

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, May 20, 1965.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, recommended the House of Assembly to make appropriation of the sum set forth in the Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure by the Government during the year ending June 30, 1965.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT, LAND SETTLEMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS STANDING COMMITTEES) BILL.

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

QUESTIONS

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I understand that the Government desires that Supplementary Estimates be introduced this afternoon, that the House will then debate the Bill introduced yesterday, and that both these matters must be concluded by the end of the sitting next Tuesday. An examination of the Bill introduced yesterday reveals that it raises important constitutional issues, and I ask the Premier whether he would postpone its consideration for at least two sitting days to enable certain opinions on it to be obtained. Will he also agree to a somewhat longer time being given for the consideration of the Supplementary Estimates?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: I indicated earlier this week, or even last week, that it was essential to pass the Supplementary Estimates by next Tuesday, and I even went so far as to ask permission of the House to introduce them this afternoon. As I understand it, normally in the past these have been introduced and passed almost on the same day.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: No, definitely not.

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: I am not prepared to delay their consideration beyond next Tuesday. I shall seek leave to introduce them today and ask the House to continue the debate until they are approved of next Tuesday. I have already promised certain members that the House will adjourn to enable members to

travel to another State. In addition, I am required to leave South Australia, with others, on the evening of May 31 to attend a very important conference in Canberra. I believe that the Treasurer is obliged to introduce the essential Supplementary Estimates at this stage. They must go to another place for approval, and I must allow reasonable time for the staff to deal with the associated Treasury matters. In those circumstances I am not prepared to suggest any alternative procedure. When the Supplementary Estimates have been disposed of, I may further consider the question of allowing until next week to debate the Bill I introduced yesterday. In view of an earlier announcement, I should have thought that the Opposition would have been prepared to fall into line with the Government's desires on these two important matters. Because of the need for a further adjournment a little later, I desire that the Supplementary Estimates be disposed of by next Tuesday, and for that purpose I have requested the House to sit next Tuesday evening, if necessary. Regarding the other matter, I am prepared to adjourn its consideration and to bring it on as soon as the debate on the Supplementary Estimates has finished next week.

UPPER MURRAY ADULT CENTRE.

Mr. CURREN: Land acquisition for the proposed new buildings for the Upper Murray Adult Education Centre has been under negotiation for some years. Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent inquiry about this matter?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Following discussions between the solicitors for the owners of the land and the Crown Solicitor, concerning certain matters still under dispute, Cabinet approval was recently sought and obtained for the Crown Solicitor to make a specific offer to each of the owners for the sale of their land. Negotiations are proceeding on this basis.

MAITLAND AREA SCHOOL.

Mr. FERGUSON: On April 15, 1965, I wrote to the Minister of Education stating that an amount had been placed on the Loan Estimates for 1964-65 for the erection of a new area school at Maitland. At the same time I asked whether tenders had been accepted and what progress had been made in the building of the school. Has the Minister of Education this information?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I regret that I cannot give the honourable member this information today, but I will obtain it as soon as possible.

NURIOOTPA PRIMARY SCHOOL.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: I understand that some years ago land was purchased at Nuriootpa so that the primary school could be transferred to a new location. The existing school is being hemmed in, it cannot expand on its present site, and the playing area is small. As the primary school population has increased in past years, can the Minister of Education say whether it is intended to transfer the present primary school to the new location soon?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I shall be pleased to inquire and to inform the honourable member.

KIDMAN PARK SCHOOL.

Mr. BROOMHILL: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question as to when tenders are likely to be called for the construction of the Kidman Park Primary School?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The Public Buildings Department reports that it expects tenders to be called for the erection of the Kidman Park Primary School in about two months' time.

CLEAN AIR COMMITTEE.

Mr. COUMBE: Does the Minister of Works recall the setting up of a special Clean Air Committee last session? Could he obtain for me a progress report on the activities of that committee, containing a list of the meetings held, the types of investigation carried out, and any recommendations that might have been made under the terms of the Act setting up that committee?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: As I am as interested as the honourable member in this matter and as it is under the jurisdiction of the Chief Secretary, I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

MARINO WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. HUDSON: Residents on high ground at Marino in my district have either been without a water supply or have had a water supply only at an inadequate pressure for some years. Can the Minister of Works say whether an adequate water supply will be made available for these people, and how long they will have to wait before the necessary work is commenced?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Although my department has limited finance and manpower at its disposal, I am pleased to inform the honourable member that the Engineer for Water Supply (with whom the Director and Engineer-

in-Chief concurs) has recommended that mains be extended up to a limit of reduced level 480 in this area, and all existing houses and applications will be covered by this scheme. The department is expected to be able to carry out these works in about three months' time.

PSYCHOLOGISTS.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Recently, I had occasion to apply to the psychology branch of the Education Department for appointments for the parents of two retarded children. The officers concerned have been helpful, but I understand that a shortage of professional psychologists for child guidance work exists. Has the Minister of Education any specific plans for training additional professional staff?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: True, the psychology branch is understaffed at present, but I have recently examined the position, and have certain improvements in mind. However, I draw the honourable member's attention to the fact that this is by no means an easy matter and, whilst the branch is understaffed, I regret that it finds it impossible to accede to all requests for the personal attention of psychologists as quickly as might be desired.

TRAINEE TEACHERS.

Mr. JENNINGS: Recently I have received numerous approaches from students at our teachers training colleges (and I am sure many other honourable members have received similar approaches, and the Minister perhaps more than the rest of us put together) about an increase in their allowances. I have been told that many of these young people who desire to become teachers and have a vocation (and I think the Minister will agree that these people make the best teachers) are suffering from severe financial strictures at present. I noticed that the Minister, when addressing the Education Department annual staff conference yesterday, said that an increase in student teacher allowances would receive the highest priority from the Government. Will the Minister of Education amplify that statement?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I regard the question of increasing the number of teachers and of increasing the number of teachers of high quality as of the highest priority. The increasing of allowances to students at teachers training colleges has been considered in the Education Department, with favourable recommendation from the department, since 1961 and no increases of consequence have been made since 1955. I have been giving the

closest consideration to the matter of increasing these allowances and I shall be taking a recommendation to Cabinet soon.

SPRINGBANK ROAD BRIDGE.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: My question arises out of the construction of the new Springbank Road bridge, which is, happily, now completed. The Highways Department purchased a house on the northern side of Springbank Road level with the western approaches to the bridge because, at one time, it was thought that it would be necessary to demolish it for the road works. That has not been necessary and this house, which was owned by Mrs. Mullins, has been left vacant for at least six months and probably much longer. This has caused some perturbation to the lady living next door, who has approached me because she is nervous about having a vacant house next to her house. This house could be occupied whereas now it is not being used for any purpose. The last letter I had from the former Minister was dated Christmas Eve, when he said:

A decision has not yet been reached with regard to the disposal of the house referred to in your letter. It has been offered to the City of Mitcham and the Railways Commissioner, and the Land Board has been requested to make a new valuation.

I have heard nothing since then and the house is still vacant. Will the Minister of Education take up with his colleague, the Minister of Roads, the question of the disposal of this house, preferably, I should think, by its sale to some private person with a view to its re-occupation?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I shall be pleased to do that.

EGG MARKETING.

Mr. CLARK: During the last few days I have received many inquiries from people in the poultry industry in my district who are anxious to know the position concerning the Commonwealth legislation affecting the poultry industry. Can the Minister of Agriculture say what stage that legislation has reached in the Commonwealth Parliament?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I have today received the following telegram from the Hon. C. F. Adermann, the Minister for Primary Industry:

Poultry industry legislation has now passed through both Houses of Parliament and will commence operation on July 1. Stop Thanks for your assistance in this matter which will allow industry to obtain stability previously not possible. Stop Writing further details (Signed) Adermann Minister for Primary Industry.

I sent a telegram to Mr. Adermann asking whether it was necessary for complementary legislation to be introduced in this House to put the Commonwealth legislation into effect. I have now received the following telegram:

Your telegram concerning poultry legislation and possibility of need for complementary legislation by States only requirements for State Governments will be to authorize their boards to collect levy on behalf of Commonwealth Government and for State Governments to distribute the levy moneys as directed by Minister for Primary Industry, all other State Boards have advised that they are satisfied that they have the necessary power (Signed) Adermann Minister for Primary Industry.

PORT NEILL.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Early this year the Harbors Board, at my direction, installed a device on the sea-bed at the proposed site of the deep-sea terminal at Port Neill. This device was to record the swell characteristics of the sea at that point to determine whether a breakwater would be essential to protect shipping at the new port. Has the Minister of Marine had any report of the results of those tests and, if not, will he obtain a report for me on the tests up to the present?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I have received a report, but I cannot readily remember the details. I will get a report and inform the honourable member when I have it.

MOUNT GAMBIER SCHOOLS.

Mr. BURDON: With the rapid development of the Mount Gambier Technical High School it has been necessary to apply for the erection of two new craft rooms and I understand that £40,000 has been allocated for this. Can the Minister of Education say when these two new craft rooms will be commenced and whether they will be ready for the commencement of the 1966 school year? For a long time considerable agitation has taken place and negotiations have proceeded for the building of a new high school in Mount Gambier. Can the Minister say what is the present position regarding the proposed new Mount Gambier High School?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The Public Buildings Department states that working drawings and site work plans for two new craft rooms for the Mount Gambier Technical High School are expected to be completed in the latter part of July. Present indications are therefore that tenders could possibly be called before the end of August. The school-building programme in general is at present under comprehensive review and it is not possible at this stage to say whether a new school building

for Mount Gambier High School will be on the 1965-66 programme.

KEITH RAILWAY HOUSES.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Two railway houses on the western side of the line on the northern approaches to Keith have been condemned by the doctor in the town who is also the local health officer. Can the Premier, representing the Minister of Transport, say whether these houses will be demolished in the interests of the township, not only from the aesthetic aspect but also from the health aspect? If they are to be demolished, when will demolition take place?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: I will obtain a report from my colleague, the Minister of Transport, and let the honourable member have the information as soon as it is available.

WOODWORK CENTRES.

Mr. RYAN: In 1963 the question of the discontinuation of woodwork centres in primary schools was brought to the notice of the previous Minister of Education in this Chamber, and resulting from the investigation then made it was decided that these centres would continue until at least the end of 1964. I have had correspondence from several school committees in my district enclosing copies of letters which they have forwarded to the School Committees Association for its consideration, and they have requested that I take this matter up with the Minister. As woodwork centres, in accordance with the policy of the department, are to be discontinued as at the end of this year, and because I believe it is the hope and wish of people concerned that these centres be continued indefinitely, will the Minister further consider this matter?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I shall be pleased to do so.

PANITYA LAND.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: Yesterday I asked the Minister of Lands a question regarding the hundred of Panitya. I understand he now has a reply.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Yes. The gazettal of blocks in the hundred of Panitya was held up by the need to re-examine the soil surveys, but it is now expected that the blocks will be gazetted as open for application in the next three or four weeks.

ALFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. HUGHES: Recently I conferred with the Minister of Education regarding an objection by the Public Buildings Department to

the Alford school committee's using 2in. diameter polythene piping in lieu of class F 2in. asbestos pipe for the new reticulation scheme for that school. Has the Minister information on this matter?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The Public Buildings Department states that from information given when the Alford Primary School Committee previously inquired, it appeared that the type of polythene piping it intended to use would be dearer than the 2in. cement asbestos piping recommended by the department. I understand that there are several types of polythene piping and the one that would be satisfactory can be determined only when it is known what head of water is to be carried. The Public Buildings Department states that it will be pleased to give further advice if the committee will give full information regarding the nature of the reticulation scheme and water pressure.

SILOS.

Mr. HEASLIP: The question of a country bin at Appila seems to be getting more and more confused, and so far I have not been able to obtain an answer. My original question was:

Under what Act has the present Government the power to prohibit the building of a country bin at Appila?

The reply I received yesterday was:

I wish to advise you that Government policy is not to approve silos on sites not served by a railway. In accordance with this policy the Government is not prepared to approve of the erection of a silo at Appila.

The reply then goes on to refer to section 14 of the Bulk Handling of Grain Act. I read that section carefully before I asked my question, and the only reference to country bins is contained in subsection (3), which states:

The company shall not erect a country bin unless the design and materials of such bin have been approved by the Minister. The Minister may give a general or special approval to any design and materials.

I again ask the Premier: does the Government policy take precedence over legislation, and does the present Government, in order to implement its policy, intend to ignore this legislation by refusing to approve of design and material of country bins where they are to be situated away from a railway?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: I do not intend at this stage to answer that question. I may further consider the matter later this session. In the meantime, I indicated to the House yesterday that a considered reply would be given regarding wheat silos generally. That reply

is not yet available, but when it is ready the House will be fully informed. Similarly, the honourable member's present question will be considered fully and a reply given.

TEACHERS' MILITARY SERVICE.

Mr. HURST: Can the Minister of Education say whether the Government has taken steps to have exemptions from national service call-up made in respect of teachers. Can he say what is the policy of the department regarding (a) making up of deficiency of salary in the event of teachers being called up, and (b) the question of normal promotions being attended to? Can he also say whether he is aware of policies in other States in respect of these matters?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: This matter has not been considered by the Government. I shall be pleased to take note of the points raised and to consider them fully.

MILK REFRIGERATION.

Mr. McANANEY: In Victoria, milk supplied to Melbourne need be refrigerated only when picked up once a day, but not when a pick-up is available twice a day. The Metropolitan Milk Board here requires that any new bulk vats installed must be refrigerated even where the milk can be picked up twice a day. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether the board has power to require this under the present regulations, and if it has, what are the reasons for demanding this expensive refrigeration when a milk pick-up is available twice a day?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: This matter is now being discussed with the Chairman of the Milk Board, and Mr. Gale is to see me tomorrow morning, after which I shall have further information. The honourable member knows that this matter concerns his district in the area of Jervois where there are two pick-ups now, as these regulations may affect this area. I received a deputation from the people at Jervois, and their request is now being considered.

GAWLER SEWERAGE.

Mr. CLARK: I was heartened to hear in His Excellency's Speech that the subject of sewerage for Gawler was referred to. Can the Minister of Works say when this matter is likely to be referred to the Public Works Committee?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Director and Engineer-in-Chief of the Engineering and Water Supply Department expects that the department will complete its investigations and

submit the scheme to the Government for consideration of the reference to the Public Works Committee within six months.

LOXTON EVAPORATION BASIN.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: Recently, with representatives of the District Council of Loxton and other residents, I approached the Minister of Lands regarding the evaporation basin across the river from Loxton, with the idea of saving the gum trees there. The Minister said that consideration would be given to this request and probably the area would be made a sanctuary. Has the Minister of Lands considered this question and has any decision been made?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: The honourable member introduced a deputation to me on this matter and I agreed to go to Loxton to visit the area. I did this about a fortnight ago. Although the District Council of Loxton was extremely interested in this question and the honourable member for Ridley represents that district, Katarapko Island is in the district of Chaffey. I invited both honourable members to accompany me on this visit: the honourable member for Chaffey attended but the honourable member for Ridley apologized for his absence. I crossed the river by motor boat and travelled around the island. This was one of the most interesting trips I have ever had. The island is surrounded by a bank and the evaporation basin contains seepage water from the Loxton irrigation settlement. The quantity of water increased last year because of the high river. This is the reason for the concern that the trees could die from having wet feet for a long period. Provision was made for normal high water to escape by flowing into the river but any danger of salinity would affect the river. The level has been somewhat higher than by normal evaporation from the irrigation settlement. This was an interesting trip as bird life was teeming and it had to be seen to be believed. It was pleasant indeed and I was enraptured by the experience, as were other members of the party. We considered dropping the amount of water in the basin and I have spoken to Mr. Ligertwood (Engineer for Irrigation and Drainage) on this matter. After considering three alternatives we believe that the most logical would be to put in syphons to syphon water out of the holding basin. A report from the engineer states that pipes have been obtained and work is currently proceeding on them at the Loxton pumping station workshop. An instruction has been issued that the work is to be expedited. The idea of a sanctuary

was suggested by the engineer because people entering the area could cause damage to the bank as the only way to get in is by dragging a boat over the bank. This aspect has not been considered by fauna conservation officers, but it will be referred to them later.

The Hon. T. C. Stott: Is there any worry about salinity?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: None at all. The water is of better quality inside than it is in the river at present, but this point will be checked in conjunction with the syphoning of the river.

KANGAROO ISLAND LAND.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Because four soldier-settler properties on Kangaroo Island offered for sale by auction yesterday were passed in, can the Minister of Lands say whether the sale was affected by his recent announcement barring the freehold of lease land? I assume that the Minister may wish to consult the Director of Lands on this question and, if he does, I shall ask the question next week.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I do not need to do that, as I can reply immediately. I say emphatically that this announcement did not have any effect on the land sale. The set prices were not reached, but this is a matter for the Commonwealth Government as it fixed the price. It is not for me to say whether the prices were too high or not. No decision of this Government affected the price of the properties.

LEGISLATION.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Last night the Government introduced a Bill providing for amendments to several Acts of Parliament concerning Parliamentary Committees. All provisions were contained in one Bill but, in my opinion, the Constitution is involved in these amendments. Although I am not objecting or debating the amendments, I point out that one provision sought to be amended is one which would alter the Constitution Act. That Act provides for certain things. One section dealing with the alteration of the Act clearly stipulates that alterations can be made only by amendments to the Act itself, and not by amendments contained in a Bill to amend different Acts. As I believe an important constitutional point is involved here, will the Premier obtain from the Crown Solicitor an opinion whether proposed amendments relating to occupying positions pursuant to the Industries Assistance Act do not, in fact, involve an amendment to the Constitution Act?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: My advisers considered that the Bill was not constitutional in its application, but in view of the Leader's request I shall consult my colleague, the Attorney-General, and obtain an opinion from the Crown Solicitor if my colleague thinks it is necessary.

BERRI BY-PASS ROAD.

Mr. CURREN: The District Council of Berri is concerned at the delay in the Highways Department's carrying out certain alterations to the route of the by-pass road (known as the Worman Street by-pass) through a plantation reserve in the township of Berri. Will the Minister representing the Minister of Roads ask his colleague for a report on the department's intentions regarding this matter?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I shall be pleased to do that.

BEDFORD PARK UNIVERSITY.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Has the Treasurer a reply to my question concerning provision of accommodation at Bedford Park university?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: The Under Treasurer reports:

The Universities Commission has recommended to the Commonwealth that it provide during the three years 1964 to 1966 a grant of £1 for £1 up to a maximum of £220,000 toward a hall of residence at the Bedford Park university estimated to cost £440,000. The previous Government, though it had approved provision for other building work at the university, had not made financial provision for this building in its budgets for the period up to June 30, 1965. That is to say the previous Government had made no provision for this work during the first year and a half of the three years concerned.

The incoming Government found itself faced on taking office with financial requirements for university purposes for which inadequate budget provision was made to the extent of some £300,000 on account of revised salaries and £50,000 on account of residential colleges. Part only of these costs were recoverable from the Commonwealth. It also felt bound, because of the urgency to provide adequate buildings for the opening of Bedford Park in 1966, to agree to provide over the next six months half of an additional £400,000 needed to complete those buildings.

In these circumstances, and as a hall of residence though desirable was not vital to opening the university next year, it was decided to defer a decision thereon until the Government was in a position to prepare its 1965-66 Budget for presentation to Parliament. This requirement will at that time be considered alongside the other desirable and essential purposes requiring Government finance and the decision made on relative priorities in relation to funds available. My colleague the Minister

of Education has informed the Principal of the Bedford Park division of the university accordingly.

SIREX WASP.

Mr. RODDA: Large forest areas exist in the South-East, which are susceptible to infestation by the sirex wasp. I understand the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization has made certain discoveries relating to the biological control of this pest. Does the Minister of Agriculture know anything about these discoveries?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Earlier this year I attended a conference at Canberra to discuss the possibility of continuing a fund to enable the States to carry on with their research on sirex wasp. Most of us realize that what has been achieved by way of research in this field has been confined to Victoria and Tasmania, but a constant watch is being kept in South Australia, by both ground and aerial spotting. Fortunately, we have not experienced an outbreak of this serious pest as yet, but it is desirable that each State contribute to the fund, and that the pest be confined to the particular areas where it is at present evident. These areas have already been considerably reduced through research work both by the C.S.I.R.O. and by the Waite Research Institute. However, I am not aware of the extent that the results achieved have been implemented, although I am confident that they have been implemented in Victoria, following certain information I received at the conference. I am certain the honourable member has in mind the recently announced control of fruit fly outbreaks by mating sterile male flies with the female fly, producing, of course, certain negative results. It is to be hoped that this will be an effective method of treatment. This matter deserves the consideration of all Governments in Australia, and I am sure that the results that have already been achieved will greatly benefit this State.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: I understand that if a school bus carries more than 12 passengers it is not subject to sales tax. Some school bus contractors in my district are anxious to purchase a Volkswagen which will carry less than 12 passengers and consequently be subject to sales tax. I have contacted the department about this matter and I understand that the Taxation Department has ruled that the sales tax should be paid in this case. Will the Minister of Education take this matter

up with the Commonwealth Treasurer to see whether, in all cases where contractors convey children to school and purchase new buses for this purpose, such buses can be exempted from sales tax?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I shall be prepared to consider this matter and see whether what the honourable member desires can be achieved.

AUDITOR-GENERAL.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Has the Premier a reply to my recent request that members be permitted to consult with the Auditor-General regarding explanations of his statements?

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: The Audit Act, under which the office of the Auditor-General is constituted, provides for him to report to Parliament, the Governor, and in certain specific matters (*vide* section 12) to the Government. Except in reports submitted in terms of the above it has been the practice of the Auditor-General only to give honourable members explanations of published figures available to Parliament regarding the financial affairs of the State and to report on specific questions and matters submitted through responsible Ministers. Unless otherwise directed by Parliament it is proposed that the present practice will continue.

GILES POINT FACILITIES.

Mr. FERGUSON: Yesterday I asked the Minister of Works questions about the committee that he intends to appoint to investigate bulk handling facilities for the deep-sea port at Giles Point. Will the Minister assure this House that at least one member of the committee to be appointed will fully represent primary producers' interests?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I cannot give that assurance.

EDEN HILLS SCHOOL.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding the Eden Hills school?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: A proposal for the purchase of additional land adjoining the Eden Hills Primary School was considered in Cabinet on Monday last and approval was given for negotiations to be entered into on the basis of the Land Board valuation. I shall be pleased to inform the honourable member of the result.

TORRENS RIVER COMMITTEE.

Mr. CUMBE: Last year the former Minister of Works agreed to my suggestion to establish a committee of inquiry consisting of experts to inquire concerning the Torrens River upstream of Adelaide and into its future beautification and conservation. Will the Minister of Works obtain for me a progress report of meetings that have been held by the committee, together with any recommendations that it may have made?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I shall be most happy to do that and I will inform the honourable member as soon as I have a report.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

The Hon. F. H. WALSH (Premier and Treasurer), having obtained the suspension of Standing Orders 43 and 44, moved:

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Governor's Speech and a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Motion carried.

In Committee of Supply.

The Hon. F. H. WALSH: In September, 1964, the House considered Estimates of Receipts and Payments on Revenue Account which anticipated a deficit of £2,492,000 for 1964-65. Such a deficit would have absorbed surpluses aggregating £1,922,000 carried forward from previous years and would have resulted in a cumulative deficit of £570,000 at June 30, 1965. During the year there have been a number of variations from the original estimate of both receipts and payments. It will be possible to provide appropriation for most of the smaller excess payments from the Governor's Appropriation Fund, but it is necessary for me to ask the House to consider Supplementary Estimates to appropriate funds for the four largest items of excess, namely, for service pay for certain Crown employees, Education Department running expenses, grants to the University of Adelaide, and grants to university residential colleges.

Despite these excess payments, I anticipate that the year's eventual result will show some improvement on the original estimate. As a result of a good season and a high level of economic activity, revenues generally have been buoyant both in taxation and in the receipts of business undertakings. The only major item likely to fall below estimate is succession duties. For payments there will probably be several shortfalls below estimate, the larger

items being in Chief Secretary—Miscellaneous and Railways Department. Under "Chief Secretary-Miscellaneous", provision is made for numerous grants and subsidies to hospitals and institutions, and it appears that a number of bodies will defer claims on approved projects until next year because of relatively slower progress than earlier expected. Expenditure of the Hospitals Department will fall below estimate mainly because of the shortage of suitable and qualified staff, while Agriculture Department will achieve savings against estimate due to the fortunate absence of new outbreaks of fruit fly. When presenting the Revenue Budget for 1965-66 I will be in a position to give the House more detailed information on the variations as shown by the final accounts this year.

Of the four items covered in the Supplementary Estimates the major one is service pay. The Government has decided to pay a special allowance based on years of service to Crown employees, male and female, who are paid at daily or weekly rates. The payment, which will operate retrospectively from January 1, 1965, will be at the following rates per week:

	s.	d.
During the second year on the adult rate	10	0
During the third year on the adult rate	17	6
During the fourth and subsequent years on the adult rate	25	0

It is intended that up to the end of the pay week closest to the end of March, 1965, the service payments should be flat additions to the weekly wage. Thereafter, the rates of 10s., 17s. 6d., and 25s. a week will be taken into account in the calculation of overtime and penalty payments. The total cost to the Government for the half-year to June 30, 1965, has been calculated at closely £500,000, made up of about £225,000 for the first three months and about £275,000 for the second three months. It follows that a full year's cost of service pay, including its application to overtime and penalty rates, would be closely £1,100,000.

Of the cost of £500,000 this financial year it is estimated that £339,000 will be a direct charge to Revenue Account, £71,000 to Loan Account, and £90,000 to other accounts including roads and forests and those accounts used to finance workshops and stores. Of the £90,000 to be charged to the latter accounts in the first instance it is expected that about £16,000 will be re-charged as part of the cost of various stores and services used on maintenance and operating activities financed from

Revenue Account. Accordingly, the full charge to Revenue Account this financial year will be of the order of £355,000. Of the £339,000 direct cost to salaries and wages lines within Revenue Account, £333,000 has been included in the Supplementary Estimates for the 12 largest departments. The authority for the estimated £6,000 cost for 16 smaller departments will be provided from the Governor's Appropriation Fund, as will the authority for any excess payments on contingency lines caused by additional re-charges from workshops and stores.

For the Education Department, excess payments will be incurred for the general operating expenses of primary schools, area schools, technical schools, high schools, and the recruitment and training branch. The increased payments arise from a general increase in the level of expenditure on a variety of items, each of them relatively small, but in aggregate amounting to an estimated £112,000. The most marked increase has been in the cost of fuel, gas and electricity, while rents, rates and taxes, and telephone charges have also risen steadily. Payments of subsidies to schools to match funds raised and expended by school committees will be above the estimate, and the recruitment and training branch will incur additional expenditure on essential equipment, including text books.

For the University of Adelaide it is necessary for me to seek appropriation so that additional grants may be made to meet the cost of increased academic salary scales. In 1964, Mr. Justice Eggleston was appointed by the Commonwealth Government to advise it on the level of academic salaries which it should support by way of grants through the machinery of the Australian Universities Commission. Late in 1964, Mr. Justice Eggleston presented his report, which recommended support for large increases in professorial and other teaching salaries. The report was accepted by the Commonwealth Government, which introduced legislation to authorize grants to the extent of its agreed contribution, about 35 per cent of the total cost, to enable increased salaries to be paid retrospectively from January 1, 1964. For their part State Governments agreed to provide a contribution at the normal rate, about 65 per cent of the cost in each State, although there were minor differences as between universities in the detailed application of increased scales. The cost to the University of Adelaide for the year 1964 was just over £300,000, and this is to be met entirely by additional grants. For 1965, the cost will be offset somewhat by

receipts from increased tuition fees, and it is estimated that the net additional impact for the first half of 1965 to be met by further grants is nearly £100,000. The total of grants necessary this financial year to cover the cost of academic salary increases for the 18-month period January, 1964, to June, 1965 is then about £400,000.

When the Budget for 1964-65 was framed it was known that the salary inquiry was under way, and a provision of £100,000 was included as a rough estimate of the cost of increased salaries. The eventual result was a cost far in excess of that earlier anticipated and it is necessary now to provide the balance of appropriation required, that is, £300,000, of which £230,000 for North Terrace and Bedford Park appears under Minister of Education—Miscellaneous, and £70,000 for Waite Agricultural Research Institute under Minister of Agriculture—Miscellaneous. The Commonwealth contribution, which is taken into Revenue as received, will likewise be greater than anticipated in the original Revenue Estimates.

Increased salary scales also apply at the South Australian Institute of Technology, but additional appropriation for grants is not required this financial year because part of the original appropriation towards building purposes will not be required until next year and therefore is available now to cover the additional grant for salaries. The sum of £50,000 is provided for grants to residential colleges. Of the four South Australian colleges, St. Ann's, St. Mark's, Lincoln and Aquinas, the first three are currently carrying out building projects which are proceeding more rapidly than was earlier anticipated, and additional grants are now required. The present general arrangement for college building finances is for the Commonwealth to provide grants of half the cost up to limits approved by the Australian Universities Commission. The remaining half of the cost is being met in equal parts by the State Government and the individual college. Thus, for each £4 of expenditure, grants totalling £3 are made by the State from Revenue Account. Of the £3, £2 is recovered from the Commonwealth and credited to Revenue Account. The total additional provision sought for the special purposes to which I have referred is £795,000. Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the first line of the Supplementary Estimates.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to raise one or two questions now because I hope

to have the information in answer to those questions as this would facilitate the consideration of the Supplementary Estimates. I point out to the Treasurer that it may not be possible for him to have the explanations of my questions available before next Tuesday. In those circumstances I am prepared to say a few words about these Estimates now and forgo the privilege I would have of obtaining the adjournment so that the information could be considered. The Supplementary Estimates presented to Parliament are not in excess of the usual Estimates that are introduced each year, and no objection can be taken to the volume of excesses that have been required. It shows that the provisions made originally in the Budget were reasonably adequate and, without exception, these Supplementary Estimates contain sums which arise as a result of decisions made since the Budget was prepared and which could not have been forecast at that time.

One large increase resulted from Mr. Justice Eggleston's report, and for this the Commonwealth Government immediately provided and left the States to provide not only for these increases but also for retrospectivity for one year. It was an interesting Commonwealth Government decision because, while it provided for the additional salary, the income tax it collected as a result of the additional salary to be paid would more than pay its share of the increases in salaries to universities. The Commonwealth Government implemented a report of a properly constituted tribunal.

Mr. Jennings: It is generous with other people's money.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: However, it made a substantial profit in the process. From the Commonwealth Government's point of view it was an excellent exercise because it not only satisfied university professors and the staffs of universities who had complained that their salaries were not in accord with the skill and academic requirements they had: it also provided a profit for the Treasury. It meant that the States were involved immediately in payments that could not have been anticipated at the time of the Estimates. All States have now paid this amount, although Victoria did not pay it for a long time. That State applied to the Commonwealth Government for alleviation, but eventually paid. Accepting the responsibility, my Government wrote to the University Council here and stated that it would honour the report of Mr. Justice Eggleston. That large sum arose out of circumstances that were completely beyond the capabilities

of those responsible for the budgeting. I think we had provided £100,000 in the Estimates as a possible requirement. I am not in any way opposing the item, but I refer to the sum of £50,000 provided for university residential colleges. I have not analysed the answer in relation to halls of residence at Bedford Park university given by the Treasurer to one of my colleagues today, but if the Treasurer will examine the correspondence to the Prime Minister on this matter he will see that the fact that the State Government of the day had not authorized certain work to commence was due not to its lack of desire in the matter but to the Prime Minister's refusal to give an assurance that the funds would be available for that work.

It was only after a supplementary report that we were able to consider the matter although, in fact, we did not consider it then, because the elections were being conducted at about that time and, obviously, as a matter of policy, the matter was held over. I should like the Treasurer to consider providing halls of residence at Bedford Park. In making this request I point out that many of us overlook the fact that the university provides a major service to the Education Department of this State, by educating trainee teachers, and I am sure I have the Minister of Education's sympathy on this point. City accommodation for country trainee teachers is always a problem, and I hope that a rather serious defect in the university's set-up can be overcome by providing official accommodation for those country students. I believe the £50,000 provided in the Estimates is for expansion work at St. Ann's because it was decided that the halls of residence at the Bedford Park university would not provide for both male and female accommodation in close proximity. (Certain problems have arisen in other universities with regard to both sexes being accommodated in close proximity.) I think I have dealt with about £280,000 provided under the Supplementary Estimates.

Nearly all the other sums provided for salaries and wages under the heading "Service pay retrospective to January 1, 1965" cover many departments, and no explanation is given by the Treasurer as to which employees are affected by these payments. These retrospective service payments are being applied only to the Government departments but not to departments carrying out functions for the Government under a separate board. My Government considered service pay, and at the time of the election an offer was made by us

but declined by the trade union movement, because it decided to wait until after the election to see whether the offer would be raised. That offer was made on the basis that it would be reasonably applied to all persons within a given category, not only to some persons.

For example, it was well understood at the time that it would apply to employees in the tramways trust category. It was also well understood that it would have to apply to the Hospitals Department. From correspondence I have received, and from the sum contained in the Estimates, I assume that only a small section of Hospitals Department employees are receiving this service pay, and that it will apply only to persons employed in mental hospitals, to the exclusion of nurses and others employed in our general hospitals. I put this assumption in an endeavour to give the Treasurer the chance to comply with a request that I shall make in a few moments, so that this matter can be debated properly in the limited time available on Tuesday next. This item is strange to the Estimates, as well as to the Supplementary Estimates, because, as far as I know, this is the first time that we have had produced to Parliament lines that do not arise as a result of the determinations of a properly constituted authority. If I am incorrect in what I say the Treasurer will have an opportunity to correct me next Tuesday. The salaries and wages that we are discussing have been fixed by Cabinet decision and not by any authorized tribunal. They have all the defects that arise out of a Cabinet decision.

With the limited time Cabinet has had it could not know all the facts about this matter. For instance, a number of relevant facts have arisen. First, all of these salaries are fixed irrespective of skill: an unskilled person gets as much as the most skilled person. As far as I can ascertain, this has not previously applied in the legislation of any other State. Secondly, all kinds of supplementary issues arise in connection with this question. In his speech, the Treasurer said that service pay would be taken into account for the computation of overtime, but is it taken into account for the computation of sick leave and long service leave? One or two Government members are skilled in knowing about matters that are considered by wages boards and by arbitration. All these matters must be clarified when salaries are being fixed.

Service pay is already being provided in some departments. It was provided in the Railways Department by an award agreement.

This means that with regard to service pay the amount is not the same in various departments. Therefore a skilled tradesman in the Engineering and Water Supply Department will be receiving service pay 15s. below the service pay received by an officer performing similar work in the Railways Department. All sorts of peculiarities arise when Cabinet decides to enter the field of wage and salary fixation. I hope the Treasurer will be prepared to answer some questions on this matter on Tuesday. For instance, why are officers in the Engineering and Water Supply Department and the Highways Department getting 15s. less than the amount received by the same grade of officer employed in the Railways Department?

The Hon. T. C. Stott: Who made the determinations?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This determination was made by Cabinet. True, service pay was provided previously, but it was provided by an award of the court. It placed Railways Department officers in a better position than other officers of the State, but it was an award of the court and it gave these officers the same rate as other officers were receiving.

Mr. Jennings: The former Cabinet made certain offers.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: That was done by an award of the court. I readily accept the credit for not opposing the making of the award. If the officers of another department had requested the same award we should undoubtedly have had to agree to it to be fair. However, here we have a wholesale determination covering many departments, but it excludes certain categories of employees, and why it does this I do not know. I make that statement in the hope that the Treasurer will clarify this matter and contradict me by telling me that all employees are included.

In correspondence, I have received the opinion that it will apply, for instance, to mental hospitals, but that it will not apply to Government hospitals generally. No provision is made for it to apply to subsidized hospitals which, as members know, are hospitals the Government supports financially. In the past, when there has been an alteration in the wage structure for nurses, we have automatically taken that into account in making additional money available for subsidized hospitals. However, what will be the position of subsidized hospitals if this service payment applies only to Government hospitals? I am informed that it will not be paid to Government hospitals

generally, but will be paid to Government mental hospitals which, until now, have had the same status in every way as Government hospitals in respect of salaries. However, all of a sudden there is going to be a new determination made and one small section of the hospital organization will be lifted out of the ruck with the provision of an additional sum.

I hope that the Treasurer will table a list of those in Government and semi-government employment who will receive the payments and those who are excluded from them. I hope that he will say whether employees of the Municipal Tramways Trust, employees of the Adelaide Children's Hospital (which is largely financed by the Government, with the exception of charitable assistance) and employees of the Queen Victoria Hospital will receive this service and be on the same basis as others. Will subsidized hospitals and Government country hospitals be placed on the same basis? One reason for discontent in employment is that some employees receive a financial reward that is not paid to other employees doing the same type of work. I think every honourable member in this House would want these service payments to apply to skilled workers. I make it clear that I do not criticize service payments, for I know that outside organizations today are making equivalent payments, but I believe that a skilled person should receive more. The awards have always provided that a person who has taken the trouble to become skilled receives some additional payment for that skill. I believe it would be good policy on the part of the Government to give skilled people more, because we are desperately short of those people in our Government departments to undertake the functions for which we are responsible.

I know that outside employers are giving skilled people not just a bonus on the flat rate but considerably more. I am not complaining about the unskilled people getting this payment. I submitted to the Trades and Labor Council an amount that I believed was within the financial capability of the Government at that time.

Mr. Jennings: That's what I say: you are knocking yourself.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: It was about £500,000. That payment was to have not a restricted application but a most general one.

Mr. Shannon: And it did provide for skilled people to get a little more, too.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I ask the Treasurer to submit to the Committee

on the next day of sitting, when we consider this matter, the categories of employee that will receive these payments. In the meantime, I should like to raise one matter concerning it. For many years employees of the Hospitals Department have worked under a certain system, for which I take some personal responsibility. This system had not come under my notice, otherwise I probably would have taken some action regarding it. Those employees were in a similar position to that of employees in the Prices Department, for whom we legislated specifically last year. Honourable members will recall that last year the House passed legislation that enabled the Governor, by proclamation, to bring certain persons under the Public Service Act for the purpose of having their wages and salaries determined. Some people, not under any arbitration awards or the Public Service Act, depended on administrative consideration of their salaries by some authority, and the result was that generally they lagged a little behind. That legislation last year enabled us, by special proclamation, to bring under the Public Service Act those departments not previously under it. I think two proclamations were issued. I believe the first concerned the Prices Department, and, speaking from memory, we also had an application for a proclamation in respect of the Police Department. This proclamation brought the police under certain provisions of the Act.

I do not wish to conclude my remarks at this stage. I rose to speak only because I wanted to inform the Treasurer that we would like from him on Tuesday the categories of person that will be affected by these salary adjustments. We would like to know, particularly, whether employees of those semi-government authorities which we are responsible for financing and which carry out functions of government will receive these service payments. I believe that in New South Wales service payments apply to persons in the city public transport undertaking. I am not sure whether those payments apply in Victoria; I did send a note to the Treasurer to see whether he could give me some information on that matter, but he could not do so. However, I believe those payments apply in either Victoria or New South Wales, and I believe they should apply here to those people who fulfil the functions of public transport and who, as honourable members know, depend on Parliament for financial grants to make up any leeway that may arise.

I believe that these payments should apply to such hospitals as the Children's Hospital and

the Queen Victoria Hospital. Although they are not formally Government hospitals, I consider that payment should apply to their employees. I believe it should apply to Government hospitals, to country Government hospitals, and to the country subsidized hospitals, which carry out the same functions as do our public hospitals and which, therefore, should receive the same benefit.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from May 19. Page 104.)

Mr. LAWN (Adelaide): In supporting the motion, Mr. Speaker, I ask you: what a lovely day is today! The people, bless their hearts, have at long last broken through the gerrymander barrier. I mean the 1936 gerrymander, too, as the Leader of the Opposition well knows, and not the 1955 one about which we heard so much from him yesterday.

Mr. Clark: What about the proposed 1963 gerrymander?

Mr. LAWN: Yes, he conveniently forgot the proposed 1963 gerrymander. Anyway, we find today the great maestro, the master, the Don Athaldo of the Liberal Party, and Sir Lyell McEwin are in ruin, and the people's Party is in Government. There is no need to recall the conversation that took place between the two Toms some three years ago. However, as a result of the constitution of Parliament in 1962, the Leader of the Government (the present Leader of the Opposition) realized that, despite their cards of blue, the Liberal Party needed something new. It seemed that the Liberal Party had to cultivate a new public image on television for the 1965 elections, but when the Leader took the Party to a television station they made only one appearance, at which he said, "You may all smell like the Empress Josephine, but amongst us there is not one beauty queen." That Party could not devise an appeal to the public, with the result that at 11.30 p.m. on March 6, 1965, the people had begun to shout and cheer and only members opposite shed a tear.

Mr. Clark: You are becoming poetical today.

Mr. LAWN: I do not know whether it has been designed purposely, but the seating arrangements on the other side of the House seem to have been arranged by Opposition members to draw attention to the vacant seats in the House. However, it certainly emphasizes the fact that there is plenty of room for more members, even if the Government Party has to seat some of its members on the

other side of the House, which it will be happy to do. Is it the Opposition's intention to focus public attention on the vacant seats here in order to prove that 56 members could fit into this House? We suggested this to the people in our policy speech. I notice that the Leader of the Opposition has been returned with some of his Ministers, but one is missing. Members may recall the previous member for Burnside and the Government Whip (Mr. Geoffrey Clarke), who is no longer with us. He was succeeded as Government Whip by the honourable member for Chaffey (Mr. King), who also left us. Then the honourable member for Barossa (Mr. Condor Laucke) became Government Whip. I told Mr. King and Mr. Laucke that they were occupying an unhappy office with a long history, and I told Mr. Laucke in 1963 and in 1964 that he would be missing from this Parliament, and he is.

Mr. Clark: You are not suggesting that this is going to happen to the present Government Whip?

Mr. LAWN: Certainly not, but Mr. Hall, the honourable member for "Bolivar", or Gouger, who is the Opposition Whip, will be absent from the next Parliament. I do not know why he accepted the position. I notice that the Liberal Party's "Minister for Eyre" was returned but he nearly made a belly-landing on March 6. I suppose you, Mr. Speaker, have noticed, the same as I have, that from your seat in this House the scenery appears much better than it did last year. I did not think that the scenery would change merely because one changed one's seat, but the Leader of the Opposition looks more handsome in the seat he occupies now than he did in the seat he used to occupy. That applies generally to all members of the Opposition. They do not look as happy as they used to, but we on this side are much happier. When I look around, the scene in this House looks better than it has been for the 15 years I have been here. I can fit into this seat, previously occupied by the Hon. B. H. Teusner, as he has left no marks or dents in it. The seats have been here for 30 years, but we are fitting into them well.

I refer to a subject which I spoke about more than any other last year, because I could see the writing on the wall, that is, the treatment being offered in West Germany for arteriosclerosis patients. Despite my representations here and despite the proof of people who have gone to West Germany and returned to this State successfully cured, the Australian Medical Association will not adopt this treatment. By "successfully cured" I mean that

some are completely cured with one period of treatment lasting about three months, but in most cases the patients need a booster treatment after three years or so. That is no reason to condemn the cure. A man visits a doctor to get something for a cold, but he does not say that the medicine is no good merely because he has to come back for another dose; yet this is one reason why doctors here are against the oxygen-therapy treatment. I shall not debate the merits of the A.M.A. However, during my discussions with doctors, I was told that the British Medical Association in England, which is closer to the Continent than we are, was not interested in this treatment.

Mr. Casey: It is not interested in the health scheme, either.

Mr. LAWN: No. It was suggested to me that English doctors, although closer to West Germany, thought the scheme was not worth while. I wrote to the B.M.A. in England, Canada and New Zealand. I did not receive a reply from New Zealand and no doubt the letter has gone astray, but I received a reply from Canada stating that it would have nothing to do with the treatment. I received an acknowledgement from England and later I received a photostat copy of an article that had appeared in the B.M.A. journal, the *Lancet*, about a business man who told a doctor about the treatment available in West Germany. The doctor had said that he had never heard of it, but he eventually went to Kassel. He studied the treatment in Kassel, and returned. He is an eminent English doctor and, according to the report in the *Lancet*, he, with another doctor, treated 117 cases, which apparently had been condemned as amputation cases. The report describes his treatment as having been undertaken with "outstanding success". I forwarded a copy of that article to the then Premier, to the Superintendent of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and to one or two others. Most important, I forwarded a copy to the doctor whom I had already referred to as the leading South Australian doctor in treating this disease, Professor Jepson of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. He told me he was to leave South Australia in March this year for overseas, and that whilst abroad he would study this most debated subject.

I subsequently also received a letter from the then Premier to that effect, so I am hoping that, if Professor Jepson consults his colleagues of the B.M.A. in England, and if he finds this method of treatment being practised there, we shall soon be introducing it into our Government

hospitals for the benefit of the people of this State. At present two South Australians (one from my own district) are in Kassel, Western Germany, and I have been told that they are cured. The person from my district was in charge of a gymnasium here, and his work had been greatly restricted before he left Adelaide. Indeed, he saw me shortly before he left, and he could obviously only just get along. As I say, he has been completely cured, but the trip has cost him £400. An interesting feature of this is that I believe Australians can receive free clinical and doctors' treatment if they take a part-time job in Kassel. Unfortunately, we cannot boast of this concession.

The House kindly granted me leave last Thursday to make an explanation in regard to a certain document circulated by the previous Speaker containing a letter he had received from the Australian Journalists Association, together with his reply. I appreciated the generosity of honourable members on that occasion and did not debate the subject although, having been cited in the document, I made a personal explanation. Today, however, I wish to draw attention to the fact that the letter from the association complains about unjustified criticism of members of the press. Honourable members know full well what took place last year: we had one of the poorest years of press reporting that I can remember. I was credited with having asked questions that were, in fact, asked by the member for Enfield, and because of that I subsequently received correspondence from the builders' association. Then one honourable member was referred to as "Mr. Cohen." I do not want to go into details, but drawing attention to these matters by honourable members surely was not unjustified.

Mr. McKee: Do you think they had a motive for that?

Mr. LAWN: I am not suggesting that, and I am not raising the matter today merely to be petty and to offer cheap criticism. However, I hope that the newspapers concerned will endeavour to see that competent and qualified men are sent here to report Parliament, and I respectfully suggest to reporters that they would be able to give a better report of Parliament if they knew honourable members personally. When I first came here press reporters were known to me personally; in fact, I knew them before I entered Parliament. I was accused last week of using words that I have never used, but

I suggest that, if a reporter is to make a statement about what an honourable member has said, it would be more helpful to him if he knew the member and the words he uses. In addition, surely, people at the newspaper office should check press reports of Parliament, and they too, should know something about the functioning of Parliament and its members.

Mr. McKee: I have been described as being a member of the Liberal and Country League on several occasions.

Mr. LAWN: Yes, and how many times have Messrs. J. F. and F. H. Walsh been mixed up! I shall not blame any particular paper, as I am sincere in making these remarks, and I hope that, as a result, the newspapers and reporters concerned will be able to report Parliament more accurately. However, last February I read a report that Mr. F. H. Walsh had been elected as a member of the Trades and Labor Council Executive, whereas he was not even a candidate. He could not possibly have been elected to that office although, having read the article, it crossed my mind that a better guess would have been to say that on March 6 he would be elected Premier of South Australia. Of course, subsequent events have proved me correct. Following the elections we on this side held a Party meeting, and so did the Opposition. On the day following the Opposition's meeting, at which they elected their officers, I read on the front page of the *Advertiser* that, among other officers elected, Mr. Steele Hall had been elected Government Whip. Do not forget that at this stage I was the Government Whip, because at the moment that Cabinet Ministers were sworn in, we on this side of the House became the Government Party, and I became Government Whip—not the Opposition Whip. Many of these inaccurate reports appear on the front page of the newspaper, but we have to look for a correction on page 9 or 10—and in small print!

Mr. Jennings: If there is a correction!

Mr. LAWN: Yes. On the day before the opening of Parliament last week I should have expected special articles appearing in the newspapers to be accurate (having previously been vetted by somebody at the newspaper office). However, I read in the press that 39 members comprised the House of Assembly, and 16 the Legislative Council. And on opening day, Mr. Speaker, you permitted press photographers to enter the Chamber to take photographs, but the first photograph I saw depicted four members being sworn in at the

table on the floor of the Chamber, accompanied by the caption:

Members being sworn in at the opening of State Parliament today are from left—and this is where we might have a case of libel—

Agriculture Minister, Mr. Bywaters; Mr. H. H. Shannon, L.C.L., Onkaparinga; the Premier, Mr. Walsh; and Mr. J. R. Ryan, A.L.P., Port Adelaide.

The only thing wrong with this caption is that Mr. Bywaters was not at the table being sworn in—it was the new member for Victoria, Mr. Rodda. All the people who know Mr. Bywaters and his pleasant, happy countenance can see that the mistake does him much damage. Another photograph had this caption:

Black Rod (Mr. A. Dodd), followed by the Governor (Sir Edric Bastyan), leads a procession into the House of Assembly for yesterday's opening of the new session of State Parliament.

First, the Black Rod is not Mr. Dodd, but Mr. Drummond; and secondly, the procession was led not into the House of Assembly but into the Legislative Council, as is the historical practice.

Mr. Jennings: A six-year old would know that.

Mr. LAWN: I do not know about a six-year old, but the member for Enfield and I started explaining these matters to children in 1955. I have met many adults who know that the opening of Parliament takes place in the Legislative Council. They may call it the Upper House or the Privy House (it is described in many ways), but never the House of Assembly.

Mr. Jennings: Apparently not much notice has been taken of what the honourable member said last year. Perhaps he should ask the Speaker to call a meeting so that we might get more accurate reporting.

Mr. LAWN: I do not want to condemn anybody and I will leave the matter at this stage. However, I sincerely hope that we have better reporting this year than we have had in the last couple of years. I shall now address a few remarks to the Premier and, with other members, I want something from him. I was interested to hear the Leader of the Opposition pay a tribute to the Premier. I know that members of the public, without exception, have complimented the Premier on the representations he made on behalf of South Australia to the recent Premiers' Conference. The Leader of the Opposition was generous in the tribute he paid to the Premier yesterday and I have heard commendatory remarks from many other

sources as well. Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition referred to one matter with which he dealt whilst Premier of the State: that the Commonwealth Government raises money from taxation levied on the people of this State. Not all the States' Loan money is raised by taxation, but a large sum is and two years ago, I think, the sum was about £110,000,000 a year. A large proportion of the money paid in this way is lent back to the States by the Commonwealth. I believe that it is obvious to everybody that if you pay money and borrow it back again then surely you should not be charged interest on it. I hope that the Premier will consider this matter before the next Premiers' Conference is held and he may then be able to gain the support of the other Labor Premier and, perhaps, Mr. Bolte.

I have previously advocated that the Commonwealth Government should advance money for public works to the States, through the Commonwealth Bank, without charging for it. I once gave the history of the Commonwealth railway line. However, today I wish to use words other than my own. I shall quote from the report of the Royal Commission into banking in 1937. The commission was appointed by the Lyons Government. It was composed of qualified men and it was established to inquire into the monetary and banking systems in operation in Australia. In chapter 5 under the heading "Proposals for Monetary Reform" and the subheading "Central Bank Credit" at page 196, paragraph 503, the report states:

The central bank in the Australian system is the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. This bank is a public institution engaged in the discharge of a public trust. As the central bank, its special function is to regulate the volume of credit in the national interest, and its distinctive attribute is its control of the note issue. Within the limits prescribed by law, it has the power to print and issue notes as legal tender money, and every obligation undertaken by the Commonwealth Bank is backed by this power of creating the money with which to discharge it.

Paragraph 504 of the report states:

Because of this power, the Commonwealth Bank is able to increase the cash of the trading banks in the ways we have pointed out above. Because of this power, too, the Commonwealth Bank can increase the cash reserves of the trading banks; for example, it can buy securities or other property—

and I wish to emphasize the following words—it can lend to the Governments or to others in a variety of ways, and it can even make money available to Governments or to others free of any charge.

I do not intend to go so far as to suggest that the Commonwealth Bank should provide money to State Governments to carry out their public works programmes and not expect repayment, but I suggest that, in accordance with the report of the Royal Commission, the Commonwealth Bank should be asked to provide this Loan money to the State Governments through the Commonwealth Bank without charging interest. There is no reason why this cannot be done; the report says that it can be done. When this money is loaned to the States they have already paid at least half of it to the Commonwealth. There is no reason why the money cannot be made available to the States free of interest. I trust that the Premier will consider this matter with a view to making representations along these lines at the next Premiers' Conference.

Mr. Coumbe: In what year was that report made?

Mr. LÁWN: In 1937. The commission may have commenced work in 1933 or 1934; it spent three or four years on this matter. Its report is available in the Parliamentary Library.

The next matter I refer to was touched on incidentally by the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) when he mentioned our policy, announced in the election campaign, for the amalgamation of the State Bank and the Savings Bank. I shall not enlarge on what he said, but he referred to the long waiting list of those wishing to borrow money from the banks for housing. In the *Adelaide News* of March 31 last there appeared a letter from A. R. Turner, Treasurer, Social Credit League, Adelaide, who referred to the four years' waiting time in respect of the Savings Bank of South Australia for housing loans. I shall not read the letter but will read the statement given by the General Manager of the Savings Bank to the *News*, which appears immediately after the letter:

The general manager of the Savings Bank, Mr. Cilento, said today—The statement that there is an arbitrary wait of four years for a housing loan is incorrect. There is a considerable backlog of applications for housing loans but it is being dealt with as expeditiously as available funds permit.

Honourable members will notice that he denies that there is an arbitrary four-year wait. Only two weeks before that statement appeared in the press, on behalf of a constituent of mine who has an application for a loan before the Savings Bank I telephoned the bank and gave the name of this person and the date of his application (I think it was 1963); I was advised that at the time he

applied there was about 12 months' or two years' waiting time but, because of the number of applications coming in in 1963 plus the fact that the bank had now increased the amount of the loan it provided, there was a four-year waiting list. Two weeks before, Mr. Turner wrote to the *News*, but this is denied by the bank. Honourable members are aware of the difficulties confronting their constituents, one being that there is about a four-years' wait. The honourable member for Port Adelaide (Mr. Ryan) recently discussed this matter with the Housing Trust.

Mr. Ryan: The waiting list is increasing instead of decreasing.

Mr. LAWN: Which only emphasizes what I was told by the bank official, that in 1963 the waiting time was 12 months or two years but, because of the applications being made then and in 1964, plus the additional money being made available by way of loan, the waiting-list was becoming longer. The honourable member for Port Adelaide was advised similarly by the Housing Trust. I do not know whether that concerns loans from the Housing Trust or whether the Housing Trust is speaking in general terms.

Mr. Ryan: No; the Housing Trust arranges its loans through the State Savings Bank generally.

Mr. LAWN: Well, there you are! The Housing Trust has advised the honourable member that the waiting period is increasing. I have been advised similarly by the Savings Bank. I hope the Treasurer will ascertain the true position.

I turn now to the Governor's Speech. I join the Leader of the Opposition and other honourable members in extending condolences to the relatives of the two honourable members who recently passed away, the Hon. Mr. Bardolph and Mr. Corcoran. I went to the funeral of Mr. Corcoran, with many other members from this House and from another place. I think it was one of the biggest funerals the district had known, which shows the tribute paid to the late Jim Corcoran by the people of Millicent and district. I cannot add much more to what has been said by others, but I offer my condolences to the families of those two gentlemen.

Further, in the Governor's Speech I was pleased to read of the new portfolios created by this Government. When we were in Opposition we suggested there should be portfolios of Transport, Social Welfare, and Housing. Not every Party, when governing, carries out what it preached when in

Opposition, but this Government had not been in office many hours before the era of additional portfolios came about. It is only about 10 weeks since the election. These portfolios were set up well before Parliament met. I compliment the Ministry on doing that.

I do not normally support the Address in Reply. The motion is generally in three parts and I usually oppose the part that thanks His Excellency for his Speech. But now I am pleased to thank His Excellency for this Speech. All humanitarians must be pleased to hear me refer to one thing mentioned in the Governor's Speech:

It is proposed to build rental houses of special design to meet the needs of persons confined to wheel chairs.

We are all sorry that these are needed, but how pleasing it is to the people concerned, their families, and all those who have heartfelt sympathy for those in distress to read this! The Speech deals also with the welfare of Aborigines, the mentally retarded, and the mentally sick. I do not want to enlarge on what I have said previously on this but I commend to the members of the Ministry the remarks of a new honourable member in the Legislative Council, Mr. Don Banfield, who can speak with authority. I hope this Ministry will, as the previous Ministry did, press the Commonwealth Government for the £1 a day payment on behalf of our patients in mental hospitals as they pay it for patients in other hospitals. We have patients in mental hospitals doing work, receiving no payment, and having their pensions taken away from them. Our Government is endeavouring to provide for them. Their clothing has to be supplied by relatives, as does any pocket money for sweets or cigarettes. The Government now is endeavouring to provide clothing, which will be costly. I believe that some capable patients are doing the sewing and, in effect, making the clothes but getting no payment either from the Commonwealth or the State.

I was pleased to see that the Government intends to introduce legislation for industrial safety, which is something we badly need. Even in the last two or three days serious accidents have taken place. The same applies to scaffolding. I am pleased to see the reference to service pay for Government employees, a matter that was debated this afternoon by the Leader of the Opposition, and to hear the Leader say that he supports the Government's

proposal. Workmen's compensation is provided for, as well as further desirable industrial legislation. The Speech refers to an Electoral Bill, which is something, of course, that we have badly needed since 1936. It was also stated that legislation would be introduced for adult suffrage in the Legislative Council. I fail to see why people in that House do not think it is good enough to be elected in the same way as I am. I say, "The more the better." I would rather be elected by all the adults in my district rather than a few, and I see no reason why this should not apply to Legislative Council elections.

I am pleased also to see that criminal law gets a mention. Succession duties are also mentioned, something which we urged upon the previous Government and on which we even moved amendments in Committee, but they were defeated. It is good to see that electricians are to be licensed so that, when we use lectrical equipment, we will know that it has been installed by competent tradesmen and we will feel reasonably safe. The matters of superannuation and prices are to be further examined. I was pleased to hear generally the brief references from the other side of the House complimenting this Government. One cannot help noticing how Opposition members are rushing in here and tabling notices of motion. One notice tabled by the member for Mitcham (Mr. Millhouse) states: "That in the opinion of this House the Government should forthwith . . . put into effect the proposals in the policy speech."

Mr. Jennings: They would not agree to it before.

Mr. LAWN: The policy speech of the then Leader, now the Premier, was so good that the people overwhelmingly endorsed him, so much so that they broke through the gerrymander barrier, as I mentioned earlier. The policy of the Labor Party now appeals to the Opposition, so much so that the Leader gets up and commends the Estimates introduced by the Treasurer. The Leader says that he fully agrees with them but wants more information. The member for Mitcham, the leader of the Young Liberals, is going to educate them in Labor Party policy. The flying trapeze, the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe), has also tabled a notice of motion, and I should not be surprised if we hear from the honourable member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Shannon). Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, is the honourable member for Onkaparinga sitting in his correct seat?

Mr. Jennings: He can sleep there as well as anyone else.

Mr. LAWN: The honourable member for Ridley (Hon. T. C. Stott) sits next to him. Well, I have seen the lot! I have only just realized that the honourable member for Onkaparinga was occupying that seat. I remember that he used to sit in the seat now occupied by the honourable member for Chaffey (Mr. Curren). The honourable member for Ridley used to sit opposite, and there used to be this slanging contest across the Chamber—Farmers' Union *versus* Bulk Handling. Now that they are sitting alongside each other they will be able to do a shin-kicking contest instead of a slanging contest. Now that those two have got together I have seen everything.

Mr. Shannon: This is rather unusual, coming from the Chairman of Committees. Trying to pour oil on troubled waters, is he?

Mr. LAWN: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition and other members for their complimentary remarks on my election. I thank them sincerely for their assurance of co-operation, and all I wish to say further is that their co-operation will be sincerely appreciated. If I receive the same consideration from them during the next 15 years as I have seen members give to previous Chairmen of Committees in the past 15 years, I shall be very happy indeed.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I take many schoolchildren through this Parliament. I also take a number of other people through, and even this morning I escorted through the Chamber a local person and a person from another State. I receive many inquiries about Parliament, and, Mr. Speaker, perhaps because of the elections, the change of Government, and all the publicity, I have recently received many more than usual. I think it would be of interest if I could quote something from *Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice* (16th Edition). I know this does not concern you, Mr. Speaker, but it is an authority laid down regarding the Speakership, and if possible I should like to have it recorded in *Hansard* for the interest of those who read *Hansard*. At page 435 of that edition it states:

Casting Vote of the Speaker: If the numbers in a division are equal, the Speaker, who otherwise does not vote, must give the casting vote. In the performance of this duty, he is at liberty to vote like any other member, according to his conscience, without assigning a reason; but, in order to avoid the least imputation upon his impartiality, it is usual for him, when practicable, to vote in such a manner as not to make

the decision of the House final, and to explain his reasons, which are entered on the Journal.

Principle on which Speaker gives Casting Vote: The principle which guides a Speaker in giving his casting vote was thus explained by Mr. Speaker Addington. On May 12, 1796, on the third reading of the Succession Duty on Real Estates Bill, there having been a majority against "now" reading the Bill the third time, and also against reading it that day three months, there was an equality of votes on a third question, that the Bill be read the third time tomorrow, when the Speaker gave his casting vote with the ayes, saying "that upon all occasions when the question was for or against giving to any measure a further opportunity of discussion, he should always vote for the further discussion, more especially when it had advanced so far as a third reading; and that when the question turned upon the measure itself—for instance, that a Bill do or do not pass—he should then vote for or against it, according to his best judgment of its merits, assigning the reasons on which such judgment would be founded".

Similarly, the voices being equal on February 24, 1797, on the question for going into committee on the Quakers Bill, Mr. Speaker Addington gave his vote with the ayes.

Diary of Lord Colechester, page 57:

For reading it tomorrow, 54 against 54. Whereupon, the numbers being equal, the Speaker said it became his duty to give the casting vote; that upon all occasions when the question was for or against giving to any measure a further opportunity for discussion, he should always vote for the further discussion, more especially when it had advanced so far as a third reading; and that when the question turned upon the measure itself—for instance, that a Bill do or do not pass—he should then vote for or against it, according to his best judgment of its merits, assigning the reasons on which such judgment would be founded. Accordingly, the question was carried for a third reading tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker Addington emphasizes there what I understand is the procedure followed in the House of Commons. That is that the first, second and third readings are declared carried so that the matter is still left before the House, and when the motion "That the Bill do now pass" is put the Speaker exercises his right to declare it carried or lost, according to his conscience, and gives his reason for so declaring. May quotes a case of an equality of votes on the second and third readings when

the Speaker gave his casting vote in favour of keeping the Bill before the House. When he put the final motion "That the Bill do now pass", one or two members (I am not sure of the number) changed their minds and there was an absolute majority of the House. I make that explanation so that anybody may read it in *Hansard* and thus avoid the necessity of asking questions.

Mr. Ryan: Wasn't Erskine May used as an authority during the last Parliament?

Mr. LAWN: I do not think so. In fact, I think our first Standing Order says that we follow the Standing Orders of the House of Commons. Mr. Speaker Addington's ruling was given about 1780 and what he ruled is still adhered to. Some people who recently came from England informed me that, in the House of Commons, what was happening in South Australia from 1962 to 1964 was a joke.

Mr. Ryan: We have no fear of that happening in the future, because there will not be an equality of votes for many years to come!

Mr. LAWN: The number of members on this side of the House is growing in such a way that we will have to take over both sides of the House. By design or accident, the Opposition is showing that Labor's policy can be put into operation, even if we have to overflow and take over both sides of the House. In fact, I think a member from this side could fill the chair at the moment being filled by the Opposition Whip. Is he the Acting Leader of the Opposition?

Mr. Clark: The Acting, Acting, Acting Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. LAWN: We will not have to look at his face much longer; I give him the three years of this Parliament. In 1968, he will be superseded by a member of our Party. Our numbers will swell and theirs will dwindle; I think that they realize that. I have much pleasure in supporting, wholeheartedly, the 1965 Governor's Speech.

Mr. NANKIVELL secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.55 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, May 25, at 2 p.m.