

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, August 24, 1965.

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

## PETROLEUM PRODUCTS SUBSIDY BILL.

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

## QUESTIONS

## M.T.T. FARES.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My question deals with the increases in fares recently announced by the Municipal Tramways Trust. These increased fares, I understand, also apply to licensed operators. Of course, it is recognized that in recent months the board of the trust has been faced with two increases in costs, namely, service payments to staff members and the recently announced award increase, which, I think, will operate shortly. Because of this, the trust's costs have increased substantially, and I think there is some interest in knowing just how the increased revenue expected to be received from the increased fares compares with the trust's increased costs. Will the Premier, representing the Minister of Transport, therefore indicate (a) the increased costs to the trust as a result of these two increases in payments to the staff, and (b) the additional revenue expected to be derived from the increased fares?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I will obtain a report from my colleague.

## MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE.

Mr. McKEE: A press statement over the weekend stated that motorists had exploded with anger when they learned that motor vehicle insurance premiums would be increased. It went on to say that in the motor industry there was mounting fear that dearer insurance would depress sales of new and used cars. It stated that new rates for car insurance were announced by the Fire and Accident Underwriters Association so suddenly that many top executives of insurance companies did not know about them until they read the newspaper report. The statement went on to say that a full inquiry into all the circumstances surrounding the insurance increases should be made, as well as a full investigation of the link between some insurance companies and finance companies, together with smash

repair shops. Will the Premier take the matter up with the Prices Commissioner and request the insurance companies to supply facts and figures as to how this steep increase is justified?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I am willing to consult with the Prices Commissioner on the matter. When the last increase took place we made exhaustive inquiries. Probably we will meet with a rebuff similar to that which we received last time, but at least we will try to solve the problem and see whether we can obtain relief.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Are the recently announced increases to apply only in South Australia or, bearing in mind that most of this State's insurance companies have offices in other States, will they apply throughout Australia? Further, how do the present motor vehicle premiums in South Australia compare with those applying in other States?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I will obtain the necessary information, but I doubt whether South Australian motor vehicle insurance rates are as high as those in some of the Eastern States.

## EASTWOOD INTERSECTION.

Mrs. STEELE: Several weeks ago the Minister of Education, representing the Minister of Roads, was kind enough to get a reply to a question I asked regarding the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Greenhill and Fullarton Roads, and to say that the Road Traffic Board approved of the installation of lights but that installation was held up pending the acquisition of land. Having watched this intersection since and having noticed that it is seriously congested at peak hours, I wonder whether, whilst we are awaiting the negotiations, a traffic policeman could be put at this intersection at the busy hours between, say, 8 and 8.45 a.m. and 4.30 and 6 p.m. for the purpose of directing traffic. Frequently on Saturday afternoons a policeman is stationed there and the easing of traffic flow is apparent. Also, as the Hackney intersection has had lights installed, perhaps the policeman who was on point duty there could be transferred to Eastwood. Will the Minister of Education refer this matter to his colleague with a view to having a traffic policeman stationed at this intersection until traffic lights are installed?

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

**TEA TREE GULLY TRANSPORT.**

Mrs. BYRNE: Can the Premier, representing the Minister of Transport, say whether the Government is negotiating with the Municipal Tramways Trust and the Transport Control Board to extend Municipal Tramways Trust services to parts of the Tea Tree Gully council area?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Government recently requested the Transport Control Board and the Municipal Tramways Trust to carry out an investigation of areas adjacent to the metropolitan area where neither the board nor the trust had any authority to license private bus transport. As a result of these investigations, certain recommendations were made to extend Municipal Tramways Trust control to portion of the District Council of Tea Tree Gully. This matter is at present being negotiated with the district council and it is most likely that Municipal Tramways Trust control will be extended to portion of the District Council of Tea Tree Gully, with the Transport Control Board being in a position to exercise control in the remainder of the council district.

**MURRAY RIVER.**

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: The Minister of Irrigation is well acquainted with the River Murray Waters Agreement and with the quantity of water allocated to South Australia under this agreement, and he is well aware of the salinity problem now causing concern in the upper river districts. On Friday, with the Minister at the—

The SPEAKER: Order! Does the honourable member desire to make a statement?

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: I am asking the question now. Can the Minister say what water is available in Lake Victoria and the Menindee Lakes for the purpose of getting a flush of water from the Upper Murray reaches to clear the salinity from the Murray River? Is the Minister keeping a close watch on this question, as it is a serious problem in the Upper Murray reaches?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I am certainly aware of the situation as outlined by the honourable member, and we are keeping a close watch on it. I am unable to say what storage is held in Lake Victoria and the Menindee Lakes, but I will try to get this information for the honourable member. I was pleased to hear that three inches of rain had fallen in the catchment area of the Hume reservoir, as this will help considerably with flushings down the river for freshenings to help solve this problem.

I assure the honourable member that my department is well aware of the situation and is taking every precaution; it is vigilant in ensuring that sufficient water is available for freshenings to keep the river water free of salinity.

**MOUNT GAMBIER INFANTS SCHOOL.**

Mr. BURDON: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the new infants school at Mount Gambier?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Approval was given by Cabinet yesterday for funds for the building of a new Mount Gambier Infants School, and arrangements will be made to call tenders in the near future. In normal circumstances a school of this size will take about 10 to 12 months to complete from the time a contract is let.

**BUSH FIRES.**

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my question of August 5 about bush fires?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Most country roadsides in South Australia have been cleared of native vegetation and have become infested with weeds and exotic annual grasses. Soil fertility has been increased by rubbish deposited along the roadside reserves, and the result has been a build-up of fuel for uncontrolled fires. In many situations, the road verges are not only hazardous, but also unsightly. The problems of reducing the dangers of fires on these strips of country, where the easily ignited annual grasses provide ideal conditions for fires to start, and passing vehicles and people provide a constant supply of sparks, have resulted in a programme of roadside hazard reduction trials being instituted by the Bush Fire Research Committee. In an attempt to find suitable treatments for a wide variety of roadside types, many different methods of hazard reduction have been included in the trials. Wherever roadside conditions permit the land being brought into production, it is considered that this is likely to provide the most effective and economical solution.

**RAL RAL CHANNELS.**

Mr. CURREN: On several occasions I have raised the subject of the concrete lining of channels in the Ral Ral Division of the Chaffey irrigation area, and many of these channels were relined last year. Can the Minister of Irrigation inform the House of the current financial year's programme in relation to these channels?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I have approved: (1) replacement of channels 7, 8, 9, 9A, 10A, 12A and 13 with pipe mains; (2) concrete lining of the portion remaining of channel 12; (3) concrete lining of 787ft. of the earthen portion of channel 10; (4) replacement of the first 1,541ft. of existing lining in channel 10; (5) replastering of an additional 1,259ft. of the existing concrete lining in channel 10. The estimated cost of the works to be carried out in the 1965-66 financial year is £25,547.

#### TEACHERS' RIGHTS.

Mr. LAWN: I recently received correspondence from an organization of high school teachers and assistants (who have apparently formed an association of their own within the South Australian Teachers Institute), in which I was asked whether they were permitted to appear before the Teachers Salaries Board on their own behalf, and whether they could intervene in any case with which the board was concerned. I supplied the necessary information, to the best of my ability, but this morning I received a letter, portion of which states:

Whilst the authority of headmasters in departmental matters is unquestionable, I am asked whether headmasters of both high and technical high schools are allowed to use their positions to influence teachers under their authority to take certain action in union matters.

The letter states that this concerns a small number of headmasters. I also received a circular from another person, suggesting that certain headmasters were advising high school teachers and their assistants that they could or would be blacklisted by the Education Department for looking after their own interests through their association. Can the Minister of Education say whether the department would countenance the action of the headmasters to whom I have referred and who are apparently using their authority to influence teachers and their assistants who seek to look after their own interests through the appropriate association?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I am not aware of headmasters intervening in this way, but I assure the honourable member that the Education Department would not countenance intervention by headmasters on any action taken by teachers as an association to discuss or put forward any matter relating to salaries. The Teachers Salaries Board can be approached only by an association of teachers and not by just any group. This is laid down in the regulations, and is quite clear.

#### HOUSING FINANCE.

Mr. SHANNON: Has the Treasurer a reply to the question I asked last week concerning the £100,000 provided in the Loan Estimates to finance the purchase of older houses?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The replies are:

- (1) Selection from the waiting list in strict order of application.
- (2) Maximum terms are 85 per cent of valuation up to a £3,000 loan and for a 30-year period.
- (3) Restricted to provision toward acquiring a house for occupation by the purchaser and his family.
- (4) Does not extend to repayment of existing mortgages except to the extent of temporary finance actually notified to the bank at the time it is arranged.
- (5) Not extended to people who have already had finance or other housing provisions from the State Bank, the Housing Trust, or by Homes Act guarantee except in special cases submitted to the Treasurer for approval.

#### ABORIGINAL EDUCATION.

Mr. HEASLIP: The following report appeared in the *Advertiser* of July 10:

South Australia was the first Australian State able to tell the Federal Government that it could comply with conditions necessary to ratify the International Labor Organization's 1957 convention on aboriginal rights, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs (Mr. Dunstan) said yesterday. He was addressing about 100 people at a lunch-hour meeting in North Terrace to mark National Aborigines Day . . . "We are able to comply in education because in South Australia we are providing, in established schools, initial education in vernacular aboriginal tongues," he said.

With reference to the last statement in that report, can the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs say in which Government schools vernacular education is provided for Aborigines, and in what tongues this education is provided?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: There are three schools on South Australian tribal reserves where this education is given. It is given at Ernabella school, which is not a Government school. At that school (which receives a subsidy from the Government) the pioneer work in teaching Pitjantjatjara was undertaken. It is proceeding at the moment and, although we do not have as many teachers as we would like to be trained in Pitjantjatjara, the teaching is given through the assistance of Aboriginal monitors who are able to speak to the children in Pitjantjatjara and to translate

the work of the school. This has proved so successful that at Musgrave Park the Aborigines Department is running a school. It is not an Education Department school as yet, although arrangements have been made with my colleague that the Education Department will urgently investigate the situation at Musgrave Park with a view to the development of an Education Department school there at the earliest possible moment. In fact, my colleague spoke to me earlier today about an officer's going there next month to make the necessary investigations. In the meantime, the school is being run by two Aboriginal monitors trained at Ernabella, both of whom have great talents. In fact, the pre-school work is taken by Nganyintja in Pitjantjatjara and the rest of the school is run by a 19-year-old boy called Patrick Nyngan. He also teaches in Pitjantjatjara and English, and his work is remarkable. Of course, this is an interim measure but, when the Education Department establishes a school there, the work of the monitors is expected to continue to give the additional training in the vernacular. That is now being done by an Aboriginal monitor at the Education Department school at Yalata, which has a high attendance record—in fact, one of the best attendance records of all schools in the State. The teaching there in the early classes is done through the Aboriginal monitor, who again teaches in Pitjantjatjara.

#### BRIGHTON TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding the proposed new boys technical high school at Brighton?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Approval was given by Cabinet yesterday for funds for the erection of a new boys technical high school at Brighton. Arrangements will soon be made to call tenders for this project. In normal circumstances a school of this size would take 15 to 18 months to complete from the time a contract is let.

#### TAILEM BEND TO KEITH WATER SCHEME.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question about whether it would be possible to make available to the Central Water Scheme Committee plans of proposed subsidiary mains from the Tailem Bend to Keith water scheme in order that this committee might assist the department further in the preparation of the necessary petitions?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Following the question asked by the honourable member, I took up the matter with the Director and Engineer-in-Chief of the Engineering and Water Supply Department (Mr. Dridan), who reports:

The only work so far authorized is the basic scheme, that is, the pipeline to Keith with the necessary pumping stations and storage tanks. Although the valuable co-operation being extended by the Central Water Scheme Committee is sincerely appreciated and the desire of the committee to be furnished with a plan showing proposed routes of subsidiary mains is readily understandable, this would in my opinion be unwise at this stage. When the trunk main was being designed, it was also necessary to plan tentative routes for possible extensions, even if some of these may not be laid for 10 years or more. This action was necessary in order to assess the required capacity of the trunk main. Many millions of pounds would be involved if all of the branch pipelines were laid and in fact careful investigation may show that some of these could not be justified on economic grounds, that is, the cost would be out of all proportion to the benefits derived.

If the plan to which I have referred was made available to the committee and through the committee to landholders in the district, these landholders would quite understandably draw the conclusion that the pipelines shown on the plan will be laid. This would be premature and as I have already stated the routes shown are tentative only. It would be wrong to regard the branch pipelines as components of a gigantic water distribution scheme, for as I have said earlier some of these pipelines may never be laid. Each branch line must be considered on its merits, that is, the cost must be related to the benefits—both direct and indirect. The production factor is important in making such an assessment, for in fact it is difficult to justify the laying of any rural pipeline at present day costs unless there are assured indirect benefits as a result of increased production. The important thing is for this department to know the sections for which a water supply is desired. It then becomes a matter of designing a branch line to serve this land in the most economical way and examining the physical and financial aspects.

Mr. NANKIVELL: The committee was kept fully apprised of the planning of the central trunk main. It was provided with several sets of the plans, none of which were finalized, and it did not in any way embarrass the department through its possession of this information. I do not believe that the committee's possession of the information I am now seeking would embarrass the Government or the department. I am sure that the Minister would agree with me when I say that if these plans were provided they would be used discreetly by the committee (which has the regard of the

department and of the Minister) to ensure that no misunderstanding arose in the future about the possible routes of these mains, and would be used only to help prepare petitions that it would be necessary for people to sign in order to get supply ultimately from the main trunk schemes. Therefore, will the Minister reconsider this matter, and will he say that the answer he gave me this afternoon is not final?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I deeply appreciate the honourable member's and the committee's anxiety on this matter. The committee has been an excellent committee (as I have said before), and I deeply appreciate what it has done. However, I was somewhat impressed by the report that I read to the honourable member a short time ago. When lines are drawn to indicate that mains will be laid in certain places, there is always wishful thinking that this will definitely be where the mains will be laid. Nevertheless, as I fully appreciate the work done by the committee I will again look at the matter to see whether we can help to assist the committee in the valuable work it is doing, not only for its members but also for the State as a whole.

#### RESERVOIR STORAGES.

Mr. CLARK: Can the Minister of Works say what effect the rains over the last week have had on the reservoirs, and what effect they will have on pumping from the Murray River?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The position is very pleasing, considering that we started off the season thinking that it would be necessary to pump extensively over a long period. Resulting from the recent rain, the storage in the metropolitan reservoirs at 8.30 a.m. yesterday (August 23) amounted to 14,186,000,000 gallons, an increase over the weekend of 416,000,000 gallons. The storage at the Warren reservoir at present is 427,000,000 gallons, an increase of 129,000,000 gallons since last Monday. The present holding in Mount Bold is 5,919,000,000 gallons, an increase over the 24 hours of more than 106,000,000 gallons. The holding at Happy Valley is 2,814,200,000 gallons, a decrease of 10,500,000 gallons over the 24 hours. The storage at Myponga reservoir is 3,275,700,000 gallons, an increase over the 24 hours of 16,200,000 gallons. The Millbrook storage is 1,424,300,000 gallons, an increase in the 24 hours of 33,000,000 gallons. The Hope Valley storage is 688,000,000 gallons, an increase of 10,000,000 gallons. The Thorndon Park holding remains static at 125,100,000

gallons. Those are the figures for the metropolitan reservoirs. The holding in the Tod River reservoir is 1,735,400,000 gallons, compared with 2,209,100,000 gallons at this time last year. Pumping has been reduced now to about one-third of the full capacity, and I believe it may be possible to reduce it further if the rain continues.

#### BOOL LAGOON SCHOOL.

Mr. RODDA: On August 12 I directed a question to the Minister of Education regarding the move to close the Bool Lagoon school at the end of this school term. I have since seen the parents at the Bool Lagoon school and they have expressed their concern at the proposed closing. I stress that the parents are most anxious to have a decision on the matter and, of course, the one they are looking for is that the school will be kept open until at least the end of the year. Can the Minister say what decision has been made?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I have had the departmental inspector examine the position very carefully on the spot, where he interviewed parents. I examined his report most carefully, including the section on the transport problem involved if the children had to go to school at Naracoorte. I examined the pros and cons of closing the school now compared with closing it at the end of the year, and, after the most careful consideration, I came to a firm conclusion to close the school at the end of this term. I believe that that decision has already been conveyed.

#### WEEDS.

Mr. FERGUSON: My question concerns noxious weeds on roadsides. It is fairly generally recognized that primary producers' and transport operators' trucks spread noxious weeds about the countryside. Weed seeds are blown or dropped off the transport on to the sides of the roads. In many districts the Highways Department grades roads for some feet each side of the bitumen, thus aiding the spread of the weeds. I understand that an experiment was made last year by the Highways Department between Port Wakefield and Ardrossan by spraying to sterilize the portion of the road that is graded by the department. Will the Minister of Education ask the Minister of Roads whether this spraying was a success and whether it would be practicable to spray roadsides to check the spread of noxious weeds?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Yes.

**FAUNA AND FLORA RESERVE.**

Mrs. BYRNE: Last week I asked the Minister of Lands a question regarding the preservation of an area at Tea Tree Gully. Has he a reply?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: The area referred to by the honourable member was considered by the previous Government in 1964, but purchase was unable to proceed owing to financial reasons. However, as of June 30, 1965, the Commissioners of the National Park and Wild Life Reserves had been vested with areas totalling 475,111 acres. In addition to these areas, the following reserves have been acquired recently:

	Acres
Alligator Gorge . . . . .	9,465
Mount Magnificent . . . . .	210

and the following additions to existing reserves have also been made:

	Acres
	Approx.
Penwortham Red Stringybark Reserve . . . . .	700
Para Wirra National Park . . . . .	279
Lincoln Wild Life Reserve . . . . .	24,000

A number of projects in various parts of the State, embracing a further 20,000 to 25,000 acres, are being considered for purchase during the present financial year. The Commissioners have been asked to place the requirements on a priority basis, and at the moment the particular reserve the honourable member has referred to is not on a top priority.

**EGGS.**

Mr. FREEBAIRN: My question concerns the public relations officers to be appointed to inspect poultry farms under the Council of Egg Marketing Authorities plan. This matter is of special importance to me because one of these officers is to be stationed in Riverton in my district. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether these public relations officers will have the right of free entry to poultry farms at any time?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Section 11 of the Poultry Industry Levy Act, 1965, states:

(1) For the purposes of this Act, a person authorized in writing by the Minister to exercise powers under this section may, at all reasonable times and on production of that authority, enter any building or place where, in the opinion of that person, there are any books, documents or other papers relating to the keeping of hens for commercial purposes or the hatching of chickens, and may take extracts from, and make copies of, any such books, documents or other papers.

(2) A person shall not, without reasonable excuse, obstruct or hinder a person acting in pursuance of any authority under this section. Penalty: Fifty pounds.

**WATER SUPPLIES.**

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: On one or two occasions I have raised with the Minister of Works the problem of the extension of water to areas of the State remote from a source of supply. Has he a report on this matter?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I have had one or two talks with the Director and Engineer-in-Chief about this project and, the honourable member having raised the subject during the course of his speech on the Loan Estimates, I consulted again with the Director and obtained from him the following report:

Most farming areas with insufficient local water resources are now served by the State's vast network of mains. However, there are still some areas near the fringes of the water districts in which farming is being carried on under great difficulties through lack of reliable water supply. The cost of extending mains of the normal type, designed to provide a good supply of water day and night throughout the year, to these areas would be very high. This would involve high annual payments by landholders as well as heavy subsidies by the State. These are the districts which could possibly be served at reasonable cost by means of systems of limited capacity, designed to work in conjunction with storages provided by the farmers themselves. All of the department's mains have capacity to spare during the April to September period, but many of these are working at or near full capacity during the other six months of the year, and particularly during the November to March period. Therefore, when extensions are contemplated it is necessary to allow for the cost of the extension and in many cases to also allow for the cost of replacing some of the old mains with larger pipes. Moreover, extension of a main to serve new consumers can act to the detriment of those already supplied during the summer months. The thought behind the "limited capacity" extension proposal is to make use of the spare winter capacity to build up private storages on farms served by the extensions. Under these conditions the interests of those already served would be safeguarded and it would not be necessary to carry out any enlargement of the existing mains.

With extensions of the type envisaged, an adequate and continuous flow of water to farmers' tanks could be expected from April to September inclusive and some flow, although intermittent, should be available during October. Any appreciable replenishment of tanks during November to March period would be fortuitous and could only be expected if heavy summer rain caused a temporary general fall-off in livestock and domestic demands. Under such conditions farmers should as a minimum provide sufficient storage capacity to meet 90 per cent of their essential requirements during the November to March period. All of our water distribution systems—particularly those in country areas—have a "peak load" problem for the demand on a hot summer day can rise as high as 5½ times the average demand for the year. The purpose of the

“limited capacity” extensions would not be to provide the farmer with an inadequate service but to provide at a reasonable cost a system which called for the co-operation of the farmer in building on his own property tanks of sufficient capacity to tide him over the summer with little or no contribution from the mains in the summer period.

This proposal calls for very close examination for the whole purpose is to provide an adequate system for a minimum of expenditure on the part of both the farmer and the State. Various alternatives have been examined, but I am not yet satisfied that we have the right answer. However, this work will be continued and I expect that in the near future it will be possible to put forward firm proposals in respect to one or more specific undertakings. In the meantime, it would be unwise to speculate on such matters as main sizes, tank capacities and costs.

I assure the honourable member that I will follow up this question to see whether something can be done soon, as I am convinced that it is important to our rural production and to the economy of the State.

#### SNOWTOWN SCHOOL.

Mr. HALL: A few days ago, at Snowtown, I was informed that a long delay had occurred in finishing the new science classroom at the school. I believe that the building will be satisfactory when it is erected, but various difficulties have occurred during the 12 months of its construction. Will the Minister of Education expedite the completion of this science classroom?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I will have the matter examined, with a view to hastening its completion.

#### ONKAPARINGA VALLEY WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. SHANNON: I notice that the main leading from Chandler Hill to Heathfield to provide water to the Onkaparinga Valley water scheme (which was investigated by the Public Works Standing Committee) does not appear to be on this year's works programme. As the evidence tendered to the committee by the Engineering and Water Supply Department urged the committee not to delay the scheme unnecessarily (so that something could be done before the coming summer) and as the Stirling-Crafers area is at present embarrassed in reticulating water in that area, can the Minister of Works say what steps will be taken to resolve the difficulties that exist at the Stirling-Crafers end of the proposed main?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I thank the honourable member for indicating that he would ask this question. I am informed by

the Director and Engineer-in-Chief that it has not been practicable to allocate funds for the Chandler Hill to Heathfield trunk main on this year's Estimates. Approval is being sought, however, for the necessary expenditure so that preliminary work can be put in hand and tenders called for the pipes and tanks with a view to construction commencing early in the next financial year. In order to safeguard supply for the Stirling-Crafers area until the Chandler Hill to Heathfield trunk main is constructed, certain improvements to the existing Onkaparinga Valley scheme have been approved. These are the provisions of an additional 8in. feeder main in the Woodside area and a booster station at Ambleside, both of which are designed to make more water available at the Vimy Ridge pumping station, and a standby pump at the Vimy Ridge pumping station itself. These works are estimated to cost a total of £29,000. It is anticipated that the new main and the booster station should be in operation by the end of October and the additional pump should be installed at Vimy Ridge pumping station by the end of November.

#### COUNTRY ROADS.

Mr. HEASLIP: Of recent years it has been the policy of the Minister of Local Government to make funds available to district councils so that they can maintain efficient plant and employ local labour to construct roads in council areas. More recently, however, because more bitumen roads are being laid through council areas, and because of the shortage of funds in many councils, plant has become redundant, and a difficulty in retaining local employment has arisen. As I heard last night that at Gulnare the Highways Department was allowing outside contractors to shoulder the bituminized Main North Road, will the Minister of Education take this matter up with his colleague, the Minister of Local Government, and ascertain whether it is possible to employ local labour to do this work rather than employ outside labour?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Yes.

#### JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Mrs. STEELE: When I came into the House this afternoon I found on my desk a letter from the Secretary of the Attorney-General informing me that the name of Rex Prowse Wheaton, of 37 Prescott Terrace, Rose Park, had been added to the Commission of the Peace for South Australia and, further, that Mr. Wheaton had been directly nominated by the Deputy Commissioner of Taxation.

Although I believe that the form itself states that the nomination should be forwarded through the member for the district, that is not the point I wish to make. During the term of this Parliament questions have been directed to the Attorney-General by members on both sides, to which he has replied that a survey is at present being conducted, and that, pending the outcome of that survey, no further appointments would be made. Further, queries have been raised concerning people who have been waiting for six months or more to be notified whether their names are to be added to the commission. In view of the statements made by the Attorney-General in the House, will he explain why a nomination of this kind has been made?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I refer the honourable member to my previous replies in the House, when I explained that, while the survey was proceeding, we would not be normally making appointments (except where a clear need existed) to meet a particular position in a district or in the Public Service. At least one appointment has been made, and I seem to recall it was an appointment in respect of the honourable member's own district, for which she asked.

Mrs. Steele: I haven't been notified.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am sorry, if that is the case, for that would have been contrary to my instructions. I shall take this matter up with the honourable member afterwards if she wishes, because I certainly remember approving the appointment of a woman in the Waterfall Gully area. In consequence of my informing the House that if a particular case of need existed and that if honourable members would bring it forward to me an appointment would be made (where it was obvious that there was an urgent necessity to meet the case), a number of appointments have been made in this way. I have approved the recommendation of appointments in the districts of the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Burra (Mr. Quirke). The case of people appointed for Public Service purposes is different again. There, we do not add to the list of people who are justices of the peace, but where a transfer in either the Commonwealth or State Public Service occurs, and where it is necessary to have somebody in the position from which the person concerned has been transferred as a justice of the peace, the man transferred resigns, and his replacement is appointed to the commission. In those circumstances, where previously members, I

understand, tended not to be notified, I have directed that, wherever an appointment is made in an honourable member's district, whether it comes normally through the needs of the district or through the Public Service, the member should be notified immediately. I expect that the survey will be completed soon. There is little information left now to come in but, when it has come in, quotas will be established, and I shall be able to make a statement to the House as to the basis on which future appointments will be made.

#### BUILDING TRADE.

Mr. McANANEY: I noticed in the press recently that the number of building permits for private buildings had fallen considerably in the June quarter compared with the number in the March quarter, and they were also considerably below the total for the June quarter of last year. In my district tenders have been called for the construction of a building, and many tenders have been received from the metropolitan area because of the slackening off in the building trade there. Is the Premier aware of this position and, if he is, can he say what is the possible reason for it and what steps can be taken to keep the building trade occupied?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The main reason and the most positive reason concerns finance. I have already reported to the House the position regarding the finance made available through the South Australian Housing Trust, the Savings Bank, the State Bank, and the Superannuation Fund. I believe that builders do not have finance available to continue their building programmes. Some "spec" builders build houses for a certain clientele but, unfortunately, such people have had to accept temporary mortgages, and the houses are becoming too costly for these people to be able to continue to pay the high interest rate charged, in most cases, by the finance corporations. Consequently, people do not have the money to meet this requirement. However, there is still a demand for houses and all we need is money available at a reasonable rate of interest. The reason for the lapse in the building trade is that funds are not available, and people are being charged exorbitant interest rates on temporary finance.

#### WINDY POINT.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Last week, during the debate on the Loan Estimates, when complaining about the condition of Windy Point in my district I said as strongly as I could that

something should be done about it and that I regretted that no money for this purpose had been provided. I understand that in the last few days a small amount of cleaning up has been done at Windy Point. This prompts me to ask the Premier, as Minister in charge of the Tourist Bureau, whether it is intended to do any work at Windy Point in the foreseeable future by way of patching up or cleaning up or, preferably, by way of some modest improvement.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Windy Point is under the care and control of the Tourist Bureau. To the best of my knowledge no provision is made normally in the Loan Estimates for the type of work desired. However, I hasten to assure the honourable member (although I do not want to forecast what is likely to happen) that it is some weeks since I made representations to the Director of the Tourist Bureau to take up with the Highways Department the matter of resurfacing some of the area. I believe that between £3,000 and £4,000 may be made available this year for this work. Windy Point is not suited to any but short visits. Water and sewers must always be considered in places like this, where they are needed. Because of the difficulty of disposing of surplus water on stony land like that at Windy Point, I doubt whether any but short visits are possible in this area. However, I assure the honourable member that the surface of the area will be improved and that probably some fencing will be provided.

#### OVERSEA VISIT.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Can the Minister of Works tell the House the names of the members of the committee on whose behalf the Director and Engineer-in-Chief of the Engineering and Water Supply Department (Mr. Dridan) is to make investigations overseas?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I regret that I cannot give the names of the members of the committee, but it is a committee that has been set up with Sir William Hudson as chairman. The committee comprises members from several States, and Mr. Dridan is a vice-chairman. The committee asked Mr. Dridan to represent that body, which is considering the construction of dams in Australia, and to examine constructions in other parts of the world. Whilst Mr. Dridan is away he will make investigations that he hopes will be advantageous to South Australia, particularly in relation to Chowilla dam.

Although in South Australia we have a fine and efficient team of engineers associated with the Engineering and Water Supply Department, at present we seem to be suffering a grave shortage of qualified engineers to carry out the essential works. During his visit, Mr. Dridan will try to recruit further engineers for this department.

#### ALLIGATOR GORGE.

Mr. HEASLIP: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on August 10 regarding the sealing of the road in the Alligator Gorge?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, reports that no provision has been made on the five-year advance construction programme for the bituminous surfacing of the road through Alligator Gorge. A grant of £400, with £100 contribution by the District Council of Wilmington, was approved for 1965-66. Grants have been made available in previous years. The immediate policy is to maintain an unsurfaced road only.

#### PENOLA ELECTRICITY.

Mr. RODDA: I understand that the District Council of Penola recently wrote to the Premier requesting that electricity tariffs on country undertakings be subsidized to the equivalent of city tariffs. I also believe that the Government has a sympathetic attitude generally to country undertakings. Some peculiarities are associated with the Penola franchise. The holders of the franchise are aware that a lowering of the electricity charges at that centre would result in an extra demand on the generating plant, and to this end I believe they have made approaches to the Electricity Trust for an additional generating unit. Another aspect is that the trust's lines are situated some six miles from the Penola boundary. Four hundreds are covered by the franchise, and the trust's power lines go to the hundred boundary and stop some six miles from the town. Will the Minister of Works look favourably on the laying of a power line from the trust's lines to Penola in order to give the franchise holders (if they so desire) a bulk supply from the trust grid?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I regret that I cannot give the honourable member a detailed reply at this stage. I fancy that I have seen a docket relating to this subject matter and that I have sent it on to the trust for a reply. In any event, I will take the matter up with the trust and bring down a reply as early as possible.

**BULK HANDLING.**

Mr. FERGUSON: On August 10 I asked the Minister of Agriculture a question concerning investigations into bulk handling facilities in South Australia by a committee which had been appointed by the Government. Has the Minister a reply?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: On July 6 I settled the committee's terms of reference; on July 12 the terms of reference were received by the chairman of the committee; and on July 22 the committee held its first meeting. All members of the committee are collecting data in their respective spheres as a preliminary to the second meeting, which is to be held towards the end of August or early in September. Regarding the questions raised by the honourable member, investigations are actively in hand. No evidence has yet been taken, and it is not known when the report will be ready for presentation to Cabinet. However, it will not be for at least three months.

**EVAPORATION LOSSES.**

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Has the Minister of Works a report on evaporation losses from water storages in South Australia?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Following recent remarks by the honourable member, I have obtained a report from the Director and Engineer-in-Chief. The question of losses from water storages in South Australia by evaporation has been discussed at recent standing committee and council meetings of the Australian Water Resources Council, and the council agreed to recommend that the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization should continue research on the control of evaporation by surface films on small storages with an area less than 10 acres. It also recommended the proposal of the C.S.I.R.O. that State authorities should consider application of evaporation suppression methods to medium-size storages of area less than 2,000 acres. The department has recently requested plans of the standard evaporation pan from the Bureau of Meteorology so that they can be installed at our reservoirs preparatory to inviting the C.S.I.R.O. to advise on evaporation suppression methods at a selected reservoir.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The aspect of the question which the Minister did not cover was the proposal that the C.S.I.R.O. should establish its headquarters in South Australia.

The SPEAKER: Does the honourable member seek leave to explain his question?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes: I am sorry I did not ask before, but I now seek leave to explain my question. It was intended that the C.S.I.R.O. would establish headquarters in South Australia to carry out this part of its programme. I made the offer to that organization at the Hobart conference, and said that the variety of types of storage in South Australia (large reservoirs, concrete-lined reservoirs, etc.) would be admirably suited for researches by this organization. Can the Minister of Works say whether this offer, made on behalf of the South Australian Government, was followed up, and if it was, whether any interest has been shown by the C.S.I.R.O.?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I am grateful to the honourable member for raising the matter again. He did so some time ago and I made a note of it, but as yet I have not spoken to the Director about it. This matter was not discussed by the Water Research Council at its recent meeting in Western Australia, as it was not on the agenda. The honourable member's suggestion is important, and I assure him I will follow it up immediately to see whether we can obtain the services of the C.S.I.R.O., as I know that much good could result from this.

**WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT.**

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Premier a reply to a question I asked on August 19 regarding the Woods and Forests Department?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: On Thursday, August 19, the honourable member asked whether the items "maintenance of existing forests" and "preparation of land and planting" and administrative expenses were reasonable charges to Loan Account. In order to give detailed and reasonably complete information of forestry expenditure, a proportion of which is authorized by special Act to be financed out of sales through a working account, it is the practice to include in the details for Parliament these other expenses. The items mentioned do not represent a charge against Loan Account except to the extent of administration concerned directly in the development of forests. It will be noted that of the total expenditure of £3,195,000 listed only £1,050,000 is expected to be a charge on Loan funds.

The member for Stirling queried the difference between a recovery of £1,300,000 estimated for last year toward forestry loans as compared with an apparent actual recovery of about £1,000,000. The difference of £300,000 is for the time being retained within the Woods and Forests Working Account for the

purposes of financing current operations of the kind to which reference has already been made and which are listed in the papers before the House. If the additional amount can be spared at the end of the current year it will be repaid to the Loan Account to assist in other programmes.

#### WIRRABARA FOREST.

Mr. HEASLIP: On August 12 I asked the Minister of Forests whether he would investigate the spread of cape tulip in the Wirrabara Forest area. Has the Minister a reply?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: It is intended to carry out our spraying programme at Wirrabara at the proper time again this year. I believe that past action by the Woods and Forests Department in this matter has been responsible for a significant reduction in the spread of this weed in the area.

#### KEITH DISTRICT.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I have been concerned with the problem of unthriftiness in the Keith district and—

The SPEAKER: Order! Does the honourable member wish to seek leave to explain his question?

Mr. NANKIVELL: Yes, I do. This question has remained unresolved and has resulted in stock losses on individual properties in the Willalooka area for many years. Can the Minister of Agriculture say what work has been done in this area on this problem, and whether any work is being done in conjunction with the C.S.I.R.O. in this district? Also, as this work requires highly trained veterinary officers to carry out the full investigations into the problems, can he say whether there are sufficient of these officers in the department to deal sufficiently and expeditiously with these problems? If there are not, has he any plans to recruit additional veterinary officers for the department so that these matters can be fully and carefully investigated?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I appreciate all the problems raised by the honourable member, but I prefer to get him a considered reply, and I will certainly do that.

#### KYBYBOLITE RESEARCH CENTRE.

Mr. RODDA: The first question I asked in this House was about the absence of a permanent officer in charge of the Kybybolite research centre. I am aware of the difficulties the Minister is having in keeping up with the appointments of officers and the requirements of his department throughout the State. This research centre is an important agricultural

centre. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether any progress has been made in filling this position, which I understand has been vacant for about 18 months?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I appreciate the concern of the honourable member and his persistence in this matter. I have spoken with the Director and Acting Director of Agriculture and both have tried to expedite this matter, but so far without success. However, I know the honourable member will be pleased to hear that in the last few days Cabinet has approved of the employment of additional men in the small seed section of the department in the South-East. Advertisements have been inserted in the *Advertiser*, but, of course, the next thing is to obtain these employees. However, some progress has been made in this regard.

#### SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. Does the Government own land in the electoral district of Mitcham, which it is intended to use for the erection of schools, or other educational purposes in the future?

2. If so, where are such sites?

3. Are they considered adequate for foreseeable future needs?

4. If not, what plans has the Government for providing additional schools in this district when they are required?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The replies are:

1. Yes—for technical high and primary school purposes.

2. Technical high school—a site of 20 acres on the corner of Daws Road and Cashel Street, Mitcham. Primary school—a 5-acre site (part section 958) for a replacement for Upper Sturt school. A site of 8 acres 0 roods 11 perches in part sections 17 and 18 at Shepherds Hill. A site of approximately 10 acres in part sections 10 and 11 at Pasadena is in the course of acquisition.

3. Yes, when a high school site which is being sought in the Piccadilly area is obtained.

4. See 3.

#### FUEL OIL.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (on notice):

1. What is the term of the new agreement covering the supply of fuel oil to the Electricity Trust of South Australia?

2. Are there any provisions in the agreement for variations in price in accordance with market fluctuations?

3. Does the agreement provide for the supply of a stipulated quantity of fuel in each period?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The replies are:

1. The contract for the supply of fuel oil to the Electricity Trust is for a period of 10 years from July 1, 1965. If natural gas becomes available to the trust as a main fuel at a lower price than other fuels the trust can reduce the quantities of oil contracted for on two years' notice.

2. The prices of oil under the contract are firm for the first five years; thereafter the 1970 price is subject to variation in accordance with movements in the ruling prices of crude oil, freight and insurance for the remaining five years.

3. The contract provides for an unlimited supply of oil each year with a minimum quantity of 100,000 tons a year.

#### HOUSING TRUST.

The Hon Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (on notice): How many completed Housing Trust houses in the metropolitan area are at present unoccupied because of the lack of sewer and water connections?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Chairman, South Australian Housing Trust, reports:

In the metropolitan and Elizabeth areas there are 211 completed houses of the Housing Trust awaiting either sewer or water connections, or both.

#### STATE BANK REPORT.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the annual report of the State Bank for the year ended June 30, 1965, together with balance sheets.

Ordered that report be printed.

#### ARCHITECTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

#### SUPPLY BILL (No. 2).

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended the House of Assembly to make provision by Bill for defraying the salaries and other expenses of the several departments and public services of the Government of South Australia during the year ending June 30, 1966.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH (Premier and Treasurer) moved:

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

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): I do not intend

to delay the House, but I remind the Government that in past years the Opposition has always enjoyed the courtesy of being notified when a special Supply is to be required. The amount of the Supply also has usually been indicated to the Opposition, and this practice facilitates the business of the House. I suggest to the Treasurer and Ministers of the Government that this courtesy does not cost the Government anything. Further, it is obvious that the business of the House will be considered much more quickly and smoothly if some form of working agreement can exist between the Opposition and members of the Government. I know that the Government is not obligated in any way in this matter, except to comply with Standing Orders, but I repeat that it would undoubtedly help in the smooth running of the House, if honourable members on this side were acquainted with any business to be considered.

I have extended this courtesy to Opposition members on many occasions in the past, and I do not believe that it would have offended Parliamentary practice for the Government to have extended that courtesy today. Mr. Speaker, that leads me to another topic, which I shall now mention. Frequently, honourable members on this side of the House, after asking for information, have not received it, and, in fact, on one or two occasions they have been specifically denied it. That, again, is not in accordance with good Parliamentary practice, and I shall cite one instance in which the Opposition was denied legitimate information for no reason whatsoever. It was merely told that the information sought (which would have assisted members in dealing with a certain problem) was not in the public's interest to be made available.

At the time we were debating a topic of some interest to the people of South Australia, with regard to establishing a gas main to remedy fuel deficiencies. The Treasurer himself stated that, because a favourable contract had been made by the Electricity Trust, the price of oil would be much lower and that, as a consequence, it was not an urgent matter; in fact, the Electricity Trust would prefer not to have gas until 1971. That was an astounding statement, in view of the fact that, prior to the election, the greatest pressure had been placed on the oil companies to state their position in respect of gas reserves. Indeed, at one stage a deadline had been issued. I was a little interested in this new contract, and I merely asked for the price per million British thermal units of this new oil to be supplied.

Having been told that it was not in the public's interest to reveal a price, I followed the matter up today to ascertain whether this contract was to apply from year to year, and whether it involved an element of competitive tendering. The answer given today was that it was a firm contract for five years, during which period it could not be altered, and after which period it would be regulated for five years in accordance with the movements of oil prices. If that is the case, we can see that no element of public interest is involved in this matter, except that we should be making some provision to ensure that we shall be able to meet challenges from other States that will undoubtedly arise. What is the public interest in respect of an oil contract for five years, which is not expressed in a price per ton but merely in a price per million b.t.u.'s, without even the grade of the oil being revealed? That information should have been given to the House. I accept the fact that coal contracts probably apply from year to year, and that, in the case of contracts involving two competitive tenderers, the price of coal will not perhaps be so easily disclosed, without giving information to other tenderers.

However, an oil contract is covered by an Act of Parliament, and an indenture Act with the company concerned states that we should use this oil, if its price is on all fours with that of another competitor. Unless there were a lower tenderer, we would have to use this oil, because that was the agreement entered into when the refinery was built. Today, I heard my colleague, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, ask a question of the Treasurer relating to additional revenue arising out of the Tramways Trust fares that are now to be increased. I am certain that the Government did not increase fares 6d. in some sections without at least having a statement showing the revenue this would produce. I cannot believe that the Government would not have taken into account the sum that would be raised from the increase in fares.

Mr. Coumbe: A 50 per cent increase.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. If the Government did not get such a figure then it was extremely negligent. The 6d. increase applied to several sections. I believe the House has a right to this information. In fact, with a little calculation the figure could probably be derived from the M.T.T. report, from which we could see how many passengers travelled on the various sections. After we had questioned the Treasurer for a

month about the reasons for the dismissal of an officer, the last statement he made was that he would have the matter investigated. I do not wish to take up the time of honourable members unduly but I suggest that the Treasurer knew the reasons for the dismissal and that no public interest was served by his not disclosing these reasons. I protest that this Supply has been brought before the House without the normal courtesy that has always been extended to the Opposition in the past.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (Mitcham): I must say that I do not share my Leader's scruples in taking up the time of the House in debating the motion to go into Committee, especially (as the Leader has already said) because this motion was sprung on members without notice. I respectfully support what the Leader said about the difficulty of getting information in answer to questions. I have had this difficulty time and time again especially when I have asked questions of the Treasurer. For some reason he seems unwilling to give me information at all. I have received no answer at all to many questions I have asked through the session, going back months. Last Tuesday I had to ask again a question about railway concessions for retired South Australian Railway officers, a matter I asked about in July. Yet up to the present I have had no reply about it. This is very bad; it is not only irritating to me, but it is a bad thing for Parliament that a member cannot get information from a Minister about matters of public concern. I add my protest to the Leader of the Opposition's about this matter.

However, that is not the main matter I wish to raise. Indeed, in a way I suppose I have waited for an opportunity like this to raise a grievance. My grievance relates, strangely enough, not to the Treasurer on this occasion but to his Deputy, the Minister of Works. I wish to spend some time in developing this matter. I now have an opportunity given in Parliament to air grievances. There has been a deliberate attempt today to take the Opposition by surprise so that members would not be ready with grievances.

Mr. Jennings: Oh, no!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Now the member for Enfield has the gall to groan when I raise a grievance. Does he think we should not raise grievances at this time, or what does he think?

Mr. Jennings: I just think that the honourable member is a horrible bore.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I wish to refer to a report that appeared in the *Advertiser* of July

13 under the heading "Dental Care 'Too Costly'" which stated:

Many parents in South Australia were unable to afford proper dental treatment for their children, the Reader in Preventive Dentistry at the University of Adelaide (Dr. Elizabeth Fanning) said yesterday. She was commenting on the first results of a teeth survey held last year among children attending eight high schools and two private schools in the metropolitan area.

Later in the report appeared the following:

The first report revealed—

this was of the students who had been surveyed—

a third of these students, aged 13, had never had a tooth filled although many required fillings urgently. Only two of the children whose teeth were examined had no sign of dental decay. Boys averaged six decayed teeth and girls eight. A quarter of the children had at least one permanent tooth extracted because of decay.

In other words, the survey showed an appallingly low state of dental health in South Australia. Dr. Fanning went on later in the report to give some hints on dental care. That was bad enough but it was common knowledge and it was certainly known to the Minister of Works before it was published in the *Advertiser* because evidence to this effect was given to the Select Committee on Fluoridation in 1964, and he was a member of that committee.

Mr. Jennings: Don't cry.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I am not crying, but I think this is a matter of great importance, and the member for Enfield would do more good for himself and the State if he listened to me and perhaps supported me than by sitting there and making unfortunate interjections. In the *Advertiser* of the following day the Minister of Works commented, and this is what I complain about. Under the heading "Minister says, 'No Fluoride'" appeared the following:

The Government had no intention at this stage of fluoridating Adelaide's water supply, the Minister of Works (Mr. Hutchens) said yesterday.

He was commenting on the report on dental decay. The report continued:

Mr. Hutchens said that although a number of people favoured fluoridation an equal or larger number opposed it.

I do not believe that even the Minister believes that is so. He was a member of the Select Committee; he heard all the evidence; he was present at every meeting and he took an active part. I do not believe that anyone who had gone through all that could genuinely believe that more people opposed than favoured

fluoridation. The Minister then went on to make these extraordinary remarks:

The spending of £70,000 on fluoridation equipment and £20,000 a year to maintain it could give parents the false impression that they had no need to give their children ordinary dental care. There were many lines of toothpaste and tablets on the market containing fluoride. While these were available and while the prime cause of tooth decay remained the eating of the wrong foods, the cost of fluoridating the water supply would be wasted.

I do not deny to anyone the right to hold his own opinion on this or any matter, and I do not deny the right of the Minister of Works to be opposed to fluoridation as he is. But, Sir, I do hope that everyone who does hold an opinion and who presumes to express his opinion in public will at least do so in a way which is sensible and which has some backing in logic and from the facts.

This report, I must say, made me feel extremely angry, because I think it is no more than an example of a man who at one time took up a certain position on a public question and who is now driven to more and more absurd lengths in defending the position which he took up and in justifying it. This particular newspaper article was followed up by my honourable friend from Burnside when the House reassembled after the break at the end of July, and of course the honourable member for Burnside was another member of the Select Committee on Fluoridation. The honourable member asked the Minister about the report to which I have referred, and the Minister in the course of his reply (and this is jesuitical in the extreme, I suggest) said this:

At present, as it (that is, Cabinet) has not considered this matter, it does not intend to introduce fluoridation.

In other words, apparently Cabinet is deliberately avoiding this issue. Therefore, the Minister is able to say (it is strictly true, I suggest, but it is the most jesuitical piece of argument I have heard) that the Government has no intention of introducing fluoridation. Quite apart from the way in which the Minister puts this comment, this shows, I suggest, a very great and regrettable deviation from duty on the part of Cabinet. Whether one is in favour or against fluoridation, it is certainly something which should be considered by Cabinet, after all the discussion that has gone on in the community about it. That is not bad enough, of course; let us remember, as I have already said, that the Minister was one of the five members of the Select Committee on

fluoridation which was appointed by this House in 1964. He was one of the members; the honourable the Attorney-General (the member for Norwood) was another of the members; the honourable member for Yorke Peninsula was the third member; and the honourable member for Burnside and I were the other two members on that committee. The committee brought in a report, and several of the paragraphs in the report were paragraphs agreed to only by a majority of the committee. The great bulk of the report, of course, was agreed to by all members of the committee, including the Minister of Works (as he now is) and the member for Yorke Peninsula; but on a number of paragraphs they dissented from the majority.

I point out (and this I suspect is one of the reasons why the matter has been deliberately ignored by Cabinet) that the Attorney-General (the member for Norwood) was just as strongly in favour of fluoridation as the Minister of Works, the honourable member for Hindmarsh, was against it; and the honourable member for Norwood voted for every paragraph in the report, as did the honourable member for Burnside and me. I will go further and say (and I am sorry that the Attorney-General is not here to hear me say this) that in the cross-examination of one of the witnesses who gave evidence against fluoridation the Attorney-General acquitted himself most ably. It was, in fact, one of the most searching and able and effective pieces of cross-examination I have ever heard from anyone, either on a committee at this House or in court, and if any member wants to see how cross-examination should be conducted I suggest that he look at the report of the Select Committee, I think at page 52, where one will see an excellent example of the way in which the evidence of an opponent of fluoridation was completely destroyed. That was done by the honourable member for Norwood, the present Attorney-General.

There were, as I have said, a majority of paragraphs in the report to which the honourable the Minister of Works and also the honourable member for Yorke Peninsula did not take exception at all, and those paragraphs for which they voted (and the paragraphs were put *seriatim*), are indeed entirely contrary to the comments the Minister of Works made in the *Advertiser* last month. I propose to refer to some of these paragraphs to show the absurdity of the present position which he has taken up. The first of these paragraphs is paragraph 6, which sums up the comments

of Dr. Fanning as given in the paper list month. It starts this way:

The standard of dental health in this State as elsewhere in Australia is very low. Professor Martin described it as a tremendous dental health problem. Dr. Fanning said that in a sample group of 2,500 first year high schoolchildren in the metropolitan area of Adelaide, only one boy and one girl had teeth free from decay. She described the standard of their teeth as staggeringly low.

Then paragraph 9 under the heading "More effective action required":

The disease of dental caries is so widespread that the only rational way to attack the problem is by prevention. The best remedy is to encourage the proper cleaning of teeth, the eating of the right kinds of food, and regular dental checks. Unfortunately not much impact has been made anywhere by attempts to educate the community in these tried methods of assuring dental health. The poor state of dental health in South Australia shows this and underlies the need for urgent action which will be more effective than that taken up to date. Otherwise the community will continue to suffer much avoidable suffering, discomfort, ill health and economical loss.

The Minister of Works voted in favour of that paragraph in the report, yet he has the gall to make the comments which were reported in the *Advertiser* last month. The report goes on (paragraph 10):

The weight of evidence from all those in favour of fluoridation and a number of those opposed to it is that the intake or external application to the teeth of fluoride results in a significant reduction of dental caries. Dr. Fanning said that the reduction in dental decay is at least 50 per cent and that most of the figures available from all parts of the world show a reduction of 60 per cent or over. Professor Martin said that it would eliminate about half of the decay in the community now.

Here is another particularly significant paragraph, in view of the comment by the Minister now that the cost of adding fluoride to our water would not be worthwhile:

Mr. Hodgson (and he, of course, strangely enough, is the Engineer for Water Supply, one of the senior officers in the Minister's department) said that the estimated capital cost in 1963 of fluoridating all water supplied to Adelaide and environs for a total population of about 720,000 (taking in areas as far south as Myponga and as far north as Gawler) was £71,000. The estimated annual cost was about £21,000. He calculated the estimated cost per person for all charges at about 7½d. per annum. The total cost of chlorinating these water supplies during the 1963-64 financial year was £102,500.

I do not know whether the Minister of Works is cutting out chlorination because it is too

expensive, but it is more expensive than fluoridation. He says that the cost of fluoridation, 7½d. a person a year, would be a waste of money. That is an infinitesimal cost to pay for fluoridation, for the benefits (as referred to by the witnesses) of a 50 per cent or 60 per cent reduction in tooth decay. I turn to the question of safety. Paragraph 26 was one from which the Minister did dissent, and it states:

Every witness dealt with this aspect. The overwhelming weight of evidence, both oral before the committee and documentary, is that fluoridation is completely proven as safe and as causing no harm or ill-effects of any description whatsoever. The following witnesses gave this, with reasons, as their personal, considered opinion:

Mr. Hodgson; Dr. Fanning; Messrs. Waterson, Lavis and Smart; Dr. Rad-den; Mr. Barrett; Prof. Martin and Dr. Flynn; Dr. Woodruff.

These people are all professional men and women, and I do not think that when the Minister dissented from the paragraph he was dissenting from the facts of the evidence these people had given. Mr. Hodgson is Engineer for Water and Sewage Treatment; Dr. Fanning, Messrs. Waterson, Lavis and Smart, Dr. Radden, Mr. Barrett, Prof. Martin and Dr. Flynn are dentists, and Dr. Woodruff is well known to all members as the Director-General of Public Health in this State. They are the people who gave evidence that fluoridation was safe. Then follows a paragraph in which 10 documents in favour of fluoridation were tendered to the committee, and read, no doubt by the Minister of Works. The paragraph states:

The firm and unequivocal opinion expressed in all these documents is that fluoridation is a completely safe and desirable procedure.

That paragraph was agreed to by the Minister. Yet he has the gall to suggest that there are probably more people opposed to fluoridation than in favour of it. This would be laughable if it were not so serious. I do not know what effect his comments would have had on his colleague, the Attorney-General, or on other members of the Government or his own Party. One can imagine that that effect would not have been a favourable one, because of the absolute absurdity of the situation and the position in which the Minister is trying to defend the comments he made originally on his return from a trip abroad. The Minister is the man whose responsibility it would be to decide and administer the fluoridation of our water supply. Apparently he has seen to it, or Cabinet has seen to it, that the matter will not be discussed. In charge of the Engineer-

ing and Water Supply Department (whose officers and other Government officers are in favour of fluoridation) is a man who is so bitterly opposed to it that he will go to the lengths I have described in his opposition. I suggest that that is a serious matter indeed. I much regret that the Minister of Works made the comments he did, and I am afraid that it shows that he is not (certainly with regard to this matter) a fit and proper person to be in the position which he holds.

Motion carried.

In Committee of Supply.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH (Premier and Treasurer) moved:

That towards defraying the expenses of the establishments and public services of the State for the year ending June 30, 1966, a sum of £10,000,000 be granted: provided that no payments for any establishments or services shall be made out of the said sum in excess of the rates voted for similar establishments or services on the Estimates for the financial year ended June 30, 1965, except increases of salaries or wages fixed or prescribed by any return made under any Act relating to the Public Service, or by any regulation, or by any award, order, or determination of any court or other body empowered to fix or prescribe wages or salaries.

Motion carried.

Resolution adopted by the House. Bill founded in Committee of Ways and Means, introduced by the Hon. Frank Walsh, and read a first time.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I move:

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

It follows the usual form of Supply Bills and provides for the issue of a further £10,000,000 to enable the Public Service to function during the period in which the Estimates of Expenditure and the Appropriation Bill will be considered by Parliament. Clause 2 provides for the issue and application of £10,000,000. Clause 3 provides for the payment of any increases in salaries or wages which may be authorized by any court or other body empowered to fix or prescribe salaries or wages. As I have said, I had hoped to have the Estimates of Expenditure ready by early September, and I believe that I also said, when I last introduced a Supply Bill, that it would carry us through to the end of July or August. I doubt whether it will be necessary to introduce a further Supply Bill before the Estimates of Expenditure are considered.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): I am concerned about clause 3 of the Bill. Similar provisions to those in this clause have always been

inserted in Supply Bills. Honourable members will recall that earlier this year the Government provided for special service payments to be made, the authority for that action having been provided in last year's Appropriation Act. However, I believe that that authority applied only to that Act and not to the provisions of this clause. Consequently, I doubt whether the service payments authorized last year could be paid under this clause. If the Treasurer can assure me that this is not so and that those payments can be made pursuant to this clause, I shall be satisfied.

Mr. Shannon: That money has been spent, anyway.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I raise the query, because I believe this appropriation would not cover over-award payments. Is the Treasurer satisfied that this provision is sufficient to meet the case of service payments?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: To the best of my knowledge appropriation has already been made for certain service payments. This Bill was completely examined before it was introduced, and if its provisions are to be challenged, the worst effect that could have would be to suspend payments that are being made at present until the Budget is approved. From my knowledge of the matter, I believe that when this Bill was drawn up for its introduction to the House its drafting covered the objections that have now been raised by the Leader.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

Clause 3—“Payments not to exceed last year's Estimates except in certain respects.”

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): This is the normal type of Bill introduced for Supply: it is not an Appropriation Bill. The Treasurer said that service pay was paid under the Appropriation Act for last year. The service pay was authorized by last year's Appropriation Act, section 6 of which states:

The Treasurer may out of the money appropriated by this Act make any payment for which money has been included in the supplementary estimates of expenditure of the Government of South Australia, passed by the House of Assembly for the financial year ending on the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-four notwithstanding that the payment is—

(a) in respect of a period prior to the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-three; or—

and this is the relevant provision—

(b) at a rate in excess of the rate which, during the period in respect of which the payment is made, was in force under any return made under the Acts relating to the public service, or pursuant to any regulation or any award, order or determination of a court or other body empowered to fix salaries or wages.

It can be seen that before the end of the year it was competent for the Government to introduce a Bill to pay over-award payments in respect of the year ended June 30. The point I make (and I make it only to protect the Government) is that this clause does not contain the original provision of the Appropriation Act.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: It doesn't need to.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am pleased to hear the Attorney-General say that. The reason officially given was that this clause enabled the payments to be made. However, if the previous legislation enabled them to be made last financial year, it does not enable them to be made this year, and the only moneys that I should think would be available to the Government to meet over-award payments would be the sum available under the Governor's warrant. A sum of £300,000 can be drawn under this warrant, and that may cover it.

Mr. Shannon: Other matters could arise that would require an excess warrant.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. I assure the Treasurer that we do not wish to delay the progress of this Bill, and I suggest that he consult the Parliamentary Draftsman on this matter.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH (Premier and Treasurer): The Supplementary Estimates for the year ended June 30, 1965, show that we provided for salaries and wages, service pay retrospective to January 1, 1965, £4,100. Clause 3 (1) of the present Bill states:

No payments for any establishment or service shall be made out of the said moneys in excess of the rates voted for similar establishments or services on the Estimates for the financial year ended on the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five.

What else do we have to do? I believe we are right in our contention, and that the Bill is valid.

Mr. SHANNON: I think that the Treasurer is taking what the Leader said wrongly. The Opposition is not trying to win a point. Both Parties made it clear prior to the election that service payments would be made. The special

clause we used in our Appropriation Act last financial year obviously enabled the payment of service pay in excess of award rates. I suggest that it would be embarrassing to the Government if it found that by virtue of its appropriation here it was not able to make these service payments except by means of excess warrants. The Treasurer will be aware that such excess warrants are a safety valve for a Government and are necessary because a Government cannot possibly have any foreknowledge of what may arise. If the Government uses the money in this fund for this present purpose, obviously it cannot use it later. Although it is the Treasurer's job to know just what is required, it seems to me that a thorough examination of this matter is desirable. I do not know how urgent this Supply is, but I do not think it would need to be delayed long in order to have the matter thoroughly clarified. If what the Treasurer says is correct, I have no complaint to make, for the Government is responsible for carrying out its own policy. However, the Leader of the Opposition has had long experience in the office of Treasurer, and his raising of this matter leads me to think that he has a point that should be examined. It seems to me that the Government would be well advised to make certain that the provision it is seeking to make is actually made in the Bill now before us.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I do not feel disposed to go over the ground again. I am satisfied that we provided last year for service pay, and that there is no value in adjourning this matter. We are sure of our grounds.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have shown the point to the Parliamentary Draftsman, who is examining it. Notwithstanding what has been said, I still doubt that this clause covers service payments. I have no objection to passing the clause, but I suggest—

Mr. Shannon: We won't be embarrassed about it.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No, it will not embarrass me. It is a point that could be looked at within about five minutes, but if the Treasurer is satisfied that is all there is to it. I have done my duty in raising the point.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Attorney-General): The Government is perfectly satisfied that all the necessary provision is made by this clause. We made the necessary appropriation for service pay to be paid last year, therefore the rates provided as a result of that

appropriation stand. Clause 3 relates only to some payment in excess of what has already been authorized by Parliament. The further proviso relates only to further increases in pay of a different nature: it does not relate to service pay at all. As this clause stands, it is a normal provision, and in no way is the service pay already provided for by this Parliament affected by this Bill. There is not the slightest reason why this Bill cannot go through, for the point raised by the Leader has no substance.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: If the rates were prescribed, there is no difficulty about it, but I doubt very much whether the rates were prescribed.

Clause passed.

Title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

#### LOAN ESTIMATES.

In Committee.

(Continued from August 19. Page 1156.)

Railways, £2,800,000.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): This allocation of £2,800,000 compares with £3,199,974 spent last year, so an appreciably smaller amount is provided for the railways this year, notwithstanding the somewhat larger overall Loan Estimates. The estimate for the ways and works branch is not substantially different from last year, except that slightly more is available this year for ballasting, buildings and platforms and such like, and I agree entirely that that is necessary because the safe working of our railways depends on the state of the tracks. However, the sum set aside for rolling stock is only £1,798,000, compared with £1,920,000 last year. This represents a steep reduction. The Treasurer has announced the Railways Department intends to compete more for the carriage of goods, and he has publicly expressed disappointment with the quantity carried at present compared with that carried five years ago. If the amount allotted for new rolling stock is to be decreased, how can the Railways Department carry more goods? There does not seem to be a programme to build new rolling stock this year: the work that has been done is to continue, but nothing new is to be included. How does the Government expect to earn an extra £1,000,000 revenue if less rolling stock is available?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH (Premier and Treasurer): I assure the Leader that all the

additional £1,000,000 revenue will not come from the carriage of extra freight. A Bill to be introduced later for a co-ordinated transport system in this State will indicate the Government's intentions about increased railway revenue. When the Loan Estimates were introduced, there were many things that this Government wanted to do but which we could not accomplish. A careful examination was made of the Islington railway workshop. This workshop will continue to perform certain work, but whatever sum is provided on the Loan Estimates, there will be no reduction of staff. The sum of £463,000 has been provided for progress payments on the construction of 28 diesel-electric locomotives and spares. These were ordered before we took office, but some are now in service. A further 15 workmen's sleeping vans are to be constructed so that employees can be transported from place to place where work is to be done, with a much improved standard of accommodation compared with what they had. Some of the vans have sufficient room for workshops to be attached. Four joint stock passenger cars for the Adelaide-Melbourne express, and four cars for use as mobile camp quarters are to be constructed immediately. The latter will be converted suburban coaches, and are known as A.W.U. camp cars. They will be sent north and will be associated with the standardization work. The louvre vans for carrying goods are to have four doors instead of two and the vans will be longer. Unfortunately, there will not be enough to carry out all the work desired. A careful examination was made of these problems, and the best possible solution arrived at in regard to this line.

Mr. HEASLIP: Last year, as in every year, the cartage of wheat was the main source of revenue for the Railways Department. Naturally, its revenue depends on the success of the harvest. At the last harvest road hauliers were loading wheat from the silo at Booleroo Centre and carting it direct to Port Pirie, simply because the railways could not handle that produce. Under what authority it was refused, I do not know, but a silo at Appila would have considerably relieved the position. I should like to know, too, whether the Treasurer can say what will happen under a co-ordinated road and railway plan.

People in the North depend on the 3ft. 6in. gauge, and they will be in real difficulty if the railways cannot cart their produce to the nearest port (unless, of course, they are permitted to use the roads as they have done in the past). No attempt has been made by

the Government to remedy the situation. It has announced that it will raise £1,000,000 revenue and that it will supply a better service for people who use the railways, but if the rolling stock and means of transporting produce are not available, people in the North certainly cannot receive an adequate service.

Mr. SHANNON: I point out that lock-up vans are ideal and profitable for the railways. The produce of the vans is sold to a client who wants to transport it to another State, and the vans themselves provide security for the consignee, and a minimum of bookkeeping and upkeep for the railways. The revival of the railways has been a major factor concerning other parts of the world, for many railways have inevitably had to compete with the roads. However, of course, the cheapest form of transport for bulk materials is by rail. No comparison exists between the few men required to shift, say, 1,500 tons of produce by rail and the many having to transport the same quantity by road. Further, the present railway policy in this State discourages passenger transport. I do not blame the present Government for that policy because it has not been sufficiently long in office to change it, but the present trend appears to be, "Don't worry about passengers; they don't pay, anyway." I do not approve of that.

Mr. McKee: You agreed with it for a long time, though.

Mr. SHANNON: The honourable member can be facetious if he wishes. I know that certain steps can be taken to improve the Railways Department's revenue. We desire fully-loaded rolling stock to make rail transport pay. No attempt has been made to compete with road transport to other States. Indeed, if an attempt were made, road hauliers would soon have to pull up their socks. People could easily be attracted to use the railways. Many people park their cars along the terraces bordering the city of Adelaide. Our streets are cluttered with vehicular traffic. I fear that if comfortable rail transport is not provided this position may become further aggravated. I notice that 10 suburban railcars are to be built. I should think provision would need to be made for their upkeep and replacement. I believe we require improved passenger rolling stock for country travel as well as metropolitan travel. The cost of providing more comfortable rolling stock would be more than compensated by the extra passengers that would be attracted. Private enterprise would not allow this opportunity to slip through its fingers.

A promise, not a threat, was made that legislation would be introduced later in the session to deal with these problems, and I hope it is introduced. The provision for railways is inadequate to meet the expansion forecast in the Labor Party policy. I notice that £8,000 is provided for sundry rolling stock items—apparently for the standardization of the Port Pirie to Cockburn line. However, I do not believe much rolling stock could be built for £8,000.

Mr. COURCEL: I think the Treasurer suggested that car parking spaces might be provided at suburban railway stations. This would encourage commuters, and is an interesting proposition. I am concerned about the employment position at the Islington railway workshops. The allocation for this year for railways is about £400,000 less than last year's allocation; £122,000 less is provided for the rolling stock branch alone. Obviously last year's programme was bigger than the programme envisaged for this year. I hope that the Treasurer will say definitely that there will be no slackening whatsoever in the employment position at the Islington railway workshops because of the reduced allocation.

Mr. CASEY: I am a little concerned about the position at the Peterborough railway yards. Portion of the rolling stock for this division will shortly be converted for use on the standard gauge, and work is progressing satisfactorily. I believe that more attention should be paid to rolling stock, particularly that used for passenger services operating between Adelaide and Broken Hill in order that the railways may be able to compete on more favourable terms with road transport. Because of section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution, road transport is able to run a passenger service from Adelaide to Broken Hill. This puts the railways at a certain disadvantage because of the break of gauge at Terowie. For this reason the best air-conditioned coaches should be used. The amount of passenger traffic on the line between Adelaide and Broken Hill is small compared with the traffic by road transport, namely, Pioneer Tours and Bonds Tours. We cannot do much about this because of section 92. Many people work on stations that are anything from 20 to 40 miles distant from the railhead, and I consider that these people should be entitled to some preference regarding transport to Adelaide. At present the only passenger train either going to or coming from Broken Hill arrives at these stations at anything between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. and often these people have to leave home at 11 o'clock

at night to make absolutely sure of catching the train. This does not give them much opportunity for sleep during that night. Also, the conditions at the railway stations are primitive on present-day standards. I ask the Government whether something can be done to eliminate the inconvenience that I have referred to in this Division of the railways. I have no doubt that when the standard gauge eventually comes through from Broken Hill a first-class modern railway service will operate in that part of the State.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: Some few years ago the Railways Commissioner saw fit to close down a railway siding at Wonuarra in my district. Although I raised no objection to the siding being closed, I did object to the decision to remove the loopline from the siding, because this could have been used for trucking grain and unloading superphosphate. This siding is fairly close to the Paringa siding, where the South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited has been endeavouring to erect a silo. Unfortunately, because Paringa is close to the river the soil conditions would not allow for the erection of a concrete vertical type silo: the soil would have had to be piled, at considerable additional cost. Further negotiations have taken place, and now the idea is to erect a silo further away from the Paringa siding. A spot which we call the mile and three-quarter post, situated that distance from the Paringa siding down towards this siding at Wonuarra, would be an ideal place for a silo. As the Commissioner (I maintain) has made a mistake in taking away the siding from Wonuarra, I think the Minister of Transport should favourably consider providing a siding at this one and three-quarter mile post.

Another feature is that many hundreds of thousands of tons of a certain type of rock has to be moved to the Chowilla dam site, and the Paringa siding, which normally would take these trucks in, is extremely small; it is jammed up because of the river cliff alongside it, and there is insufficient room in this siding for this purpose. Therefore, if the Commissioner or the Minister was to see fit to put in a siding at this one and three-quarter mile post it would assist the Engineering and Water Supply Department people, for it would give them greater access and greater freedom of movement. The Railways would have plenty of room for trucks, and the road transport vehicles could keep moving between this proposed siding and the Chowilla dam site, which is about 18 miles away. On the other hand,

it would also assist in the lifting of grain, because the bulk handling co-operative could then erect a concrete vertical silo at that spot, for as it is away from the river the soil would support such a silo. Putting a siding in at this spot would pay the Railways in the long run. I plead with the Minister to favourably consider putting this siding at the one and three-quarter mile post, for at a meeting at Paringa a week or two ago the local people were unanimous that this was the right place for a siding.

The honourable member for Onkaparinga said that the Railways Department should modernize rolling stock in order to attract passenger traffic. Although that may suit the metropolitan area, it would not suit the country areas at present. I think what the honourable member meant was that road traffic was becoming so heavy in the metropolitan area at peak periods that it would be better if people left their motor vehicles further out and then came into the city by train. Of course, the problem then is that all the people leave the train at North Terrace. An underground railway system in the city of Adelaide would remedy the situation, but this would cost £50,000,000 or £60,000,000. We have to consider this problem in the future. Motor traffic in Adelaide is increasing all the time. Many people now drive as close as they can to the city, park their cars, and go to their employment by either taxi-cab or bus. That does not suit the Railways Department, which does not provide transport from the east of the city. If the Railways Department wants to compete, it must be bold and courageous and work out an underground system to suit the city, not just for next year but for some time in the future. When we are dealing with town planning for 25 or 30 years ahead, we must consider these things. Obviously the metropolitan railways system is inadequate and inefficient, and it cannot handle the problem.

Mr. McKee: That can be put down to the inefficiency of the last Government.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: I do not know that it can be put down to anyone. Several years ago, on my return from overseas, I advocated forward planning and suggested that an underground system in conjunction with the Morphett Street bridge would help to solve this problem. I was the first public speaker in South Australia to advocate this to give a north-south route to the city. The railways system is the chief method of carting goods in bulk over long

distances, and it should provide a quicker turn-around of rolling stock. Last year 52,000,000 bushels of wheat was delivered to the Wheat Board, of which 42,000,000 was handled by the South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited. During the harvest period, however, we could not get enough trucks to get the wheat away from the silos and enable farmers to continue deliveries. Consequently the silos became full, and farmers could not get grain to Port Adelaide. Because of the present bountiful rains, I expect this year's harvest to be as big as last year's. The silo at Port Adelaide will help to keep the silos open during the peak period, but this will not be fully effective unless there are sufficient trucks to bring grain to it. These Loan Estimates do not provide for the purchase of any more rolling stock to give a quicker turn-around.

During the last harvest many farmers ordered superphosphate to gain the concessional advantage. It was 10 days before some trucks came back from the South-East to be used for wheat deliveries. This showed that there was insufficient rolling stock. This year the crop will be of 52,000,000 or 53,000,000 bushels and unless the Railways Department obtains more rolling stock, and particularly the types of truck to handle the increasing bulk grain traffic, we shall be in trouble again. Most members have seen the bottom hopper trucks in use in some places. These trucks are made of aluminium, and are excellent. This State has insufficient rolling stock, and it is not modern. In New South Wales the hauls are greater, but in this State we have long hauls to the Port Adelaide Division. With the broadening of the gauge from Port Pirie, some of this type of truck could be used, and there would be a quicker turn-around. I am sure that the railway engineers can design trucks so that they need not be used exclusively for grain. I ask the Government to alert the different departments to the problems of long haulage of grain and superphosphate. The railways system is inadequate for this cartage, and this line on the Loan Estimates does nothing to help the problem. Unless something is done about the railways system it will be in a worse mess than now.

Mr. NANKIVELL: The sum of £388,000 is provided for ballasting, relaying, buildings, platforms, etc., and I should like to know whether the completion of the reconstruction of the Bordertown railway marshalling yards is included. The Minister wrote to me in May stating that if possible money would be made

available this year to complete the work, but I have had no confirmation from him that this has been included in these Estimates; in fact, I have heard rumours to the contrary. As this work has not been done, it is throwing a considerable strain on adjacent sidings. The Cannawigara siding, for instance, has been handling far more superphosphate than it was ever designed to handle. Keith is getting far more than its fair share of the superphosphate coming into the South-East, because people are being asked to pay 5s. a ton extra to have superphosphate carted out of Bordertown because the transporters will not go into the yards in their present condition as they are inadequate for the amount of business being done. Will the Treasurer see whether or not something can be done this year to make money available to complete the reconstructing of the yards at Bordertown so that the volume of traffic through the yards can be handled more expeditiously and conveniently? I note also that money is provided again this year for further re-laying of the Peebinga railway line. What mileage is it expected will be relaid during this coming financial year?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: There is room for an improved passenger service throughout the State. The Railways Commissioner has effected all possible savings but there is a need for a traffic officer with more authority than the present one has. I advocate maximum use of railway property at all suburban stations. The roads are overcrowded and drivers are blaming each other for the congestion. We should try to make the passenger service on the railways pay. I am pleased to say that we have anticipated the requests of the member for Ridley (Hon. T. C. Stott). The points he has raised have already been discussed and considered by us. I doubt whether I can help Bordertown. The money provided here would not cover that so the answer is "No".

Line passed.

Harbors Board, £1,301,000.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Government is providing more money this year than last year for this line. This department has a certain record with Loan money. For many years the practice has been for it to submit to the Treasurer a request for substantial sums of Loan money and then to fail to use it all. Last year Parliament appropriated for the Harbors Board £1,600,000, of which it spent only £1,071,000. Difficulties have been encountered by the department in getting work done, but it should

bear this in mind when it asks for appropriations: it should ask for money that experience has shown it can spend. I am not criticizing the Treasurer or the Government, because it happened when my Government was in office, but the Committee should be more critical in future of requests for money by the Harbors Board because, if it receives money that is not ultimately spent by it, another department may be embarrassed. Much work approved by the Public Works Committee has been left undone.

The harbors of South Australia today are not up to standard. Larger ships are becoming available, and although deepening of the Port River has been approved, it will not reach the standard of other Australian ports. The tide rise can be used effectively and this does assist. I congratulate the Government for allocating to this department an amount in excess of that spent last year, but I hope the work schedule will eventuate. Improvements are necessary at Thevenard, as there is an opportunity for a major oversea industry in this area, provided ships of suitable size can be berthed. Some of the work referred to the Public Works Committee has been approved, and no doubt the harbour will be improved to enable the expansion of the gypsum trade with Japan. At present we are spending a large sum to provide a modern railway line to the gypsum field, which should be completed this year. However, this expenditure would not be warranted, if the harbour could not handle the larger vessels. I hope the programme outlined by the Treasurer will materialize, and that in future the Government will pay more attention to this State's outports, as they do not feature prominently in this programme.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Government cannot be over-generous in these matters, and I am sure if it allowed the Harbors Board's requests things would have been different. No doubt there is a need for a new building for the board at Port Adelaide. During the election campaign I visited different places on Eyre Peninsula where local residents suggested that deep-sea ports be constructed. At Thevenard, we have provided £46,000 to complete the port, which is expected to be a 25ft. depth at low water. However, we cannot fix everything up in six months. I have every confidence in the reports tabled by the Public Works Committee, and I have no reason to be inquisitive about matters that come before it. I am glad that, for once, I can say "Thank you" to the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. McKEE: The Minister of Marine recently visited Port Pirie and knows of the

conditions under which small craft are moored there. As the position is desperate, and as several applications for mooring accommodation are awaiting consideration, will the Minister of Marine say whether any of the money provided on this line will be spent on this facility?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS (Minister of Marine): The money allocated under this line is not for that purpose. The Government acknowledges its responsibility for fishing craft, and is considering the submissions made by a deputation, which I received when I was at Port Pirie, in regard to providing better facilities for fishermen. However, in regard to pleasure craft, we cannot go beyond what we told the Port Pirie council, namely, that the Government would assist in providing a slipway and in improving the foreshore. The Government appreciates the national importance of the fishing industry as well as work done by men connected with this industry.

Mr. SHANNON: After a difficult investigation, the Public Works Committee partly resolved the difficulties existing at Thevenard. I agree with the member for Flinders (Hon. G. G. Pearson) in that the final answer is to provide a new approach channel, but that would be a costly undertaking. The committee, in its wisdom, agreed to the compromise put forward by the Harbors Board and its engineers to re-light the existing channel, so that the port could accommodate shipping at both day and night. I think the money provided in this year's Estimates is to complete the deepening of the present channel to 25ft., so that it will accommodate vessels up to about 14,000 tons.

Fortunately, some of the extra length required in extending the pier was obtained at its shoreward end, which saved a considerable sum. South Australian coastal waters are fairly shallow, except at, say, Port Stanvac, and much money has to be spent in deepening harbours to take the shipping that they would otherwise be denied. The Harbors Board has long awaited a new bucket dredger. Much dredging work is required, especially in the Port River and at Port Pirie, and the provision of this dredger will greatly assist the Harbors Board in carrying out its deepening projects. I am pleased to see this provision on the Estimates.

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

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Leader of the Opposition mentioned the rather embarrassing lack of water depth in our ports and

the Treasurer said that he, of course, had no objection to our action in procuring from overseas and setting up at Port Neill an instrument that enables the swell characteristics to be ascertained. Indeed, the Treasurer should be pleased that we did this because I think he would be grateful if we could save money, particularly £1,000,000. Other ports will be established (Giles Point and Port Neill are the first), and in establishing them it is necessary to face the problem of exposed location.

The instrument to which I referred enables us to decide whether a location is so exposed that it requires a breakwater and at a place like Port Neill, according to a rough estimate given me in good faith, the procurement of rock of sufficient size, stability and hardness to act as a satisfactory breakwater for many years would cost about £1,000,000. This would be necessary to protect that port from the ocean swell. There is much misunderstanding about ocean swell and some people think that water is calm if waves are not breaking and if there are no white caps in the sea. However, such is not the case and a swell can rise as much as 10ft. in the ocean without breaking. Swell cannot be overcome because, whatever action is taken in regard to a ship, the swell will lift it and grind it along its moorings. I caused the instrument to be procured because I believed that it would be useful to all places where there had been any doubt at all about the feasibility of providing a port in exposed water. I believe Port Neill may be shown to be a borderline case where a port could probably be built without a breakwater and, if it can be, then it would become an economic proposition. This port would serve the whole of the eastern side of Eyre Peninsula saving wheat growers in the counties of Buxton and Jervois about £70,000 a year in rail freight, and enabling the Railways Commissioner to make more efficient use of rolling stock and save him the costly haul over high ground between Wharminda and Cummins. It would enable the rapidly developing hinterland of the proposed port to have an outlet to the sea. The increase in production on Eyre Peninsula will require a greater capacity than the two existing outports can provide.

In the last 10 years, the wheat production on Eyre Peninsula has increased annually with last year's production being 18,000,000 bushels. The deep-sea port committee of Port Neill wishes to see the Minister in due course about this matter, and I know he will listen to what it has to say. Currently we are providing for the second of a series of

instalments for the deepening of the Port River, and to this there is no alternative. The Port River has the advantage of a tide of about 9ft. between the mean low tide and the mean high tide, which improves the effectiveness of Port Adelaide as a port. At Wallaroo, Port Lincoln and Thevenard the maximum tide that can be expected is between 4ft. and 5ft.

The member for Onkaparinga said that the present provision at the Thevenard port would enable a 14,000-ton vessel fully loaded to get out on a favourable tide. I do not altogether agree with him. The depth, width and shape of the channel at Thevenard present problems. The channel has a double dog leg; there are two almost right-angle bends. In addition, the tides and winds tend to run across the channel so that a pilot taking a vessel out of the port is faced with these problems as well as the problems of the channel. It may be that a 14,000-ton vessel of the most favourable design and dimensions could get out of the channel fully loaded but a longer vessel or a wider vessel (both of which would require a lesser draught) would be more difficult to manoeuvre in a narrow channel. So this problem comes up whichever way one looks at it. I point out to the Minister that whatever we do in spending money on our ports from now on we must look very carefully at the possibility of providing additional water. I sometimes wonder whether it is economical to spend very much more on existing ports, or whether we should look to the creation of new ports which would offer deeper draft facilities. Over the whole world, port authorities are bidding against one another for trade, and industry will go to those ports where they can get bigger bulk vessels in and out. Whichever port offers the best facilities will get the trade.

I am looking a long way ahead now, but I believe the Minister will agree it is necessary to look a long way ahead and to plan accordingly. As well as seeing that expenditure on our existing ports is sufficient at least to maintain our services for the time being, we should look ahead to the possibility of establishing perhaps new ports which offer better draft facilities. It is a fact of history that if we were establishing ports at the present time with today's knowledge and today's shipping registers before us we probably would not establish ports at some of the places where they now exist; probably we would never have established a port inside the Port River or inside the river at Port Pirie. We have excellent deep water further up the gulf from Port Pirie opposite the site where it was considered

a salt works might be established. With today's knowledge probably we could have done rather better than we have done with some of the other ports around our coastline. I am not blaming anyone for that; it is just a fact of history that has arisen.

The same remarks I have addressed regarding Port Neill apply to Giles Point. Here again, we have a recommendation by the committee regarding the establishment of a port there, and I hope that in the survey the Minister has authorized there will not be a negative approach to this problem. I know that from the point of view of the immediate present there is not much inducement for the Harbors Board to build new ports, because the board says that after all is said and done the exports and imports must go through the existing ports and therefore it does not attract new revenue by spending more money at alternative ports. However, I believe that is a short-range view, and I urge that due consideration be given to looking at the possibility of providing ports with deeper water.

I am glad to know that the big dredger the Harbors Board has had built will prove to be the economic advantage the honourable member for Onkaparinga suggested it would be; but here again we now have on a world basis dredging companies that are prepared to tender for dredging works at a favourable price, and provided the dredging requirements are of the type that can be handled by the companies' type of dredger, they can do the work much more cheaply than we can do it with our own equipment.

I address these remarks to the Committee in the hope that due consideration will be given to long-range planning for deeper water here, because it is a known fact that the nature of cargoes is changing from general cargo to bulk cargo, and that the latter lends itself to big ships of deeper craft. I believe that in the lifetime of most of us in this Parliament (even some of us older ones) we shall see the day when 40,000-ton bulk vessels are common around our coastline, and if we cannot provide for them some other port in Australia will, and some other industries in other States or countries will get the benefit that we should be getting.

Mr. RODDA: I was interested this afternoon to hear the Treasurer's comment about Port Neill. I support my colleague, the member for Flinders, in this matter. I spent my early days at this port, and I know something of its potential. As the member for Flinders has said, Eyre Peninsula comprises about one-third

of this State's area, and is particularly good for wheatgrowing. Port Neill offers an outlet for shipping, as the water is deep in the area where a meter has been measuring the swell. If it is finally decided that there should be a port there, this machine will pay a dividend. Although this is not in my district, I am interested in the area, and I support the remarks made by the member for Flinders.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: I am disappointed that no provision is made for a boat haven at Thevenard, which has been sought for many years by fishermen there. At one time a boat haven was offered to them, but it was refused. However, the present fishermen are a different generation. About 100 boats are used there, and a boat haven or landing stage is needed. Like the ancient Greeks these fishermen bring in their boats alongside the rocks and pull their catches up the rocky cliffs. A small sum has been provided to level the sandhills, and I hope the Minister will further consider this matter.

Mr. HALL: I should like to comment on a borderline function of the Harbors Board. Through the good offices of the previous Minister of Marine, officers of the Harbors Board investigated the possibility of building an embankment at St. Kilda so that people going to that beach for recreation would be able to get to deeper water. A fairly comprehensive investigation was made, and an estimate was given of costs that was well above the estimate made by the Salisbury council's engineer. Because of this, the council's project to build a large-scale embankment with financial help from the Government has been shelved for the time. The local progress association and the council have accomplished wonders at the foreshore in the last year by directing solid rubbish fill to be used to form an embankment through the mangroves alongside the natural creek. This is an example, although relatively small yet, of what can be done if proper direction is given to the dumping of rubbish. In the last week or two I read with interest a report that areas for dumping in the metropolitan area would be exhausted in the next few years and that metropolitan councils would be looking for other dumping grounds. I have been told that in the United Kingdom great use has been made of the dumping of suitable rubbish to build up hundreds of acres of recreational areas. So far, this has been a novel method but it will be a valuable addition to recreational areas if suitable rubbish can be diverted into places like St. Kilda, where in 15 months we have constructed 300

to 400 yards of embankment towards the open sea, to be used by motor vehicles.

Recently, a Water Recreational Areas Committee has been appointed by the Minister of Agriculture. Some body has to do the practical planning of these areas and assist councils. The Harbors Board is the logical body to do this. I urge that more thought be given to the disposal of our solid rubbish so that greater use can be made of low-lying coastal areas. An officer of the board has been to Port Broughton. He has not made an extensive investigation but has given an opinion to the local council about its plan for damming off an area of sea water south of the jetty to form a water skiing and recreation pond. That demonstrates the need for councils to have the advice and help of the board. Further requests will be made to the Minister and the board for assistance in these matters. Trained men are not easy to get, but I hope the Minister will help every council that approaches him for advice on waterfront planning, and that the board will assist as a matter of course. The Port Broughton Council could not be expected to know much about the building up of its foreshore areas. I commend the previous Government for the assistance given and hope the present Government will enlarge on that assistance.

Mr. HUGHES: I commend the Government for its policy of providing additional money for the outports that serve our rural areas. This is not the only line doing that. The port of Wallaroo suffered a period when it could not accommodate the ships coming to load bulk grain, but the previous Government made money available to deepen the channel and provide a swinging basin, thus allowing ships of a greater tonnage to enter the port. After money is spent at a port to provide for modern shipping, larger ships are often built. Ships coming to Wallaroo in the past to load a cargo of 10,000 tons had difficulty in leaving the port, and often had to wait for a rising tide. That difficulty was overcome eventually. Perhaps ships of up to 40,000 tons will be built to trade in these waters. Shipowners do not like to charter vessels on a two-port system. When it is done it is usually the farmer who pays in the long run.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The fishing industry in South Australia this year has been allocated a greatly reduced amount although it is expanding rapidly. It has had considerably more assistance compared with the industry in

other States, and that is recognized by fishermen in those States. Eyre Peninsula has received much assistance, as has had the remainder of the State. Much money has been spent in the South-East to provide safer conditions for vessels, but further expenditure is necessary. The programme of important works must be continued.

This year the tuna haul was slightly reduced from that of last year, which was unusual, as records have been broken almost every year for some time. The reduction this year was due to the weather and other factors, because more ships were fishing. At Port Lincoln better unloading facilities are required. I expected to see provision for a new ship to be built this year, but nothing has been provided. Can the Treasurer comment on the possibility of a new ship being built, as one is urgently needed for deeper sea investigations, which cannot be undertaken by the present vessels?

I mentioned earlier the improvements in fishing facilities at Ceduna and Thevenard that are urgently required. Much ground will be lost because of no provision in the Estimates. The industry is continuously expanding, and I doubt that, even if the programme were doubled next year, we could recover the ground that will be lost this year. Will the Treasurer say why the fishing industry must suffer a reduction?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The fishing industry has not been forgotten. There is reduced expenditure this year, because the cake just is not large enough. A provision was earlier made but later had to be removed.

Line passed.

Engineering and Water Supply, £13,350,000.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: A reduction in the sum provided for metropolitan sewers should have been avoided. For some years now the expenditure by the department has not been enough to install sufficient sewers in the metropolitan area. We have had completed houses not being occupied because of the lack of sewer and water connections. Indeed, this prompted my question (on notice today) whether the difficulty had been overcome. The Treasurer told me today that 211 houses are ready for occupation but not occupied because no water and sewer connections are available. The position has been chronic for many years, and it does not help by reducing the amount of money available. Last year we provided £4,465,000 on this item for the Adelaide area, but this year the amount is £4,371,000. This is a substantial reduction at a time when we are anxious to catch up the lag. Members of the

Public Works Committee know that some areas not sewered at present can only be sewered at considerable expense, yet in those areas some houses are occupied. The previous Government could have been criticized fairly at times for not having caught up the lag. I do not criticize the Government: I ask the Treasurer to examine the problem. I could enumerate several items in the Estimates that are desirable but which are not so urgent as this.

For many years the Engineering and Water Supply Department has been stepping up its works programme. Last year it exceeded the programme set by Parliament and finished up by over-spending a considerable sum. A large sum more than is provided this year was provided last year. It is one thing to get something moving and another matter to slow it down after it has gained momentum. Many contracts have been let and the Minister of Works will be faced with a grave problem in keeping within the Estimates without incurring substantial retrenchments in his department. These works are desirable and necessary; country areas particularly are crying out for water to be made available, as a result of which there would be a substantial improvement in the State's agricultural economy.

Last year the Murray River Commission spent £195,000 on the Chowilla dam, and the sum provided for this year is £250,000. This seems to show that little progress is being made on the dam. The total sum for the project this year will be £1,000,000, of which Victoria will provide £250,000, the Commonwealth £500,000 (this year the Commonwealth will pay New South Wales' share) and South Australia £250,000. This project will cost about £17,000,000 to complete.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Similar arrangements between the States applied last year.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. It means that this project is starting very slowly. We must remember that time is not on our side, because the project must be finished by 1970. Anyone who has seen any of the reports about what the water position will be in South Australia by 1970 will realize that the project must be finished by then.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: There will be no more water from the Darling after that, anyway.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: No, the Menindee agreement cuts out in 1970. We only have to see the result of the dry season this year, when already we are in trouble regarding the quality of the water in the River Murray, to realize this is a project

upon which we in South Australia cannot loiter: it must be granted a high priority if this State is to be assured of an adequate water supply after 1970. If we make only £250,000 available this year we shall have to provide very heavy amounts in subsequent years unless we are going to slow the project down, and I hope that that will not be the policy of the Government. I would have preferred the payments to be averaged out over the whole of the period of construction.

Mr. Shannon: South Australia should be paying in about £750,000 a year if we are going to complete it by 1970.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: It seems that our total contribution will be more than £4,000,000. The information I was given is that the estimate of £14,000,000 for the dam has been revised and that the cost might be £16,000,000 or £17,000,000. That would not surprise me, because a considerable time has elapsed since the Engineering and Water Supply Department made a provisional estimate, and that was at a time when it had only a limited amount of information upon which to make the estimate. This means that because of the small amount provided this year the Loan funds will be hit substantially in the next two or three years to meet the requirements that will arise. In my opinion the Chowilla dam is something on which we can loiter only at our peril, for it is obvious from all the reports that from 1970 onwards the water position in South Australia could be desperate unless the dam is operating by then and impounding a substantial amount of water. Originally this work was scheduled to be completed in 1968, not 1970, and it was planned that sufficient water would be impounded by 1970 to meet our requirements. No matter how desperately short of Loan funds we are, it is false economy to allow water and sewer programmes to lag behind. The delay in relation to the Bolivar treatment works during the previous Government's term of office was caused not by lack of money but by a shortage of labour and materials. The chronic position that has existed for many years should be remedied so that as soon as houses are completed they can be occupied by people anxious to move into them.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Leader has mentioned 200 houses, but he knows as well as I that costly work on sewer connections and pumping connections has had to be done in the inner metropolitan area. Even if connections had been made to the houses he mentioned, the treatment plant would not have been available.

Of the seven and a quarter miles of the Adelaide-Bolivar trunk sewer, four and a half miles has been laid, and it is expected that the undertaking will be completed by June, 1966. The sum of £2,632,000 is provided to complete the work at Bolivar, and this will enable sewer connections to be made in areas developed after 1966. For years there have been houses needing sewer connections, but we are going a long way towards catching up with these connections, which will be made after the next financial year is over, if not before. We have had to wait for the treatment works to be proceeded with before doing anything about this matter. The Loan Fund did not finish in credit from last year. The Estimates were exceeded by more than £1,250,000 in the Waterworks Department alone. Did the Government anticipate that it would overspend to that extent, or what was the purpose? That overspending last year made it difficult for us to calculate an accurate estimate for this year.

As soon as the Chowilla dam is completed, we shall need to start thinking about a similar dam elsewhere. So little is happening there that can be seen that one wonders whether any money at all has been spent, yet according to reports the work is up to schedule. If that is so, it is most satisfactory because great difficulties have been encountered in finding reasonable foundations. If they are working to schedule, what more can we expect?

There are 200 houses vacant awaiting sewerage facilities. I will find out what is the reason for that. If it is the inability of the treatment works to cater for these houses, there must have been something wrong with the planning of the area. It is all very well to accuse us of not proceeding fast enough but, unless we can timber the trenches that take the sewerage pipes, the men will be working without proper safety precautions. All this means a slowing down of the work and extra cost and time. Although these areas do not appear to be low-lying, if we try to put sewers through them without pumping facilities the result is like the water at Ascot Park that floods into backyards. Members, do not be too critical of the sewerage work being done.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have administered this department for seven years and know the problems associated with it. I sympathize with the Treasurer. I agree that sewerage in low-lying areas is costly: it costs about £600 a house to provide the mains and connections. The Treasurer was not so understanding when he was in Opposition, but he

has probably learned much since he has had to finance these undertakings. He is not quite correct when he says that sewerage for certain areas was not provided because of lack of treatment work capacity. The main function of the Bolivar treatment works is to take over the operations of the Islington sewage farm. Certain parts of Wingfield and areas towards Port Adelaide could not be seweraged until the Bolivar trunk mains reached a certain stage in their construction. I am not criticizing the Treasurer, but I suggest that at this time we should not be getting further behind.

If money is available later in the year from a possible underspending in another department I hope the Engineer-in-Chief, through the Minister, will be able to make use of it. When the Bolivar treatment works is completed much money can be used to sewer additional areas in the metropolitan area. Some of the load from the Port Adelaide main will thus be diverted into the Bolivar trunk sewer, which will lead to an increased capacity in relation to housing areas in other places. That is the main purpose of the Bolivar sewage farm, and I hope that this work will proceed. The project initially involved an expenditure of £12,000,000 to which we devoted £2,239,000 last year, and I am pleased to see a little more allocated to the scheme this year. Last year we provided £1,056,000 for sewerage to newer areas, but this year the figure is down to £445,000 which is less than half.

In regard to the water supply scheme in the Tod River water district, the total expenditure is reduced from £693,000 (last year) to £614,000 this year. Last year £20,000 was allocated for exploratory work in the Poldia basin, and this year the sum is £2,000—one-tenth of last year's sum. I urge the Treasurer to watch this position, because the former Government undertook to prepare for a large-scale exploration of the basin, and I hope that that work can continue. I doubt whether £2,000 is worth keeping on the Estimates, because it would hardly bear the cost of testing one bore hole. A large quantity of water has to be determined, and the Minister will find that the development of the whole of the Western Water District will largely depend on that exploratory work in the Poldia basin. Although I stand to be corrected, I believe that, during the election campaign, the Treasurer visited the Upper Murray districts, and said that as far as the Chowilla dam was concerned, it was about time the Government gave up talking, and started working. However, that is not what he is saying tonight.

The Hon. Frank Walsh: That information is wrong.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I gleaned this information from a press report, and I would not have dreamt it.

The Hon. Frank Walsh: Well, I didn't say it.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: If the Treasurer did not say it, someone else did. The Treasurer is full of explanations tonight why he cannot make progress at Chowilla, but none of what he says is news to me or to the Leader, because we know what the problems are. South Australia is the constructing authority on the Chowilla dam, and if we do not call the tune, the other States will make no effort to do their part towards this project. Although the benefits will be spread between the States, the Chowilla dam is first and foremost a South Australian proposition, and if we do not allocate a certain sum to proceed with the work, the other States will allocate no more than we provide.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: We have to pay a quarter.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I think the agreement provides that the other States will be obligated to meet their share, which will be largely determined by the share we allocate to this project. So, if there is a delay in the construction of this reservoir for financial reasons, South Australia has no one to blame but itself, and I agree that time is running against us. We can proceed with all kinds of development works in the metropolitan area and talk about mains, but, if we have not sufficient water at the source, we will be in more serious trouble, as has been the case in 1957 and 1959. If there are any unspent funds this year, I hope that the Minister of Works receives the benefit of using them to make good the deficiencies that he is obliged to accept because of the stringency of funds in his department.

Mr. CURREN: In connection with River Murray weirs, dams and locks, I have advocated in the past that quantity of water is not the only requirement for irrigation: quality is all important. That was shown recently when trouble occurred at the pumping station for Chaffey and Cooltong settlements. However, as the Minister said, a weir built across the inlet to the pumping station proved extremely effective. The pumps were operated for about three hours this afternoon and the salt reading was reduced to 21 grains to the gallon. If water at depth is extremely salty and surface water is of reasonably good quality, a weir

will prevent the salty water from being drawn in. The Treasurer pointed out that according to reports the working and planning schedule of the Chowilla dam is being adhered to. In a reply to a question I asked him on July 28 the Minister of Lands gave a report from the Director and Engineer-in-Chief which showed clearly the difficulties that had been experienced in testing for suitable foundations for the dam, and which pointed out other problems encountered that had not been encountered in any other dam construction in Australia or anywhere else in the world. It is to the credit of the engineers and experts engaged that they have been able to maintain their schedule of planning.

Although the sum allocated this year is not the same as that allocated last year, it is a larger sum than that spent last year. As the member for Onkaparinga said, South Australia is the State constructing authority and the funds we allocate will set the pace for construction. I am sure that when the contract for the construction of the dam wall is let, probably in March next year, funds will be made available by the Government. The member for Flinders said that the Treasurer, when Leader of the Opposition, made uncomplimentary remarks about the construction that was not taking place on the Chowilla dam. I was with the Treasurer when he made his appearances in the river districts and I never heard him make any remarks regarding the Chowilla dam such as those attributed to him. I certainly did not make any such remarks and I never saw any press report to that effect. Therefore, I believe that the member for Flinders must have dreamed up these words. The only reference made during the election campaign to the Chowilla dam was to the effect that it was not a political issue, and that a Labor Government would proceed with all speed to see that the dam was constructed, as it was of great national importance.

Mr. FERGUSON: I refer to the line for the Beetaloo, Bundaleer and Baroota water district under which provision is made for extra water reticulation on the southern portion of Yorke Peninsula. When the water scheme was first mooted for the Yorke Peninsula district an adequate supply and reticulation was provided for the farm lands in the northern part of Yorke Peninsula. As a result of the scheme in this area, it was seen that the increased production of stock would be considerable. Therefore, people on the southern portion of Yorke Peninsula agitated for further reticulation in that area. As this further reticulation

was to cost about £450,000, it was necessary for the Public Works Committee to investigate the matter. When the matter came before the committee, 50 miles of extra reticulation was approved. The people of southern Yorke Peninsula were told that that would be the maximum extra reticulation that could be granted, because the Director and Engineer-in-Chief had indicated that the main trunk line would be at its full capacity when the extra reticulation was given to those farmlands. However, this further reticulation was totally inadequate for the needs of the southern portion of Yorke Peninsula.

Since I have been a member I have had repeated requests for further reticulation from the scheme that runs through the centre of the peninsula, but on every occasion I have been informed that the scheme had reached its full capacity and that no further extensions could be made.

Mr. Quirke: How far does it go down?

Mr. FERGUSON: The present planning is that the water will go to about four miles, I think, south-west of Yorketown. The only other means of providing water in the southern part of the peninsula would be from an underground supply, and the Mines Department undertook to carry out investigations and make surveys there. During this session I have asked the Minister of Works whether the underground supplies that have been located have been tested, and the Minister has informed me that he expected that the bores there would be tested early this year. I believe that tests are being made, and that a most adequate supply has been found in some of the bores. It has also been said that as this underground supply is situated in the extreme western part of the foot of Yorke Peninsula it will be necessary to construct a trunk main of some 25 or 30 miles to connect it with an underground scheme that provides water for the Warooka district, known as the Para Wurlie scheme. If this were done it would certainly provide farm properties with water reticulation right through to the connection with the Para Wurlie scheme.

Provided that adequate and suitable water is found in these bores, I ask that it be connected with the main at Para Wurlie in order that it might supplement the supplies for Warooka and probably for other parts of southern Yorke Peninsula. If it is not practicable to do this, I hope that the landholders and the adjacent tourist resorts around the water that has been found in the southern

part of the peninsula will be given a reticulated water supply.

Mr. SHANNON: Adelaide will be in trouble for water in the early 1970's irrespective of what happens at Chowilla, for we will still depend on what we can get from the River Murray. As I think the Government well knows, there is a fairly well advanced plan for the duplication of mains from Mannum through to somewhere about Balhannah to link up with the Mount Bold reservoir scheme and to feed down to Happy Valley and the city. I believe it is a most expensive scheme that will take some time to construct. I understand that the department has considered an alternative from Swan Reach to about Nuriootpa, which I have been told is on a better grade. The water will be brought to where it can give the maximum relief to the Adelaide system, which has to feed back from the Mannum-Adelaide main to the Warren, and from the Warren to Yorke Peninsula.

The department has shown much foresight in planning water reticulation, as water can be taken from Morgan or Mannum virtually anywhere it is needed from Myponga to Port Augusta, which is a remarkable achievement. To boost the northern water supply, which is one of the weak links of the present system, perhaps Swan Reach should be the first preference. The Government should investigate which main should be constructed first. I think another main from the Murray will be needed before we need water from Chowilla. I may be wrong, but perhaps the department could advise on this. The Adelaide Hills area will continue to develop, and it will need more water.

Mr. Quirke: One way to stop it is to cut off the water.

Mr. SHANNON: Some day water will be a factor limiting our growth, unless we can de-salt water for domestic use, as the Murray will not be able to supply any more.

Mr. Quirke: But de-salting costs 2s. 6d. a thousand gallons.

Mr. SHANNON: That is cheap compared with the cost of taking water from Morgan to Whyalla. The urgency of having houses linked with water supplies and sewers immediately has been mentioned. For some years it has been the practice for private developers to enter into agreement with the Engineering and Water Supply Department to find the funds. The department then constructs sewers and supplies water, and, as each house is connected, the developer is partly reimbursed. As this is

done for private enterprise, I cannot see why we allow our State housing activity to fall into arrears. Do not forget that private developers are not out to give money away and that whatever they lay out is added to the price of a house. It is a straightout business proposition, but they do get the sewers connected.

It is well known that in the Bolivar scheme there will be a hiatus between the completion of the main to Bolivar and the operation of the treatment works when that main reaches Bolivar. We knew we should have to carry on with the sewage farm. I do not recommend leaving it there indefinitely. I favour getting rid of it as a disposal point for sewage, but I do not want to hold up the development of our housing programme because the Bolivar scheme is not finished. If we do, we shall be even further behind. A proper investigation of the servicing of the Engineering and Water Supply Department would disclose that if it moved its Thebarton depot to Sassafras there would be an overall saving in the joint operation of the water and sewerage programmes. I do not believe that Thebarton is an appropriate site for a depot. Most major industrial undertakings have long since moved out of the city. I am not convinced that the department has properly investigated its own economics. Sassafras is centrally sited for the fast developing northern areas. If another depot is needed to the south, the department can go to Christies Beach, but Thebarton is not a good site for a depot. I ask the Minister to have an inquiry made. I thank the Government for the provision of £29,000 worth of work for Stirling and Crafers.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I am pleased that the Clarendon-Blackwood-Belair scheme has been virtually completed. It has been under construction for many years, and this year £20,000 is allocated to finish the work. People living in the area are pleased. Many years ago the previous Minister of Works told me that it would not be possible to plan sewerage for the hills portion of my district until there was an assured water supply. We have reached that point, but I am intensely disappointed that the present Minister, in spite of my requests, entreaties and even prayers, has turned a deaf ear to my request than did his predecessor. He told me recently that it would be five or 10 years before the department would consider this proposal. I remind him of what his predecessor said, because I know he takes much notice of what was said by the former Minister. A paragraph from a letter written to me by the Hon. G. G.

Pearson (when Minister) on June 2, 1960, states:

The area concerned will be examined from time to time and as soon as development reaches the right stage I will seek authority for the considerable expenditure necessary to carry out a detailed survey and prepare plans and estimates.

The previous Minister had earlier canvassed the development going on in that area. I suggest that the right time has now arrived. It may not be possible to go ahead with the scheme for some years but the time has come to make the necessary investigations. I quote from the local newspaper part of a report given to the Mitcham council by the Town Clerk (Mr. Hayes) and the Chief Health Inspector (Mr. Eric Grubb) on the question of sewerage in the hills area of the city of Mitcham. It states:

The satisfactory disposal of septic tank effluent into the impervious soils common in our hills district is continuing to cause grave concern. Whilst every endeavour is being made to ensure satisfactory systems, nevertheless the efficient disposal of the effluent is becoming an ever-increasing problem due to the rapid development taking place. From July, 1960,—

That is about the time the Minister wrote to me—

to June, 1964, 1,108 homes have been constructed in Belair, Blackwood and Eden Hills. It is anticipated that 330 homes will have been erected, are in the course of construction or applications have been made during the financial year, 1964-65. Many areas are rapidly being built upon and areas, which were being used for effluent disposal, have now new dwellings erected thereon.

Many complaints are continually being received from residents regarding effluent from adjoining properties finding its way into their premises. Effluent is lying in stagnant pools in hundreds of dwelling yards, streets and drains to the discomfort and annoyance of the residents, many of whom have built very fine homes in the city of Mitcham.

I can vouch for the accuracy of that, too. The report continues:

Whilst discomfiting and annoying, this aspect is of little consequence in comparison to the potential danger to the health of the community, that such conditions as are now evident, create particularly when the soil is so saturated that some systems fail entirely and raw sewage at times flows out of vents, gullies and the tops of septic tanks.

Later, the report states:

The soil in many private yards, particularly such areas as Blackwood Hill, Eden Hills in the vicinity of Viaduct, Lee, Wilpena, Parham and Shepherds Hill Road, portions of Belair and the Main Road, Blackwood, have become sewage sick and the disposal of effluent is becoming an increasingly difficult procedure.

I have quoted this merely to reinforce what I have said from time to time about drainage in the hills part of my district. This is, of course, part of the metropolitan area; it is within 10 miles of the General Post Office, and I assure honourable members that that is an accurate description of the situation in many parts of the hills. As the Minister's predecessor said this problem would be examined again when the water scheme was in full working order and when there was plenty of water to cope with sewerage, and as so much development has taken place since he wrote to me in 1960, will the present Minister of Works at least cause investigations to be made to see what is required, when it is required, and whether the necessary funds can be found for it?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS (Minister of Works): I thank honourable members for their remarks in regard to this line. I have a number of complaints from various parts of the State, similar to the one the member for Mitcham has outlined, but that does not mean that I shall not consider what he has said. For a fortnight I have been considering a file concerning the area to which he has referred, and I have been discussing it with the Director and Engineer-in-Chief to ascertain what can be done. Sewerage is an increasing problem in the rapidly developing areas in the metropolitan area, as well as in some of the country areas. As honourable members have said, we have considerably less money for this most important work than was expended last year. I am not suggesting that one penny spent last year was not justified. It was all extremely urgent work and I give the assurance that every endeavour will be made to give the best possible service with the finance and manpower available. I shall give serious consideration to all the comments made this afternoon and this evening.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Treasurer made some statements in regard to the state of the Loan programme and the Loan funds and I should like to put on record the facts so that honourable member will know the position regarding the finances of this State when the Government took office on March 6.

Mr. Jennings: You should have done that on the first line.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Treasurer raised the matter only a few moments ago in dealing specifically with the Engineering and Water Supply Department. The information I give will enable honourable

members to get into proper perspective the financial position of the State when the last Government left office and the present Government took over. No balance sheet of the State was made as at March 6, but at the end of every month a balance sheet covering both Revenue and Loan accounts of the State is published. These statements are required to be provided by the Treasurer and are released to the public. I thank the Treasurer for his courtesy in providing me with a copy.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ryan): Is the Leader of the Opposition referring to the line on Engineering and Water Supply Department?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes, I will be coming back to that in a few moments. A short time ago the Treasurer said that the Engineering and Water Supply Department was in so much difficulty now because the previous Government had overspent that line of the Estimates, resulting in less money being available for that department this year. I now propose to give the actual figures. At February 28 last, there was a surplus in the Loan Fund of £2,266,000. At the end of March the surplus in that fund had gone down by about £500,000 to £1,765,000. At the end of April it increased to £1,960,000 and in May it was £1,475,000. I have not the figures for June, but honourable members will see that, when I left the Treasury, there was not a proportionate deficit in the Loan Fund; there was a surplus of over £2,000,000. It is not correct to say that the debit in the Loan Fund is something that arose out of the last Government's control of the Treasury benches. It is true that at that time the previous Government had spent the Loan moneys available to it up to the limit, but a surplus of over £2,000,000 was available in the Loan account at that stage.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ryan): The Leader is drifting away from the line being discussed. I think he had the opportunity to discuss the general position while speaking on the first line.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes, Mr. Acting Chairman. I am putting my submissions to the line for the Engineering and Water Supply Department because this line has been reduced by £1,500,000, and I have been talking about the Treasurer's reason for this. There are many reasons for it, and not exclusively the one taken by the Treasurer. It is true that the Engineering and Water Supply Department over-spent the sum approved by Parliament last year, but it is equally true that

many other departments under-spent their allocations. One department under-spent by £600,000. The Loan Fund must be examined in total. It is not right to segregate items and say that the Government had to start on the wrong foot because the Loan Fund was over-spent. It is extremely bad policy to build houses and leave them idle for the want of sewerage connections, if it is humanly possible for the connections to be made. I appreciate the Minister of Works's saying that every effort will be made to see that sewers and water connections are available as soon as possible.

Mr. CASEY: I wish to speak on the line for country water districts. I commend the Government for the manner in which it has allocated money to country districts in South Australia. It is difficult to get water in many parts of this State. In places like Queensland much water goes to waste because they do not have reticulated water services in some of the bigger towns. This makes one realize what a magnificent job is being done in South Australia in the provision of adequate water supplies to country people. I am particularly interested in Oodnadatta, for which £6,000 is allocated. It was incredible to read in some of the Liberal and Country League literature in March claims that that Party had practically installed this water supply at Oodnadatta. As a matter of fact, I have been negotiating this arrangement with the Commonwealth Railways Commissioner for the past two years. I received the approval of the townspeople for this scheme only two months ago. I mention that in passing to illustrate how propaganda is used rather subtly on occasions.

An allocation of £2,000 is made for Quorn, and this will greatly benefit that town's water supply. In years to come we in this State will be sorely pressed to provide adequate water supplies. Without doubt, within a matter of 30 to 40 years, and perhaps even before then (even with the advent of the Chowilla dam), we shall have to look elsewhere for water for this State, and I think the only place we can look to is the sea. Desalination will then come into its own. Experiments have been carried out overseas on a fairly large scale, particularly in southern California, and we find now that people in the United States are talking more in terms of so many dollars per acre feet rather than so many cents a gallon. The latest plant being contemplated in southern California will produce 150,000,000 gallons a day, in conjunction with a nuclear power station at a cost of about 22 cents a

thousand gallons which is between 70 and 96 dollars an acre foot. I think this Government could take particular interest in this research being carried out in other parts of the world. A symposium will be held in Washington in October, and I think there would be no harm in the Government's sending an observer there to obtain first-hand knowledge of what is taking place in this field.

Although I was disappointed with the allocations for some country towns, I have high hopes that in the future other towns in the north of this State will be provided with an adequate water supply. I sincerely hope that in the future most of South Australia will have adequate water supplies.

**Mr. FREEBAIRN:** A total of £147,000 is provided for the Warren water district. Will the Treasurer ascertain for me whether the £20,000 allocated to the Watervale water scheme will be sufficient to provide for the laying of the entire scheme? An amount of £36,000 has been set aside for extensions, services, and minor works. Will the Treasurer ascertain also whether that amount includes an allocation for a small extension scheme at Hansborough to serve a number of farm properties, including Anlaby station?

**Mr. BOCKELBERG:** Will the Treasurer ascertain the purpose for which the £21,000 allotted to Streaky Bay will be used?

**Mr. RODDA:** I refer to the line that provides for an allocation of £10,000 for Penola. The Penola water scheme is appreciated by the people of that town because, although there is a large volume of underground water there, this has been subject to contamination. The reticulation scheme will improve the health of the district. Will the Treasurer say whether this scheme will be completed by the scheduled date, which I understand is October this year? I have been told that the engineers ran into trouble with the storage tank and that they had to redesign the equipment, which set back the scheme. I should like to have the Treasurer's assurance that the scheme will be completed by the due date.

**Mr. HUGHES:** The sum of £1,000 is provided for water supply at Moonta, and £24,000 is provided for South Hummocks. The previous Government allocated, I think during the last Parliament, a certain sum to solve a serious problem that had arisen at Moonta because of the corrosion of water mains. If fires had occurred in certain streets there would not have been sufficient water to fight them, and flames could have leapt from one house to another and a whole street could have been burnt.

Some new mains have been placed in the township and the problem has been overcome. A tank was built on a hillside to give pressure not only to Moonta but to Moonta Bay and Port Hughes. Will the Treasurer say whether the £1,000 is provided because a short time after the tank was built it broke open, or is it to construct other mains within the township?

Regarding the £24,000 provided for South Hummocks, the member for Gouger (Mr. Hall) will know the problem that faced people not only in South Hummocks but in his district before the Warren-Paskeville main was completed. When a pipe burst in the Gouger District, the people in South Hummocks suffered for between three and five days before the pressure could be raised, and they faced problems in watering their stock in that time. Since the main has been completed I have not had any further complaints. Will the Treasurer say whether the £24,000 is for further small mains to supply producers in that area?

**The Hon. T. C. STOTT:** I am disappointed that only £250,000 is provided this year to commence work on the Chowilla dam. As we are partners to an agreement, I assume that this provision is our contribution and that other States will make some provision as well. Will the Treasurer say whether other States will make yearly payments? If this scheme is to cost £16,000,000 and is to be completed by 1970, and if we are to overcome the problems that the River Murray Commission and all our advisers on water problems warn us about, we should have about £1,000,000 on this year's Loan Estimates. The Treasurer maintains that we are short of money, but this problem has to be overcome because it concerns not only the River Murray districts but also the future industrial development of the whole State.

The State's development during the last decade has absorbed millions of gallons of water, and many industries that are here now could not have come to South Australia if water had not been available in sufficient quantities. Now that we have this agreement with the other States involving an expenditure of up to £16,000,000, are we to slow things down by providing a mere £250,000 a year? This would mean that it would be 1980 before we could complete the dam, and that is not good enough for either our general development or the development of the Upper Murray reaches.

The salinity of the River Murray is a well-known problem. There has been surplus water in the Menindee Lakes and Lake Victoria flushing the salt content through to keep it

low. Water has been drawn off, either on account of drought in New South Wales or because on the upper reaches of the Darling River running into Queensland there has been a low rainfall. We should be alerted to the urgency of the Chowilla dam because, if it had been completed now, we could have used the lower Chowilla to keep this river water free of salt.

From the Financial Statement we see that in February £2,266,000 of Loan moneys was spent. When February is reached, there is a surplus of about £2,225,000; then we go through March, April and May and another Loan allocation is not made until June. That may be the answer to this matter of being in credit to that amount of money. Can the Treasurer say whether the agreement provides that the other States shall match South Australia's contribution to the extent of £250,000? This State's total contribution toward the completion of the scheme would be a minimum of £4,000,000 and it is difficult to see how the Treasurer can maintain this project. What progress is being made to find suitable rock for Chowilla and will the project be held up if it cannot be obtained near the site?

Mr. HALL: The lower end of my district contains many new houses requiring sewerage during this year. Some are in group building schemes in which the builders have entered into an arrangement with the Engineering and Water Supply Department for the proper sewerage of the houses. Many others are being built by smaller builders, and I am concerned that, as the allocation has fallen from £1,056,000 last year to £445,000 this year, many houses will remain unsewered. I hope that more money will be made available for this essential service. The Sandy Creek-Gawler branch main is the beginning of a water scheme to serve the Two Wells and Virginia areas. The previous Government planned that water be reticulated from the Warren reservoir to this area. The reticulation system laid many years ago for farming and pastoral pursuits in this area is now inadequate because of the recent development of small farms and market gardening in the district. The present system is overloaded and proving inadequate. Apart from this, Virginia has developed remarkably as a market gardening area, and although an underground water supply exists as a basis for that gardening it is not sufficient for domestic supplies. Residents require a departmental supply, and have accordingly petitioned the department. I understand that the supply they will eventually receive will be purely for

domestic use and not for market gardening purposes. The people concerned are willing to pay the rates that will be levied for the water supply. I am pleased to see that £90,000 is provided for the Sandy Creek to Gawler branch main, and I trust that each year the Loan Estimates will contain the extra annual expenditure required to complete the scheme.

Line passed.

Public Buildings, £11,480,000.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: In regard to police and courthouse buildings, a total of £400,000 is to be spent this year, as against actual payments last year of over £512,000. This line has been the subject of some political discussion in relation to the Salisbury area. Indeed, the Attorney-General has made a number of pronouncements to the effect that it is highly necessary to spend much more money on courthouse and police buildings than we have been spending in the past. He pointed out that the problems at Salisbury were inherited from the last Government, and said that he was not prepared to shift typewriters, etc., to a temporary building. However, he finally climbed down, after a leading article in the *Advertiser* somewhat exposed the position, and rather put the Attorney-General on the right track. I understand now that suitable temporary buildings at Salisbury will be used as a courthouse and police station. In 1960-61 the previous Government provided on this line a total of £400,000, of which about £392,000 was spent. In the next year the provision was £580,000, and £655,000 was spent. In the next year £800,000 was provided but only £576,000 was spent. In the following year £1,100,000 was provided and £1,110,000 spent. Last year, out of a provision of £750,000, the department spent only £512,000. This year the provision is only £400,000. While the Attorney-General is playing politics and inconveniencing people in doing so, the amount provided by the Government is much less than the average spent over a number of years. Earlier he said that the amount spent was grossly inadequate. In one year the amount spent upon this line was £1,110,000, as compared with an amount provided this year of £400,000. I should like the Treasurer to explain the reason for disregarding the excellent advice given by his Attorney-General that extra money must be provided for this line.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Where did I ever say that?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have all the newspaper cuttings here. I know

the Attorney-General will not want to hear them.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Because you want to misquote me.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: He is reported in *Hansard* as saying that he was going to advise the people of Salisbury to go to Elizabeth to avoid the hardship of shifting a typewriter. The *Advertiser* said in a leading article:

It is a pity that the "Salisbury courthouse case" has developed into political sniping. The Attorney-General has alleged shortcomings by the previous Government, which may be true, and blamed it for the present position. This tendency to carry electioneering into Parliament is overdone. Mr. Dunstan is thereby evading the point. Alternative accommodation in three Salisbury buildings, described by the J.P.'s in question as "very suitable", has been offered for temporary court use. The Attorney-General objects to the possibility of court paraphernalia having to be moved in and out of temporary premises each court day. But surely any such inconvenience would be preferable to what has now to be endured. The arrangement for a magistrate to preside at the next Salisbury sittings will ensure sittings but will not add to the comfort of parties involved. Mr. Dunstan would be doing all concerned a service by stopping the present bickering and getting on with the job of providing decent accommodation. That is the important thing. Next day, the Attorney-General, having had that excellent advice, had a look at the position and proceeded to arrange for the provision of alternative accommodation. The line has been cut severely, compared with the past, yet the Attorney-General criticized the previous Government for not making sufficient money available. He can shake his head as much as he likes, but that is what the newspaper said.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Why don't you say what I said?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This is what the newspaper said:

Mr. Dunstan said the situation was inherited because the previous Government had failed to take action.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: So it had.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Which action is the present Government taking? What is the reason for reducing this line, particularly after the Attorney-General had often stressed that it was necessary to spend money on it? Was it because the Attorney-General was ineffective in his representations on the matter? Was it that the other Ministers were able to put a better case to the Treasurer? What was the reason for the Attorney-General's failing so miserably to achieve the objective that he stated publicly was so necessary?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I am not going to waste my voice on many of the matters referred to by the Leader. I have wonderful accommodation in the new Police Building, and it was a fairly large item of expenditure. I do not complain about that because I think it was necessary to have this accommodation. I have a small section of the building and am happy with it.

Mr. Millhouse: It was pretty expensive.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The expense has already been met. It compares with other expenses we have had in the past. I have never complained about adequate accommodation for office workers. I regret that some are still herded in buildings that are not suitable. It is not fair to the staffs that occupy them. I sincerely hope that we can do a little better generally with accommodation. If the Leader desired to create a political atmosphere by his remarks, that is all right.

I would be the last person who would desire to reflect on a certain justice of the peace who was supposed to be hearing a case at Salisbury. I doubt whether this man has won many spurs at anything. He has been given positions on some boards, and I should not be surprised at anything he raised. It appears he was anxious to create some political propoganda and apparently he succeeded. It seems that the information that should have been conveyed to the Attorney-General was unfortunately not conveyed to him in time. As has been said previously, there was another building for the courts. If this information had been conveyed to the Attorney-General at the appropriate time, probably some of the controversy would not have arisen. It is not a question of whether the Attorney-General could prevail upon the Treasury Department to get money to do certain work. It was not at the expense of the Minister of Works or the Minister of Education that these matters were considered: they were considered on a broad basis of what could be a reasonable proposition. During 1964-65 over £1,300,000 was provided for the Angas Street building. A certain sum will be required to continue the construction of police stations and courthouses to serve country areas. The sum of £130,000 is proposed for stage one of the new and improved accommodation at Fort Largs to make it suitable for use as a training academy. The first stage is expected to cost £410,000. I hope members will not object to that, for I think this expenditure is essential in order to encourage young people to take up an honourable career in the Police Force. If we do not have proper and

adequate training facilities we will not get very far in the training of personnel. I did not notice anything specifically mentioned last year about the training academy. I believe we are doing a reasonably good job in our Estimates on this occasion. There are certain other matters in which I do not wish to become involved, so I will leave those matters to my colleague, the Attorney-General.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Attorney-General): We have seen one of the more sorry attempts at politicking from the Leader of the Opposition that this Parliament has yet had the misfortune to see. He has deliberately assigned to me statements which I have never made, and when I challenged him to quote what I had said he would not read it because he knew it was not there. Mr. Chairman, I have not said (and I challenge any member to show where I have said it) that considerable extra sums should be spent on court buildings. I have not made that statement at any time regarding Salisbury or any other place in the State, so there is not the difference between myself and the Treasurer which the Leader carefully assigns to me by alleging that I made statements which I never made and which he cannot support. When I challenge him, of course, he cannot meet the challenge because he is just playing politics. Now he laughs uncomfortably but, of course, this whole little programme of the Opposition has been a piece of shabby politics, because member after member opposite has recently got up suddenly to ask about court buildings in their areas. We have had more questions concerning court buildings in this place in the last two months than occurred in the previous six years.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: That's not right.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes it is.

Mr. Hall: The Minister seems very conscious of it.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We knew what was going on.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: The Minister has a vivid imagination.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We knew of the little campaign that was being cooked up by members opposite. Let me turn to what the Government has done concerning court accommodation. Despite the fact that we have no adequate accommodation for our courts in Adelaide, and no adequate accommodation for courts which must at the superior level concern the whole State (and although there were continued submissions to the previous Government about the acquisition of the necessary land so that the Commonwealth and the State might

erect courts of the kind which exist in other States of the Commonwealth), no action had been taken by the previous Government.

Mr. Jennings: And representations were not made except by members on this side of the House.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, and by public servants. Within five weeks of this Government's assuming office it acquired the necessary land.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: How can you say we took no action when we spent more money each year than you are spending now?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am speaking about the provision of central court facilities. We acquired the land immediately. Public servants have told me that previously they were unable to get an answer. They have got answers from this Government, as it has taken the necessary action. Our court programme has been based necessarily upon those drawings, plans and submissions presented to the Public Works Committee by the previous Government, so, if there is any fault in the reduction of the line concerning courthouse buildings, there it lies—it is not on our shoulders.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: This is the first time I have heard the Attorney-General acknowledge what the previous Government has done. He has always forgotten what it has done.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I remember vividly what it did. Let me turn now to Salisbury. Submissions were made over a period of years to my predecessor in relation to the Salisbury court, for which some improvements were sought.

Mr. Jennings: The member for Gawler (Mr. Clark) took it up.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: He did, and other members for the district went to the then Attorney-General. What I have complained about is not that the previous Government did not provide a courthouse at Salisbury (I would have thought it somewhat extravagant to provide an expensive courthouse building for one local court day a month, and that is what is involved at Salisbury) but that, despite the fact that accommodation there was wildly unsatisfactory (as I know from my own experience in having had to practise in that court), no decision was made by my predecessor about what should take its place. This matter waited until this Government took office and until I had already told the deputation from Salisbury that I was prepared to consider any reasonable alternative it put to me. While I was waiting for that alternative to be put to me—and it had not:

been put to me—suddenly the court at Salisbury was closed and people who had gone to it on that day were turned away and made to come back a month later on a second trip to have their unsatisfied judgment summonses heard. This was done without any communication with the magistrate in charge of the department.

I was not particularly happy about that, and when I was blamed for that situation (and it was not my fault; I had not refused to take a decision concerning it) I said, "Well, the situation is not of my making. It is of the previous Government's making." I made it quite clear to the deputation that came to me that I was prepared to consider any feasible alternative it could put forward. I have the transcript of that deputation on my desk in Flinders Street, and it shows that it was quite clearly stated that if the deputation could show me a feasible alternative I would take it. I also made it clear that, if we were to have an alternative in Salisbury (which was what the deputation asked for) for the hearing of unsatisfied judgment summonses, we wanted some facility that was available on a reasonable permanent basis. Prior to the closing of the court at Salisbury, I did not receive a submission of that kind.

Subsequently, a minute reached me stating that reasonable alternative accommodation might be found temporarily at the Masonic hall. It had not been inspected by the magistrate but I went up there to inspect it. I was satisfied that for the time being this would be better than where the previous court was, so I arranged promptly to surrender the lease of the verandah where the court had been previously in operation, that the next court sitting would be at the Masonic hall, and that on that day there would be a complete survey of every unsatisfied judgment debtor, his means of transport to the court and where he came from, to see whether it was advisable to continue a court in this area or whether other facilities could be provided that would be more convenient for the people concerned. My statements in relation to Salisbury would never have contemplated the building of a permanent courthouse in Salisbury itself and I have not suggested at any time that the previous Government should have put one there. I have said that in fact tenders will be recalled for extensions to the Elizabeth courthouse and that the present Government is examining plans for a courthouse building in the southern part of the council area of Salisbury. Action has already been taken to acquire land for that purpose. We

have got on with the job. My only reply about Salisbury has been about the politicking that was levelled against this Government and me, completely unfair politicking at that, combined this evening with complete misquotations by the Leader of the Opposition and assignments to me of statements I never made.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I shall quote what is reported in *Hansard* and also statements that have appeared in the daily press, which the Attorney-General took no steps to contradict when they were made. At page 996 of this year's *Hansard*, the member for Gouger (Mr. Hall) asked a question, and this is what the Attorney-General said in reply:

The situation at the Salisbury courthouse is one of long-standing need.

Tonight, however, he does not think there is a need for a courthouse at Salisbury. That is a different matter.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: I did not say that at all.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The *Hansard* report continues:

In fact, I remember appearing in the present premises some years ago, and they were as unsatisfactory then as they are now. When I assumed office I found that there had been requests to my predecessor for something to be done about this for some considerable period but that no action had been taken.

Mr. Clark: The Minister was soon reminded of this matter again.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I was. I received a deputation from Salisbury of local government authorities and some justices. They put to me the advisability of recommending the building of new courthouse buildings in Salisbury itself. Of course, that would have to be something of a long-range plan, and as a result I have had investigations made as to the place where it would be best to put additional courthouse facilities to cope with the growing population in this whole area. Consequently, a proposal is currently being examined by the Public Buildings Department for the provision of courthouse premises in the southern part of the local government area of the city of Salisbury.

The honourable member will appreciate that those premises cannot be built overnight. Plans must be prepared and submitted to the Public Works Committee, and then tenders called and a contract let; and at the rate we have been able to do this previously it will be some time before there can be relief for the Salisbury court. I told the deputation that—

and this is the point I wish to make— if it could find satisfactory alternative permanent accommodation in Salisbury (that is, accommodation in which the courthouse did not have to be specially set up on every occasion there was a court there), I would seek to move the court. I would not be at all satisfied

to have the court officers required to cart court furniture, typewriters and other items about to set up a temporary courthouse on court days in some building used for other purposes. This is a most unsatisfactory procedure, and I said I was not willing to do something of that kind. I said that if the deputation gave me some alternative I should seek to take it, but I have had no satisfactory alternative suggested to me at any stage.

These words were clear. If he could not get a permanent building he would not take the trouble of shifting typewriters in and out: one cannot put any other interpretation on it. But what did he say today? He said that he wanted "a building on a reasonably permanent basis"—a totally different thing. No suggestion was made that the premises were not on a reasonably permanent basis. There was a suggestion that they could not be used exclusively as a courthouse, but the Attorney-General said that he would prefer to raise a political issue rather than have this matter settled on that basis. The Opposition believes that the amount provided in the Loan Estimates for police and courthouse buildings is not sufficient. For some years, although much more substantial sums have been expended, they have not been sufficient. This shows that the matter was raised by the Attorney-General purely and simply as a political issue, and it was not until a sub-leader in the *Advertiser* gave him a bit of a smack that he realized the politics designed for this side of the Chamber was reacting on the other side, and he righteously went to Salisbury and arranged it all in a few minutes.

Mr. SHANNON: I am pleased that the Government is doing something about the Police Training Academy at Fort Largs. I know that the Police Commissioner has his heart in this project, and it will probably have a greater bearing on recruitment of young officers into the force than anything else that can be done. I am pleased to see the sum allocated for the project this year, and I have no doubt that once construction is commenced the Government will proceed with the work expeditiously.

However, I rose to draw the Government's attention to certain omissions from the Loan Estimates. Since assuming his portfolio the Attorney-General has taken great pains to display his activity in certain fields. The Government rushed in to make a timely statement about the Adelaide Gaol. It is high time something was done about that gaol, but the Estimates do not follow up the Government's

announcement that the gaol will be demolished, possibly to make way for a teacher-training college.

If it is intended to demolish the Adelaide Gaol, I for one shall not weep, but at the moment that gaol accommodates women offenders as well as men, and it is inadequate and out-of-date in every way. Various types of female offenders are crowded together, ranging from those who have been imprisoned for non-payment of debts to those who have been imprisoned for serious offences. The previous Government referred to the Public Works Committee for investigation a project for a women's gaol at Yatala on a property known as "Williams's farm". The committee duly investigated that project and re-sited the proposed building, because it was originally intended to incorporate in the plans a fine house that was the old Williams homestead. I understand that at the moment it is occupied by a doctor connected with the Northfield Hospital.

The original plan necessitated a break of two or three steps in the actual floor area, and the committee recommended a site that would obviate that break. The Committee's report was tabled in Parliament, and I think the previous Government accepted the findings. However, no reference to the project appears on these Estimates. Until a women's gaol is built the old Adelaide Gaol cannot be demolished, for there is certainly no suitable spare accommodation for women offenders at the Yatala Labour Prison, and I know of no other place where women prisoners could be housed. Obviously, a new women's gaol will have to be constructed before the Adelaide Gaol is demolished, and I suggest that if the Government is earnest in its endeavour to rid the general public of this prison eyesore it should get busy and start the women's gaol. We shall then know that it will in due course proceed with the demolition of the Adelaide Gaol. I approve what the Government has said in this matter, but I want to see action.

The committee investigated accommodation for retarded people in what is called the village type of institution. The unsatisfactory arrangements now prevailing at Parkside Mental Hospital, where many of these people have been inappropriately housed, has been brought to the notice of the Government. The atmosphere and conditions at Parkside are such that there is no hope of these people receiving necessary treatment. Because of that, Dr. Cramond (now Professor Cramond), who was in

charge of our Mental Health Department, presented plans, which were submitted to the committee for investigation. The doctor made out an excellent case and the committee obtained permission from the Government of the day to go to Victoria to see what was being done there in this field. The doctor in charge of mental health in that State, Dr. Cunningham-Dax, gave the committee sound advice, some of which was incorporated in the committee's report. It was envisaged that there would be two institutions, each accommodating 600 inmates. They were Strathmont, sited at Northfield near the receiving home at Hillcrest, and Elanora at O'Halloran Hill. These institutions would be suitable for the purpose, but I regret that there is no provision to enable one of them to be commenced.

I do not know whether it is an oversight or whether there is insufficient money left after everyone has taken his slice of the cake. These retarded people are probably more deserving of consideration than many people who are able to look after themselves, and we should make it our business to provide for them as soon as possible.

I think that if there had not been a change of Government, we would have seen something done by this time. We lost the services of Dr. Cramond, but we have a young South Australian coming back from Sydney in the person of Dr. Shea, an excellent officer who will be a worthy successor in this field of mental health. It would have been a great encouragement to him to know that the Government was proceeding with one of these institutions for mentally retarded people.

Mr. LANGLEY: Paving of the school yard and repairs to the drainage of the Parkside Primary School are badly needed. Also, the Unley Girls Technical High School is in the course of being moved to Mitcham. Many minor alterations and additions will be needed to the classrooms. Some buildings will be taken away and much levelling will need to be done. This is of great concern to the children in the area, many of whom are new Australians. Where the ground is levelled, playing fields can be provided and this can make a great difference. Will the Minister consider these matters?

Mr. COUMBE: In the debate on the Estimates I expressed my disappointment that there had been no progress on the Strathmont and Elanora homes for the mentally retarded. I suggested that, as no money was being provided in the Loan Estimates, no work would be done this year. The Minister, by interjection,

implied that some planning was being done. Will the Minister indicate what progress is being made, and whether money is to be provided and some work actually commenced on this project?

Mr. BURDON: Under "Hospital Buildings" there is a line "Mount Gambier Hospital—Alterations and additions, £25,000". Will the Treasurer, either tonight or in the near future, give me a breakdown on the alterations and additions to the Mount Gambier Hospital?

Mr. HALL: I refer to the line "Police and Courthouse Buildings". I am concerned about the Salisbury police buildings and the Salisbury Snowtown, which concerns me because of the Parafield Gardens and Para Hills area. Both these matters impinge on the remarks made by the Attorney-General tonight. He said that the plan we are considering for police and courthouse buildings was based on plans drawn up by the previous Liberal Government. If that is so, can the Attorney-General say why the provision for the police buildings at Snowtown has disappeared completely from the Loan Estimates this year? It was included last year as approved work.

It is rather ironical that the vendor of the land on which these buildings were to be erected rang me just before last harvest and asked me to inquire whether he could leave the demolition of the buildings until after Christmas, as he thought perhaps the Government building would not start until after that time. It so happens, of course, that under the new management of this State he could have left the building there for a much longer time, and apparently he can leave it there for as long as there is a Labor Government in South Australia; yet the Attorney-General tonight says that the plans upon which he is operating were prepared by the previous Government.

I thought the Attorney-General was very touchy on the subject of Salisbury. When I asked my question last week I deliberately left politics out of it. As a matter of fact, I went half way to meeting the Attorney-General, because I had been conscious of his attitude that he had blamed the previous Government for the situation at Salisbury. Tonight he took umbrage, almost, at the fact that our Leader said that he (the Attorney-General) had blamed the previous Government for the Salisbury troubles.

Mr. Millhouse: It was not "almost"; he in fact did take umbrage.

Mr. HALL: The Attorney-General said the accusation was false. In the same speech:

tonight the Attorney-General said he did not play politics, and that he had never blamed the previous Government for the trouble at Salisbury.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: I did not say that.

Mr. HALL: The Attorney-General has said that the situation was of the previous Government's making.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Oh yes, I admit that.

Mr. HALL: Now we are getting somewhere. In the question I asked on August 12 I did not play politics in the slightest degree: I asked the question particularly as a result of an inquiry from a very responsible person at Para Hills who was alarmed at the Attorney-General's statement that perhaps the court would sit at Elizabeth. He said this would create a great travel problem for those who had to travel from Para Hills to Elizabeth, possibly on a working day. I asked the question particularly on that person's behalf, and I left politics out of it completely. In my question I even went so far as to say:

In a press statement the Attorney-General attributed this state of affairs to past Government deficiencies. This is, indeed, debatable when one realizes how quickly the area is developing.

That is the extent of the politics I made of that question, and I was rather alarmed to read in next morning's newspaper that the Attorney-General had then commented (as the cutting said) on the statement by the two justices from Salisbury, and there followed what amounts to an exact account (it is not word for word, but it is an interpretation) of the answer I received here to my question. I do not know whose fault that was, but I do not believe it is proper recording of Parliamentary proceedings, and I would think this is the place where the Government should be carried on. In fact, the Treasurer is famous for saying that he believes in legislative acts and not administrative acts. However, we find all of the sense of the reply given to me in Parliament reported as a statement by the Attorney-General to the press in answer to two justices, and that is not a fair way of going about the matter. The justices do not have the right to an answer that I have in this place, and of course my question was not reported at all and my representations on behalf of my people at Para Hills were effectively kept from the public.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: You haven't got an effective publicity officer.

Mr. HALL: That is so. What a disadvantage we have as back-benchers when we do not have the ability to employ a public relations officer. It is evident that this public relations officer is working extremely hard on behalf of the Attorney-General. If this officer seizes on answers given by the Attorney-General to questions asked in Parliament and gives statements to the press, this is not good reporting. I do not believe that the representations made by a member on behalf of his district should be left out.

The Treasurer has said that one of the big expenses last year on police and courthouse buildings was on the new police headquarters. If we take out the expenditure on that building and on the Police Training Academy, the comparison is between £206,000 this year and £407,000 last year. It is obvious to me that one economy was achieved by the dropping by this Government of a plan approved by the previous Government in relation to Snowtown, for which land had been acquired. This was a deliberate negation of a previous decision. The Treasurer cannot say that he has not got much money, as he has already said that he has £144,000 more this year than was available last year. What is his excuse for halving last year's provision for police and courthouse buildings? I am disappointed that the project for a police building at Snowtown has been dropped. I trust that in relation to the Salisbury court politics will not enter into the matter. It is deplorable that this court has been conducted on a verandah, and I shall be pleased if new accommodation is provided. From an announcement made by the Attorney-General some weeks ago, I take it that a new courthouse and police building may be constructed in my district. I am not aware yet of the exact site, but it has not been easy to provide permanent buildings because of the continuing development of the southern end of the Salisbury council area. The needs of that district were entirely different three years ago. We have not been arguing about permanent buildings: as the Attorney-General has said, the argument has been confined to temporary or alternative accommodation.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The member for Gouger has suggested that the public relations officer has taken certain statements made in reply to questions in Parliament and has released them to the press without the names of the members asking the questions. That suggestion is completely unfounded: no such action has been taken by the public relations officer, nor is it his duty, or area of duty, to

release to the press statements made by the Minister in Parliament or elsewhere. He is not the public relations officer to the Attorney-General: he has been appointed, as is evident from the docket that has been tabled here, to the departments that I administer, and his job is to publicize the work of those departments, not me. I have been a member of Parliament now for over 12 years and have sat and watched the present Leader of the Opposition during that period. I have learnt a thing or two during that time and can look after my own public relations quite well.

Mr. CLARK: For years I have sought better court and police housing facilities for my district. At the recent Salisbury council elections a petition was submitted to the people. It was not political; it was sponsored by the Apex Club of Salisbury, a non-political, citizenship organization. That club asked the voters to sign the petition seeking better court facilities. Many signed it. I am now arranging a deputation to the Attorney-General and the Chief Secretary about these matters. Politics is not involved in this. To prove that, I am inviting, at the request of the committee that sponsored this petition, the member for Gouger (Mr. Hall) and the honourable gentlemen representing the Midland District to attend the deputation; I have also been requested to invite the member for Enfield (Mr. Jennings), because apparently some people who could attend this court would come from his district. All we want is better court facilities. The past ones were deplorable. Everyone will agree with that. I am sorry that the discussion on this urgent need for all sections of the community has developed in this way. It is a pity that politics have been brought in because there is an urgent need for something to be done and I am sure that something will be done in the interests of the people in the area.

Mr. HEASLIP: The previous Government approved expenditure to erect a police courthouse and residence at Wirrabara, but the work is not referred to in the Loan Estimates. It was approved and was to be built, but apparently money is not now available. The Government should be capable of erecting these buildings, and if they are to be built why isn't the money provided in the Estimates?

Mrs. STEELE: Like my colleagues, the members for Onkaparinga and Torrens, I am surprised and not a little disappointed (as many people in South Australia are) that nothing has been provided to build the two new mental establishments, Elanora and Strathmont. How-

ever, I was interested to find that at the Enfield Receiving Home provision has been made to convert the present laundry building into a self-service restaurant for patients, and to provide three occupational therapy rooms. Almost every year that I have been in this Chamber, I have referred to the matter of providing a training school for occupational therapists. I am wondering how the Government, having provided these buildings, will secure occupational therapists. I have been vitally interested in this subject for a long time, and I know that it is impossible to fill vacancies for occupational therapists. If it were said we have 12 at present, it would be overstating the position. I hope that honourable members will, at the appropriate time, support my representations for the establishment of a school for occupational therapy.

At present an active committee, of which I am the convener, is conducting a survey among all the relevant organizations, Government hospitals and other institutions requiring these therapists. Already the committee has made some progress, and it will submit a case to the appropriate authority in due course. Of course, the necessary finance will have to be forthcoming to implement the project, and I trust that the State Government and the Universities Commission will eventually make the necessary provision. We hear much today about paramedical services, and it is envisaged that we shall soon have to provide the full range of these facilities in Adelaide. Occupational therapy will, of course, be one of these disciplines. I am greatly heartened by the provision at the Enfield Receiving Home for three occupational therapy rooms.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Cabinet has accepted the Public Works Committee's recommendations on the Strathmont institution and has agreed that the work must proceed. Negotiations concerning costs have been undertaken by a committee comprising the Chief Secretary, Director-General of Mental Health (Dr. Rollison), the Director of Public Buildings and the Minister of Works, and I understand that an additional sum will be provided by the Commonwealth Government for this work, if it is commenced in this financial year. As far as we are concerned, we are doing all possible to speed it up.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: I have discussed with the medical people and the Loxton District Council a proposal for a base hospital in that area. Other centres, such as Berri, have been mentioned as possible sites for the hospital in the Upper Murray area but I put forward a

plea for consideration to be given to Loxton before the Minister of Health makes a firm decision as to where the hospital is to be established.

I do that because a hospital at Loxton would serve a greater area and would be much more centrally situated than would the town across the river. The area served from Loxton would extend down to Pinnaroo and from Waikerie to Karoonda in the Murray Mallee, while at the same time serving the Upper Murray regions of Renmark, Barmera and Berri. When we consider the population of the Loxton District Council area together with that of the areas embraced by the district councils of Browns Well, East Murray, Karoonda and Waikerie, we see that a greater number of people would be served if the base hospital was in the Loxton district. Accordingly, I ask that the Minister of Health and the Public Buildings Department take this into consideration. I am prompted to raise this matter because £20,000 is provided for a laboratory at the Berri Hospital and, as a laboratory is one of the first adjuncts to a base hospital, it would be a mistake to build such a laboratory at Berri if it were subsequently decided to erect a base hospital at Loxton, thus necessitating the provision of another laboratory there.

The Minister of Education has been good enough to receive deputations about the establishment of area schools at Agincourt Bore and Paruna but the people in these areas are becoming anxious because no provision is made this year for a commencement to be made on erection of the schools. The problem is that unless an early start is made some parents with children of secondary school age will make arrangements for these children to go to other schools and it is difficult to get children to change schools once they are established in a certain school. I hope that the department will see fit to make a start. The proposed school at Agincourt Bore will have to be considered by the Public Works Committee. Nothing can be done until that report is made available. As the Mannum Area School cost only £130,000 and will be three or four times as large as the school proposed for Agincourt Bore, I am surprised that this proposal needs to go before the Public Works Committee. I know a bore is to be put down and fencing is to be erected, and this may increase the cost. I hope that these matters will be considered.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I understand that the Education Department is now undertaking the education of Aboriginal children who attend departmental schools, and

that the department is responsible for their education. I entirely approve of that.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: We did it.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. Can the Minister say whether any provision is made for schools for Aboriginal children in the Far North-West of the State? Through the courtesy of the Government I was privileged to go through this country recently (I had not been through it for many years), and I was able to see the progress that had been made. I do not agree with the optimistic remarks made by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs during question time this afternoon. I believe that the education of Aboriginal children is more than a challenge; I believe that ultimately it will be one of the surest ways of successfully assimilating Aborigines, raising their standard, and enabling them to live a life in which they will be under no disabilities compared with white people.

I am not at all critical of what is being attempted, but I believe many difficulties will be associated with this problem. Is there any provision on the Estimates for a school to be established in any of the north-western areas? I put it to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs that if we establish (and I hope we do) schools in the Far North-West we should provide boarding accommodation for the children. At present these people move about and hunt in unoccupied country, and when the parents leave Musgrave Park or the mission stations they take the children with them, so even if a school were established now the children would be in a school locality for only limited periods.

Can the Minister of Education say whether any thought has been given to establishing a school at Musgrave Park, which is probably the first centre at which a school would be required? Some facilities exist at the Ernabella mission, but I understand they are used by the children only when they are actually on the mission: when the parents move away to other areas the attendance is not very good. Will the Minister consider the establishment of a school with accommodation for the children so that when their parents are moving about away from the area there will be accommodation for the children to help them attend the school on a more permanent basis than is now possible?

A hostel has been established at Alice Springs, but I understand that it has not been of any great service to the Aboriginal people because the charges imposed are beyond their means. I understand that only

six children of Aboriginal or part-Aboriginal blood attend this hostel, so it does not appear to be the solution. I think there will have to be free boarding in such a school.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY (Minister of Education): A school for the north-west corner of this State has already been considered, and the department has arranged for an officer to visit the area and report on the situation. The children in this area are among the most primitive native people in this State, and schooling for them is a difficult problem. Aboriginal parents are greatly attached to their children and do not like being separated from them. This problem is not easy to solve, but it is being examined.

Mr. FERGUSON: This year £352,000 is provided for an area school at Maitland compared with last year's estimate of £289,000. Will the Minister say whether the design has been changed or whether this is just an expected increase in costs?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I shall have to check this, but building costs have been increasing by about one per cent a month.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The accommodation at the Salisbury court has for years been very unsatisfactory, and I regret that nothing has been done before now to remedy the situation. The accommodation at the Adelaide Juvenile Court, too, is unsatisfactory. I understand that the Government has plans for the whole area in the vicinity. What are those plans, and when is something likely to be done to improve the position at the court?

I have several times in this House, both in the last session and in this, referred to the shabby appearance of Foys Building at the corner of Pulteney Street and Rundle Street. When we were driving along Pulteney Street yesterday my children drew my attention to the equally shabby condition of Ruthven Mansions on the western side of Pulteney Street, and particularly the grass growing in the guttering of that building, now some 6in. to 9in. high. Ruthven Mansions is obviously in a very run-down condition. How long will it be allowed to remain as it is at present? In the time-honoured phrase, I think that something ought to be done about it.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I agree that the situation at the Juvenile Court is most unsatisfactory. I have had some submissions from the Juvenile Court Magistrate and the Police Magistrate about the possibilities of alternatives. There was a suggestion that a site on South Terrace be acquired for this purpose, and another suggestion was that a

site at Hanson Street be acquired. The Government feels that this would be undesirable in that to remove a court building so far from the centre of other courts in Adelaide would be an inconvenience to the officers who have to go from court to court, and to the legal profession; and that it would make the working of the courts, in consequence, much more difficult.

Therefore, the possibility of re-siting the Adelaide Juvenile Court in the block between Wright Street and Victoria Square is now being examined. The honourable member will realize that the completion of plans for the redevelopment of that whole block will not be something that we can achieve in a short period. The Commonwealth has to be consulted about its share in the scheme and, while we are trying to proceed with this as quickly as possible, and the Master is now consulting the Public Buildings Department about preliminary sketch plans, the honourable member will appreciate the time factors involved. What can we do for the Juvenile Court in the meantime? A suggestion has been made that it be transferred to courtroom No. 5 in the Police Court. Technically speaking, this might meet the provisions of the present Juvenile Courts Act, in that it is a separate building, although its entrance is through the Police Court; but to have the entrance to that court where children and parents cannot be provided with adequate waiting room accommodation, and where they would inevitably be mixing with people going into the ordinary police courts would, in itself, be undesirable. We have not so far found a satisfactory alternative close by, but I can assure the honourable member that we are looking as hard as we can to see whether we can provide temporary accommodation to replace the unsatisfactory accommodation pending the building of an entirely new Juvenile Court.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I want to comment on the reply that the Minister of Education made just now to the Leader of the Opposition about the education of our out-back Aboriginal children. The Minister suggested that it would be difficult to adopt a policy of providing accommodation for children to go to schools while their parents went walkabout. I suggest that he inquire about the mission at Warburton in Western Australia, conducted by the United Aboriginal Mission, where 30 or 40 children were accommodated when I visited it some time ago. It was proposed to abandon it and probably it has been abandoned, as it was not working out because of discipline problems. Perhaps better dormitory accommodation and lack of finance

were the real problems. The children were well advanced in their education and probably further advanced than the children at Ernabella, where an attempt was made to follow the natives when they went walkabout and make medical checks. At Yalata there was an attempt to follow the children on walkabout, but it was not a success. Of the alternatives, the one suggested by the Leader is probably the best, and the Minister should inquire into this matter before turning the proposition down.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I thank the Attorney-General for answering my question about the Juvenile Court. Can the Minister of Works say what is to be done with Ruthven Mansions in Pulteney Street?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I have discussed this matter with the Director of the Public Buildings Department, and it is considered that the upper floors are of no value. If they were repaired the rents would become too high. It is possible, although there is nothing definite, that the top floors will be removed.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: During a recent debate the Treasurer stated that there would be a tapering off in the use of Leigh Creek coal as the Torrens Island power station came into operation. The next day a statement was made from the Government benches to the effect that Leigh Creek coal would continue to be produced at the rate of 2,000,000 tons—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Leader of the Opposition is dealing with Leigh Creek coal, which comes under the next line "Miscellaneous". We are at present dealing with the line "Public Buildings".

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £3,856,000.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Today, in answer to a further question about quantities of oil to be provided, the Treasurer said that a contract had been drawn up for 10 years (which seemed to me to be a lengthy period), the price being fixed for five years ahead, and then to be subject to the normal market fluctuations, which, I understand, would be on the basis of alterations to the base price. Is it intended to discontinue base power supplies from Leigh Creek and transfer to Torrens Island, or is it intended to make Torrens Island the base station and to reduce gradually the quantity of fuel supplied from Leigh Creek? As this is a fairly important question of policy, will the Treasurer elaborate on his previous statement that Torrens Island

would become the base station, as soon as the necessary plant was established?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: In the first instance, I stated that Leigh Creek's output would be stepped up to about 20,000,000 tons annually, and that it would supply the Port Augusta power station. I also said that when the Torrens Island power station came into production it would be able to produce electricity at a cost of 10 per cent below the cost of production at Port Augusta. It has never been stated that Leigh Creek would be closed down or that the Port Augusta station's activities would be curtailed. The only curtailment that can take place (if, indeed, any curtailment is to take place) is what was intimated by the previous Government, namely, that power stations had a limited life. When I spoke earlier to a motion by the Leader of the Opposition in relation to appointing a Royal Commission into electricity supplies, I indicated that it was not the Electricity Trust's policy to advertise the conditions of contracts into which it had entered. At that time, the trust's management was entitled not to reveal the price of the contract it had made with the oil refinery at Port Stanvac. There is no indication that this Government will curtail the trust's activities at Leigh Creek and it certainly will not curtail the activities of the power station at Port Augusta. The Government will do all it can to enable the trust to carry out its announced policy so far as Torrens Island is concerned.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: When the Torrens Island power station comes into operation, will it be the base load station or will the present stations at Port Augusta be the base load stations? I understood the Treasurer to say in a debate the other day that as the power developed at Torrens Island would be 10 per cent cheaper, that station would become the base load station. I raise the matter because there are important considerations involved and this is the time to debate them, when we have a line dealing with Leigh Creek and the Electricity Trust before the Committee. By "base load station" I mean the station that is to be kept in permanent running under load to supply the standing load, calling on Leigh Creek only for emergency load. Will the Treasurer say whether Torrens Island will be the base load station or whether the present position will continue, with the Port Augusta stations as the base stations, calling on Osborne, with its imported fuel, in peak periods of loading? I

am not criticizing either the Treasurer's statement or the Trust, but should like to know the implications.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I do not recall ever having used the term "base station". However, I did say this:

In the meantime, there is unlikely to be any increase in charges for electricity. It is more likely that the trust will be able to make a further reduction to its tariffs. The trust has recently been able to make a particularly favourable contract with the Adelaide Oil Refinery for the supply of fuel oil. As a result, it appears that electricity from the first section of the Torrens Island power station will be 10 per cent cheaper overall than electricity from Port Augusta. In fact, when the first machine starts operating, at the Torrens Island power station in 1967, it is almost certain that there will be a reduction in the amount of Leigh Creek coal burnt in the older and less efficient plant at Port Augusta, because power produced by the efficient plant at Torrens Island will be cheaper on a fuel basis alone.

There is one other factor associated with this and that is that the Broken Hill Proprietary Company at Whyalla has taken supply from the trust and the company has recently asked the trust to build a second 132,000-volt transmission line from Port Augusta to Whyalla and, in consequence, will guarantee an increased consumption of power during a period of 20 years. With the contract proposed now with the B.H.P. Company and the Electricity Trust for this 132,000-volt transmission line there is no indication that it will stop there. In view of the statement made only last week as a result of an interview I had with representatives of the B.H.P. Company, I am satisfied that there could be a greater demand for work likely to take place at Whyalla. It has been indicated that it may be 1970 before gas is required. It is well known that South Australia has half the gas needed to go ahead. Therefore, gas could be used at Torrens Island within the 10-year period suggested. The trust will be able to produce electricity at Torrens Island 10 per cent more cheaply than it could produce it at Port Augusta.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am entirely dissatisfied with the Treasurer's statement because it indicates that there is a policy of gradually reducing the quantity of coal that will come from Leigh Creek. I am not impressed concerning the extra transmission line to the B.H.P. Company at Whyalla. It was something that I personally negotiated; it was in the Broken Hill Proprietary Company's Indenture Act; and it is a two-way traffic. Sometimes the B.H.P. Company will have surplus heat and power and it will feed

it into the electricity grid, and sometimes it will take it. We cannot reduce the quantity of fuel we use from Leigh Creek without considerably raising the cost of the coal produced. If the Treasurer looks at the cost of mining the coal at Leigh Creek he will see that it is still by far the cheapest fuel, notwithstanding our oil contract, and the availability of that low cost fuel depends entirely on the mine's getting its full output. If the men are working only part-time and the plant is working only part-time we cannot possibly get the low cost fuel we are getting today. The Leigh Creek coalfield, which employs our own people, has stood us in good stead for the last five years and, in fact, ever since the Second World War.

I point out that the power station at Port Augusta is only now being completed. I believe it is a wrong policy to reduce the supply of coal from Leigh Creek to Port Augusta or indeed to alter the role of Port Augusta as a base station, and I oppose that policy. Such a move would be a bad thing for the Commonwealth Railways system, which has organized a magnificent service for the field. In fact, it would be a bad thing for the field and for Port Augusta generally, and I hope that in 1967 wiser counsel will prevail in this matter.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I repeat that the information I have disclosed that as a result of something that will take place on Torrens Island power will be produced 10 per cent more cheaply than the power from Port Augusta. I do not know what losses occur in the supply of power from Port Augusta to Adelaide. The Leader referred to 1967, but I assure him that whether it be 1967, 1968 or 1971 my Party will still be in office.

Mr. SHANNON: If production at Leigh Creek is slowed down the plant, which is designed for open-cut mining, cannot be sold. The bigger the mining operation at the field the cheaper is the unit cost. Also, it would be a pity to lose the benefit we have obtained in our contract with the Commonwealth Railways for taking coal to Port Augusta. It would be wise for us to rely on our own fuel resources instead of obtaining fuel from overseas. I hope that in planning for power supplies Leigh Creek will be included, as the coal from that field is cheaper than that from any other place. Tasmania has a cheaper method of obtaining power, but this is only because it has hydraulic generating plant. Power from the Snowy scheme will cost more than that from Port Augusta. Yallourn coal has only half the calorific value of Leigh Creek coal, although

the deposits there are unlimited. Our planning should envisage making the maximum use of Leigh Creek coal for the Port Augusta power station. I do not think we were wise to enter into a long-term agreement to obtain fuel from overseas, because cheap fuel is available from Leigh Creek, and the power station is designed specifically to use it.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am still not happy with the Treasurer's reply. The Leigh Creek coalfield provides a credit to the Loan Fund of £300,000 and royalties to the Treasurer on the amount of coal produced each year. As far as I know, this amounts to about £100,000.

Mr. Shannon: That should be taken properly into account when the cost of the power is being estimated.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The royalty of 1s. a ton on over 2,000,000 tons produces a substantial amount of money. We do not get repayments to our Loan Fund from purchasing oil from overseas. Apart from that, the Leigh Creek coalfield employs our own people in our own State and is a standby for one of our largest towns outside the metropolitan area. All those things go by the board the moment we start putting Leigh Creek upon an inefficient basis. The reason for its success is that it has been efficient. It is producing over 40,000 tons of coal a week, and the coal is carried on a well organized rail service. The moment we start cutting down production and telling the mine to go slow, so that we can burn some oil imported from overseas, we disrupt the whole thing. Not only do we do that but we immediately make the field unprofitable and we do not earn the present repayments or royalties. The Opposition completely opposes the policy outlined by the Treasurer.

Line passed.

Grand total, £36,964,000, passed and Committee's resolution adopted by the House.

(Midnight.)

#### PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH (Premier and Treasurer) moved:

That Standing Orders be so far suspended as to enable the necessary steps to be taken for the introduction and passage through all stages of the Public Purposes Loan Bill without delay.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): Before this motion is put before the House—

The SPEAKER: This motion cannot be debated.

Motion carried.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH moved:

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

Motion carried.

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

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I move:

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

It appropriates the money required for the works and purposes detailed in the Loan Estimates which the House has considered. Clause 3 defines the Loan Fund. Clause 4 provides for borrowing by the Treasurer of £30,946,000. This is the amount of South Australia's allocation for works and purposes arranged at the June, 1965, meeting of the Loan Council. Clause 5 provides for the expenditure of £36,964,000 on the undertakings set out in the first schedule to the Bill. Clause 6 authorizes certain advances during 1964-65 for the undertakings set out in the second schedule. As no authority, or insufficient authority, was included in the Public Purposes Loan Act of 1964, appropriation was given by warrant by His Excellency the Governor under powers conferred on him by the Public Finance Act. Clause 7 makes provision for borrowing and payment of a sum to cover any discounts, charges and expenses incurred in connection with borrowing for the purposes of this Bill.

Clause 8 makes provision for temporary finance if the moneys in the Loan Fund are insufficient for the purposes of this Bill. Clause 9 authorizes the borrowing and the issue of £12,000,000 for the purpose of carrying on Loan works in the early part of next financial year until the Public Purposes Loan Bill for 1966 becomes effective. Clause 10 gives the Treasurer power to borrow against the issue of Treasury bills or by bank overdraft. The Treasurer possesses and may exercise this authority under other legislation, but it is desirable to make the authority specific year by year in the Public Purposes Loan Bill as is done with other borrowing authority. Clause 11 deals with the duration of certain clauses to the Bill, and clause 12 directs that all moneys received by the State under the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act shall be credited

to a special account to be paid out as required for the purposes of the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act. Clause 13 provides for this Bill to operate as from July 1, 1965.

I point out that it has never been this Government's intention to interfere with the workings of the Leigh Creek coalfield. In addition, this Government has at least been sufficiently honourable to report to the House on certain matters associated with the production of electricity in this State. We have already given a firm undertaking to investigate further the production of gas at the Gidgealpa field.

Further, I have referred to undertakings relating to the Torrens Island power station, and to a contract entered into between the Electricity Trust and the Port Stanvac oil refinery. I am prepared at this stage to seek information from the Electricity Trust, so that I can clarify the future position not only of the trust and its activities but also of the Leigh Creek coalfield. It is too early to forecast what will eventuate at the Gidgealpa field and it may be a week or two before that is known.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): I do not wish to delay the House unduly in debating the second reading of the Bill, for we have already thoroughly examined in Committee the lines of the Loan Account. However, I should like to ask the Treasurer for his consideration in connection with the working of this House. This afternoon, when I went to get some information on a clause in a Bill, I was told by the Parliamentary Draftsman that it was a direct instruction to him that he was not to explain a clause of a Bill before this House and that his job in future would be to draft amendments only and not to venture opinions as to the meaning of a Bill or of a clause. That is something that we have not had in this Parliament in all the time that I have been here. The Parliamentary Draftsman has always been the Parliamentary Draftsman in the full sense of the word and his duties have always been to not only assist members in the drafting of amendments, but even to assist them by explaining clauses, and in many instances it was not necessary for members to proceed with what they had at first sought to do.

However, if the Parliamentary Draftsman is not to be available to honourable members, then the whole efficiency of the House and the efficient consideration of Bills break down. I was today refused an explanation of a clause of a Bill at the direction of a Minister and I ask the Treasurer whether he will examine the

matter, because it is something new in Parliamentary procedure in this State. A Parliamentary Draftsman has always been freely available to advise members on the meanings of Bills. That is the whole purpose of a Parliamentary Draftsman and I ask the Treasurer to examine the matter. In fact, in my opinion, at all times when we are considering legislation in this House, a Parliamentary Draftsman should be available.

I have already said that the Estimates have been examined line by line and I do not intend to deal with them, as such, but there has been a request that touches on that matter. I do not propose to delay the passage of the legislation on it, but I draw the attention of the Treasurer to clause 12. This is not a new clause; it has been in the Public Purposes Loan Bill for several years, and so there is no criticism of the Treasurer involved. However, previously the position was that if any member wanted information on the road programme, it was freely available to him. He could always obtain particulars of items in the programme affecting his district and on the programme generally, although the programme was not made a Parliamentary Paper. In fairness to Parliament, if these moneys are to be appropriated without explanation, it should be possible for honourable members to obtain information concerning various roads in their districts by asking the Minister representing the Minister of Roads. I do not take it further than that and am not asking the Minister to table the programme; I know that it is subject to alterations according to circumstances. I suggest that when an honourable member wants information on a specific road it should be made available to him on his addressing a question to the Minister concerned. Under clause 12 we are appropriating a large sum without details being supplied at all. I do not criticize that, but I believe Parliament is entitled to have information on individual works if a member has made representations in respect of them or if he wants relevant information.

I regard the first matter to which I have referred as serious. The Parliamentary Draftsman's services have always been freely available to honourable members to draft amendments. This right is not to be taken away, but the Parliamentary Draftsman's duties are to be confined solely to the drafting of amendments. He will not be available to explain the meanings of clauses of Bills. I can say only that if that is to be the position, then I enter the Opposition's most emphatic protest.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH (Premier and Treasurer): There are two matters that need clarification. I think I had enough experience in this place as Leader of the Opposition to know what had to be done concerning Bills. During the whole of my time as Leader of the Opposition (and I introduced quite a few Bills on behalf of the Opposition) it was always the Opposition's responsibility to draft its own Bills. In addition, we prevailed upon the Attorney-General, who was an Opposition member in the previous Parliament and the Parliament before that, to help prepare Bills. Then, if it were possible, we would obtain the supervision of the Parliamentary Draftsman on the drafting of the Bills. In most cases we found that if he did not sign a Bill, then it was crook: it was bad drafting.

Mr. Jennings: What about when Sir Edgar Bean was draftsman? We had the same thing.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: If the Opposition has Bills it wishes to draft it can do its own drafting, which I expect it would do. We are not denying Opposition members any opportunities. If and when they have drafted Bills they can submit them for correction to the Parliamentary Draftsman or to one of his assistants who, I hope, will have time to consider such Bills and see that they are in line with the Constitution. I hope that the demands on the services of the Parliamentary Draftsman are kept within reason, and that the courtesy that has been extended over many years will continue.

The matter of roads is receiving the Government's serious consideration, and we are endeavouring to find ways and means to enable us even to print some information concerning the roads programme. That is not finalized yet; it is not an easy matter. I should be most surprised to know that any member who has asked for information regarding a road has ever been refused that information.

Mr. Jennings: He can get it from the department, anyway.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I think we have done remarkably well in providing information to this House on every occasion. I will not attempt to pat anyone on the back, but I think we can claim that we have not attempted to hide anything. I know that it takes longer to get information on some matters than on others. As I understand it, we are not permitted to clear the House, but it may be necessary to consider something else before all the queries are satisfied, and that is no threat.

Mr. Quirke: If you tell us what that means we will know.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Do honourable members know Dr. Gillis?

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: I don't know him.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Well, I do. It is information on that type of question that takes a long time to obtain.

Mr. Quirke: It is as difficult to understand parables today as it was 2,000 years ago.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: That is the type of information that has been delayed, because it takes a long time to get the right answers and to know how far we can go. It has never been the Government's intention to suppress any information, and it never will be. I think we do a good job in trying to get the information that is required. I can tell the House that if it is possible information regarding the road programme will be included in future. I know that information was published in the press, and I did not hear any questions asked on it, so it must have been satisfactory to members opposite. I know from experience that the newspapers quote things when it suits them to do so. I hope honourable members will accept the Bill.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clause 1 passed.

Clause 2—'Interpretation.'

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): I now have an opportunity of again asking the question which I asked the Treasurer a few moments ago and which he did not answer. I made no request to the Treasurer for the Parliamentary Draftsman to draft Bills for the Opposition.

The Hon. Frank Walsh: I didn't say you did.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: What I said was this—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable the Leader of the Opposition is out of order in raising the subject on which he is now speaking.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Mr. Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Leader of the Opposition is out of order. The matter he is raising now is not related to this clause.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Mr. Chairman, with respect, it is. It deals with the interpretation of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: The Financial Agreement, the Loan Fund and the Schedule?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. I want to know what these things mean.

The CHAIRMAN: They are not concerned with the Parliamentary Draftsman.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Mr. Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Leader of the Opposition is out of order.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Am I out of order in asking what this clause means?

The CHAIRMAN: The Leader is out of order in raising the matter of the Parliamentary Draftsman.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am not speaking of the Parliamentary Draftsman; I am merely asking what clause 2 means.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: It means what it says.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Exactly, but, Mr. Chairman, am I out of order in asking what it means.

The CHAIRMAN: The Leader is in order so far.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I ask the Treasurer what this clause means.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH (Premier and Treasurer): I thought the Leader would have been able to read it in the time that he took to speak. This is the interpretation clause, and it mentions the Financial Agreement between the Commonwealth and all States, and the schedule. It mentions the Financial Agreement of 1944, and I do not intend to go over that tonight. "Loan Fund" means the moneys mentioned in clause 3, and "schedule" means the schedule to this Bill.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I thought we were dealing with a Public Purposes Loan Bill, but we find that the Financial Agreement comes into it. I cannot understand how the Financial Agreement becomes a part of this Bill. If the Parliamentary Draftsman were here I might not have had to raise this matter, but as this facility is no longer available to me it is necessary for me to raise it. Why is it necessary to give a definition of "Financial Agreement" in this Bill?

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: You ought to know that Loan funds are governed by the Financial Agreement.

Clause passed.

Clauses 3 to 8 passed.

Clause 9—"Power to borrow and apply Loan money in 1966-1967."

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: This clause deals with the next financial year. Can the Treasurer indicate the purpose of this in a Loan Bill for this financial year?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The purpose is no different from what it was in the past. It may be necessary to delay a session of the House until we can carry over money from one financial year to the next. It has been the custom in this place in all the years in which I have been a member. There is nothing new in this, and I would have thought, with his long-standing knowledge obtained as Treasurer, the Leader would not have asked questions of this nature.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I asked the Treasurer a question but he said that I should know the position.

The Hon. Frank Walsh: I did not say that; I told him what I said before.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I point out that today we have had a request to get information from an officer of Parliament, the Parliamentary Draftsman.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: He is not an officer of Parliament; the Leader knows that.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: He is, and he was specifically instructed by the Attorney-General to give no information upon the meaning of a clause to members of this Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Leader of the Opposition is out of order.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (10 to 13), schedules and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

#### REFERENDUM (STATE LOTTERIES) BILL.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH (Premier and Treasurer) moved:

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to provide for the submission to a referendum of a question in relation to the promotion and conduct of State lotteries.

Motion carried.

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

#### SUPPLY BILL (No. 2).

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 12.39 a.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, August 25, at 2 p.m.