly on a falling and illiquid market.

No doubt some members of the previous Government will wash their hands of this sort of problem and say, "What can you do with people who are foolish enough to get themselves into this sort of position?" Yet, what alternatives do many people have when faced with the ever-worsening shortage of rental accommodation? Surely the previous Government connived at encouraging people into the sort of house-ownership problem I have illustrated by accepting and, indeed, encouraging the trust's decision to build relatively more houses for sale and fewer rental houses. If one is forced to pay £7 and £8 a week to rent a house or flat in the south-western suburbs one may as well buy a house and pay out a similar amount each week, particularly if a bank loan seems to be in the offing and the availability of the loan leads to a smaller weekly payment.

What legislative protection is there for the person who rents a home or a flat? None at all, if the dwelling rented is up to a certain specified standard. And if it is substandard, the person renting is offered the most inadequate protection imaginable. The protection offered comes from the Housing Improvement Act, 1940-61, which surely stands as one of the worst pieces of legislation that has ever disgraced any State's history. If the Housing Trust wishes to declare any accommodation substandard, under section 52 of the Act it must first give one month's notice to the owner or any mortgagee. Under the same section, when one month has elapsed, the trust then declares the particular accommodation substandard by inserting a notice in the *Government Gazette*. The owner or any mortgagee can then appeal to a local court, and this process takes at least another month. Thus, at least two months must pass before the trust can make an effective order to control the rent and prevent the eviction of the tenant.

The tenant is protected only if he has a lease that does not allow termination of the tenancy by the landlord during the relevant period. However, the great majority of leases contain a clause permitting either party to the agreement to terminate the tenancy on giving certain notice, usually one month, but invariably less than two months. This means that any tenant of substandard accommodation must contemplate almost certain eviction should the trust attempt to intervene on his behalf. Indeed, the landlord can and does escape action by the trust altogether by evicting the existing tenant during the two months period to which I have referred, and by selling the house under what is called a rental purchase agreement. Nothing exists in the legislation that prevents a landlord from doing that. Agreements of this kind require no deposit and usually contain a clause requiring the purchaser to carry out certain improvements should the vendor so demand during the currency of the agreement.

When the vendor requires such work to be done and the purchaser cannot carry it out, the vendor can and does eject the "tenant-owner" and substitutes another rental-purchase agreement with someone else. The net effect of this sort of arrangement is not only the complete avoidance of the Housing Improvement Act but also the charging of what amounts to a "rent", which is two to three times greater than the controlled rent that would have applied if the Housing Improvement Act could have been made effective. The only sufferer is the poor family renting substandard accommodation, and the only beneficiary is the slum investor who aims to make an excessive profit out of human misery. The position that exists is a product of the previous Government's legislation which created the loopholes for the unscrupulous landlord to exploit. The need for amendments to the Housing Improvement Act is urgent. I know that the Premier will be giving this matter his attention, so that tenants can be protected effectively and racketeering prevented.

I was pleased to see that the Governor's Speech made it clear that the Government would proceed to legislate for electoral reform at an early date. This was made the central issue of the election campaign by the Labor Party, and our policy was given an overwhelming mandate by the people. If we compare the votes cast in 1965 with those cast in the 1962 State election we get the following picture: The Labor Party increased its share of the total vote cast from 54.54 per cent

to 55.04 per cent; the L.C.L. improved from 34.50 per cent to 35.93 per cent (if members opposite try harder next time, they might get to 40 per cent); the D.L.P.'s share declined from 7.74 per cent to 4.35 per cent; and others, including Communists, Independents, Country Party and Social Credit candidates, moved from 3.22 per cent of the vote to 4.68 per cent. In case anyone thinks this does not represent a fair picture, because there was not a direct A.L.P.-L.C.L. contest in all electorates and because some seats were uncontested, compare instead the 17 electorates where there was a direct A.L.P.-L.C.L. contest in both the 1962 and 1965 elections. In these 17 seats we find that the A.L.P. vote improved from 49.6 per cent to 50.6 per cent, while the L.C.L. vote declined from 46.1 per cent to 45.6 per cent.

A more interesting exercise is to add the figures for all electorates in 1965 where there was an A.L.P.-L.C.L. contest—28 in all. Then add to these figures the 1964 Senate figures for the remaining 11 electorates. This addition under-estimates State Labor's vote, because in the Senate contest the L.C.L. had No. 1 ballot paper position, and in recent years State Labor has polled better than Federal Labor. Assume, in addition, that two-thirds of D.L.P., Communist, Independent, and Social Credit preferences would go to the L.C.L. while only one-third would go to Labor, and we obtain an overall estimate of the support of the two major Parties if the electors were to choose between them. The final result of this calculation is the conservative estimate that 56 per cent of the people would support Labor and only 44 per cent would support the L.C.L. We reach the inevitable conclusion that a commanding majority of South Australians supported the Labor Party in an election in which electoral reform was made the central issue. We have a mandate for our policy, and that mandate should be recognized by any democrat among the L.C.L. members of either House of this Parliament. If there be any such democrats who affirm the principle of majority rule in a democracy, they will support our legislative proposals. In this connection it is interesting to look back to the days when the *Advertiser* still championed the Liberal cause, when the term "Liberal" was understood in its broad and undefiled sense. The following excerpts from the *Advertiser* editorial of July 28, 1910, were supplied to me by Mr. Chris Hurford who, I hope, will soon be a member of this House, and I quote:—

A democrat cannot oppose a just basis of representation on the ground that it is more likely to favour some other party than his own.

If, for instance, this State is, or becomes, in its dominant sentiment a Labor State, no real democrat can argue that it ought not to have a Labor Parliament. The democratic principle is that of popular rule . . . Conservatives, of course, do not trust the people and that is the main line of distinction between them and the Liberals. They will deny, or with pretty phrases, try to cover up the fact. But all superior-person franchises rest upon the assumption that there is no equality of civic rights, and that a minority, with more power than the majority possesses, is entitled to the privilege of governing the whole. Reduced to its elements this is the argument for maintaining an unreformed Legislative Council with the power of defeating popular mandates . . . it is not to be reconciled with the fundamental principles of Liberalism, which proclaims a broad and generous gospel of freedom and justice for all.

It is a pity that the *Advertiser* does not publish such editorials today, because the broad principles enunciated there still apply today, with one amendment. In England, at least, there are conservative democrats such as Lord

Salisbury, who recognize the right of a government to legislate in fields where it has a popular mandate. I wonder how many democrats—of the Conservative or Liberal brand—there are in the ranks of the L.C.L. today. Well, they will soon be given an opportunity both here and in another place to stand up and be counted. We, on this side of the House, hope that there will be sufficient, particularly in another place, to ensure that our legislation becomes the law of the land. We hope that the dead-end Tories and the spineless democrats who say, in effect, "I believe in democracy, except in South Australia" will prove to be a small minority. I second the motion.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.11 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, May 19, at 2 p.m.