

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, September 14, 1965.

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

### QUESTIONS

#### PARA HILLS BUS FARES.

Mr. HALL: I believe the Government recently announced that the Municipal Tramways Trust would control passenger transport services as far out as Elizabeth, over an area including Para Hills, which is in the District of Gouger. I believe that at a recent meeting of the local progress association Mr. Lewis, the proprietor of the bus service to Para Hills, said that the M.T.T. was putting pressure on him to raise his single fare from 1s. 6d. to 2s. for a journey from Para Hills to the city because the M.T.T. fare to the nearest terminus on the city side of Para Hills would also be 2s. This increase would mean an extra 1s. a day in respect of a return journey to and from the city. Can the Premier say whether the foregoing statement is correct, and will he allow the fares to stand as at present and not support the M.T.T. in a programme of raising fares for the people of Para Hills?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I will obtain a report from the Minister of Transport and give it to the honourable member as soon as possible.

#### GAWLER HOUSING.

Mr. CLARK: Prior to the Royal Show adjournment, I asked the Premier about the building of additional houses in Gawler by the Housing Trust. Has the Premier a reply?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: To meet the demand for single-unit houses at Gawler, the Housing Trust recently built three of these houses of which two have been let. So far the trust has built about 290 houses at Gawler. Consideration will be given to the building of further semi-detached rental houses later in the financial year.

#### UPPER MURRAY BRIDGE.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: Can the Minister of Works say whether Cabinet has decided on the terms of the reference to the Public Works Committee concerning another bridge in the Upper Murray area, and when the reference will be submitted to the committee?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Terms are being prepared, and the reference will be submitted to the Public Works Committee soon.

### BULK HANDLING.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I refer to the departmental committee the Government has set up to inquire into the subject of bulk handling at deep sea ports around the coastline of this State. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether interested parties representing certain districts will be able to give evidence before this committee? If they will be, when will this be possible, and will the Minister arrange for such evidence to be tendered?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I will consult the committee, but I am sure it will welcome evidence from interested people. I will see when it is likely to take such evidence.

### NETLEY BUS SERVICE.

Mr. BROOMHILL: Has the Premier obtained from the Minister of Transport a reply to my question of August 26 about adequate bus services in the Netley district?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Municipal Tramways Trust is currently reviewing the bus services in the Netley district. It has discussed its tentative plans with the councils involved, but is not yet able to announce these plans.

### TELEVISION NEWS SERVICE.

Mr. RODDA: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question about the changed time of the Australian Broadcasting Commission's Channel 2 news service?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: A letter from Alan S. Hulme, Commonwealth Postmaster-General, states:

Further to my letter of August 13 in reply to yours of August 6 concerning the time at which the A.B.C. programmes its television news in Adelaide, as promised, I have now discussed this matter with the Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission. The Chairman, Dr. Darling, says that the new time for this programme was introduced for a trial period. The results are under close examination and will be analysed fully in the near future. I will advise you further in due course when I am in a position to do so.

### MILK VENDORS.

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question about the thefts of milk money in the Dernancourt and Tea Tree Gully areas?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Commissioner of Police states:

Seven reports have been received of milk money, to the total value of £15 19s. 9d., having been stolen in the Tea Tree Gully and Walkerville police districts during the month of August, 1965. The offences took place over a widespread area encompassing Modbury, Banksia Park, Redwood Park, Highbury, Holden Hill and Windsor Gardens. All were committed between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. but definite

times could not be established except on one occasion when money was stolen between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m., and another occasion when it was stolen after 4 a.m. A radio-equipped car manned by two officers patrols the district each evening and during the early hours of the morning. This is in addition to the coverage provided by members attached to the Tea Tree Gully and Walkerville police stations. Instructions have been issued to members to pay particular attention to this matter and to question anyone whose conduct gives cause for suspicion. However thefts of this nature are extremely difficult to detect, as offenders must virtually be caught in the act, and some people are resentful when questioned concerning their actions if seen in the streets during the early hours of the morning. I am satisfied that the supervision given to the Dernancourt and Tea Tree Gully areas compares favourably with that afforded other rapidly expanding suburbs.

#### HOUSING TRUST RENTALS.

Mr. COUMBE: As sweeping and very steep increases in Housing Trust rentals have been announced in today's *News*, can the Premier explain the justification for these extremely savage increases, some of which are as high as 10s. a week? Can he justify this further slugging of the workers of this State and this increase in the cost of living of those who can least afford it, especially in view of a move last year by the former Opposition to reduce rentals on railway cottages?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I have released no information on this matter. I have no doubt that I would be able to justify any increases, but whether my reasoning would be acceptable to the honourable member and to other members of his Party, I am not sure. However, I will obtain a report and give the fullest information possible to the House as soon as it is available to me.

#### BROKEN HILL ROAD.

Mr. CASEY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I recently asked concerning the road used for the mail run between Burra and the New South Wales border?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Subsequent to the honourable member's question, I took this matter up with the Director and the Engineer-in-Chief, and I have now received a further report in which the Regional Engineer states that, although rumbled for its entire length, grading is required to reduce corrugation. As I mentioned previously, the grader is back in service following a complete engine overhaul, but due to the back-lag of grading, and after allowing for more urgent work, the

Regional Engineer has confirmed that it will be six to eight weeks before attention can be given to this road.

#### EASTWOOD INTERSECTION.

Mrs. STEELE: Has the Minister of Education, representing the Minister of Roads, a reply to the question I asked prior to the Royal Show adjournment concerning the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Greenhill and Fullarton Roads, Eastwood?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The intersection of Greenhill Road and Fullarton Road, Eastwood, has been under observation by the Police Traffic Division at varying periods for some time. The respective traffic flows from each direction are fairly evenly balanced, and as a result there is no undue delay experienced by any particular flow. The maximum delay to any one vehicle during peak periods is less than two minutes, and the average delay at peak periods is slightly under 25 seconds. The main congestion is caused by right-turning vehicles which comprise 12 per cent of the traffic.

The placing of a police officer at this location to direct traffic at peak periods would not reduce the delay periods but could probably assist motorists to negotiate the intersection. However, due to the advent of the additional week's leave granted to police personnel, there has been a reduction in the number of men available for active duty, and until the manpower situation can be restored, it is not possible to allot an officer to perform traffic control duty at any further points.

#### CHAFFEY PUMPING STATION.

Mr. CURREN: Recently concern was expressed by settlers in the Cooltong and Ral Ral Divisions of the Chaffey irrigation area about the high salinity content of the irrigation water. Can the Minister of Irrigation indicate the present salt content of the water at the Chaffey pumping station?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I am informed that a test of water in Ral Ral Creek on September 8, 1965, indicated that the salinity from the surface to the creek bed had been reduced to 200 parts per 1,000,000 (14 grains per gallon) concurrently with the movement of a freshet down the river. This freshet is not expected to last long, but a similar one is expected to reach South Australia in about three weeks' time as a result of more fresh water which has reached the vicinity of Shepparton.

## RURAL YOUTH MOVEMENT.

Mr. FERGUSON: On August 19, in a question to the Minister of Agriculture concerning the rural youth movement, I expressed concern about the exchange visits being made by rural youth from overseas. Has the Minister a reply in this matter?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: There is a difference in principle between rural youth exchanges from Australia to the United Kingdom and United Kingdom to Australia. Australian rural youth exchanges to the United Kingdom are quite clearly the guests of the P. & O. Orient Lines throughout the duration of their trip. The P. & O. Orient Lines sponsor one member from each State annually. Free sea transport is supplied and transport within the United Kingdom is provided by the host company. Entertainment in the United Kingdom is, at times, lavish. Each year, a scholarship to the value of £1,000 is offered to the top exchangee from Australia. The object of the trip is to enable selected members to study agriculture and marketing in the United Kingdom, and to this end exchangees are billeted for a period with members of Young Farmer Clubs throughout the United Kingdom. After the first Australian exchange trip to the United Kingdom, the Young Farmer Federation of England and Wales requested P. & O. Orient Lines to sponsor six members to Australia. The company offered free return trips to Australia but refused to take any part in arrangements within Australia.

Transport costs within Australia for United Kingdom exchangees are the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture and the Rural Youth Clubs themselves. Itineraries are arranged in South Australia by the Senior Adviser, Rural Youth. The recent Young Farmer visitors from the United Kingdom, Miss Monica Elkington and Mr. David Jones, have written to thank the Senior Adviser, Rural Youth, for the experiences they gained within this State. Their letters are obviously sincere as indicated by the following excerpts:

Mr. Hooper, my stay in South Australia was really wonderful. I was able to cover so much of the State, it really amazed me how much the agriculture varied from one district to another. I was most impressed by the spirit and ambitions of all the members of the Rural Youth Movement, and would like to wish all members every success and prosperity for the future.  
(Monica Elkington)

Thank you, Sir, for arranging such a comprehensive coverage of the State for me. It has given me a wonderful opportunity of seeing the various facets of agriculture that are

practised throughout the State. This has been a most stimulating experience for which I am most grateful.

Everywhere I went, the hospitality I received was wonderful. I was made to feel at home from the moment I set foot inside the door of my billets, and every club did their utmost to show me as much of the area as possible.

(David Jones)

## PORT PIRIE WHARVES.

Mr. McKEE: Recently I received a letter from the Secretary of the Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Enginemen regarding lighting on the Port Pirie wharves during shunting operations. Has the Minister of Marine considered this matter?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The matter has not been drawn to my notice previously, but now that the honourable member has raised it I will inquire and bring down a report.

## POWERED CRAFT.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Recently the Minister of Marine said that Cabinet had approved the setting up of the committee to investigate the advisability of registering small powered craft and to determine the terms of reference. It appears that the committee is being appointed from three sources and that it is being asked to determine its own terms of reference. At least, that is the impression I got from the Minister's recent reply on the matter. Can the House be told what the terms of reference are? Will the Minister also consider widening the representation on the committee, because I think it is undoubted that one of the persons on the committee who will come from the boatowners' association will approach this problem with his mind fairly well made up, as the Minister has said that the association has been pressing for the registration of powered craft for some time. With that in view, it seems advisable to widen the membership of the committee. Will the Minister consider doing that, and will he also indicate the precise terms of reference which the committee has been or is being asked to determine?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The terms of reference have been prescribed, but I do not have them with me at this stage. I will obtain a copy of them for the honourable member by tomorrow. Since it was announced that we were calling for nominations for the committee, representations have been made to me by organizations interested in boating, and I have delayed the calling of nominations until I have had a further discussion with them. I expect that they will ask for further representatives

on, the committee.—At this stage I would rather not indicate what my answer will be, but I assure the honourable member that his request and the others I receive will be considered. I repeat that I want this to be a fair and proper decision when it is made.

**WARNING DEVICES.**

Mr. BURDON: Some time ago I directed a question, through the Premier to the Minister of Transport, concerning the provision of warning devices at railway crossings in Mount Gambier. Has the Premier a reply?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: It is intended to install automatic warning devices at the White Avenue level crossing, Mount Gambier, during the current financial year. An inspection will be made during this calendar year, when conditions at other level crossings will be observed. The results of these observations will be taken into account in assessing priorities for similar installations at other crossings.

**MARGARINE.**

Mr. SHANNON: I was pleased to hear some time ago that, as a result of the activities of the Minister of Agriculture and the investigations by the Crown Law Department, certain firms in the city were discontinuing the sale of margarine products manufactured in Marrickville, New South Wales. I am, however, now credibly informed that these firms are again selling these lines. Can the Minister say whether the advice received from the Crown Law Department permits him to take action that will protect the dairy farmers in this State from this unfair competition?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Although I have had advice from the Crown Law Department, it is not conclusive and I am awaiting further details. That department has been in touch with my department on this matter, and I am hoping to have further information soon.

**RESERVOIR INTAKES.**

Mr. LANGLEY: Since the House adjourned for the Royal Show recess, there has been a heavy downpour, which everyone hoped would benefit the reservoirs. Has the Minister of Works information on reservoir holdings at present?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: There has been considerable intake into the reservoirs although water stored at present is not equal to the storage at this time last year. The figures are as follows:

	Storage (gall.)	Increase in storage in 24 hours (gall.)
Mount Bold . . . . .	7,081,500,000	39,900,000
Happy Valley . . . . .	2,700,300,000	—
Clarendon Weir . . . . .	71,000,000	—
Myponga . . . . .	3,450,300,000	4,300,000
Millbrook . . . . .	1,747,400,000	—
Hope Valley . . . . .	666,000,000	—
Thorndon Park . . . . .	134,200,000	—
The total storage at present in these reservoirs is 15,871,200,000 gallons—an increase of 37,400,000 gallons in the last 24 hours.		

**COUNTRY ROADS.**

Mr. HEASLIP: On August 24 I asked a question about the employment on main roads of local labour of district councils in council areas. I have now received a reply from the Minister of Local Government, through the Minister of Education, which states:

My colleague, the Minister of Roads, reports that this work was carried out by a departmental bituminous sealing gang of the Northern district. Sealing work cannot proceed during the wet season for practical reasons. The gang was employed on miscellaneous maintenance and construction jobs during the wet season in order to retain this special gang as a co-ordinated work force trained to cope with the next summer sealing programme. It is departmental policy to use hired trucks on this type of work and it is essential to retain the trained and skilled drivers of these trucks during the wet season because of the rush of sealing work expected in the following summer. This gang is sometimes augmented with additional trucks; however, these were not required on this occasion. The owner-drivers of the four trucks in use on this work reside at Port Pirie, Red Hill, Halbury, and Burra and they were engaged for about 2½ months on this particular item of work.

Will the Minister of Education ask his colleague why people from Burra, Halbury, Red Hill and Port Pirie are doing this work while local employees of the district councils are out of work in their districts?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I will obtain that information.

**BLACKWOOD WATER SUPPLY.**

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Last Saturday morning, when out calling in my district, I called on householders in Hannaford Road, Blackwood, and was reminded that one group of houses in that road still had no direct water service, although some had an indirect water service off the service supplied to Uralla (the boy scouts' camping area). One householder told me that, when his house was built about two years ago, he was told by the department that he would probably have a direct service within

three months. As the Clarendon-Blackwood-Belair scheme is now completed and plenty of water should be available for reticulation in the district, will the Minister of Works investigate this matter with a view to authorizing the speedy connection of these houses to the water supply?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Yes, I will do what I can.

#### UPPER MURRAY HOUSING.

Mr. CURREN: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on August 26 about Housing Trust policy on rental houses in Upper Murray towns?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Housing Trust has a housing programme proceeding in Renmark, Barmera, Berri, Loxton and Waikerie. Although it is expected that a substantial proportion of these houses will be sold, some houses are expected to be available for rental.

#### PENOLA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY.

Mr. RODDA: On August 24 I asked a question about the electricity supply at Penola. Has the Minister of Works a reply to that question?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Following the honourable member's question, I took this matter up with the Chairman of the Electricity Trust, who reports as follows:

Penola Electricity Supply Proprietary Limited, as required by the Electricity Act, 1943, informed the trust on August 5, 1965, that it intended to install an additional generating set in its Penola power station. On August 25 we replied pointing out that the existing franchise from the District Council of Penola expired on July 1, 1967, and that we thought the company should discuss the franchise position with the council before installing additional expensive plant. (The franchise agreement contains clauses dealing with its winding up or renewal on July 1, 1967.) We also indicated that we thought it should be possible for the company to provide supply until July 1967 without any additional plant. It is not the trust's policy to provide bulk supply to a private franchise holder. We believe that the trust itself is in a better position to be able to supply power particularly to people outside of country towns. This is illustrated by the fact that the present franchise holder, although having the franchise for many years over the four hundreds surrounding Penola, has been able to provide supply to only a very few consumers outside the town.

#### MOTOR VEHICLES DEPARTMENT.

Mr. BURDON: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on August 31 concerning

third party motor vehicle insurance and the establishing of country regional offices for the registration of motor vehicles?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Registrar of Motor Vehicles reports:

I have submitted a report on the Royal Automobile Association's proposal for an insurance nomination system, and the matter is being considered by the State Traffic Committee. The request by the South-Eastern Local Government Association for a branch office of this department at Mount Gambier is a repetition of a request from that body in 1963. Investigations have been made to establish whether the operation of branch offices in country areas is desirable or justified. I am of the opinion that the provision of full registration and licensing facilities at even the most heavily populated centres at this stage would be uneconomical. However, the position is being kept under review.

New registrations form only a small part of the department's business. The greater proportion involves renewals, and unless insurance companies provided facilities at country centres also there would be little gained in handling renewals at a branch office, as motorists would have to send to Adelaide to obtain insurance certificates in any case. Thus advantages to the country motorist which might be claimed for a branch office would be offset considerably by this factor. I appreciate that some inconveniences occur in obtaining insurance to enable persons to renew registration, but the establishment of a local office would not solve this. Even allowing for the variety of work which would have to be performed by experienced staff, well versed in all aspects of registration and licensing, I consider that the man-hours required to service even the largest country centre fall short of the full time for which staff would have to be provided. The system of permits issued by police officers enables newly-registered vehicles to be used immediately after purchase, and in fact this places many country motorists in a better position than those in the outer metropolitan area.

Renewal notices are dispatched from this office several weeks in advance, and there is ample time for country people to effect their business by mail. This is also the case in the metropolitan area, where a large proportion of motorists prefer to transact registration and licence business by mail rather than by personal visit. Reports and a constant review of the situation indicate that the service provided by our mail branch in handling, processing and dispatching mail transactions is satisfactory. The establishment of an office at Mount Gambier would create a precedent for similar action at other large centres. I consider that the cost of establishing and maintaining such offices at this stage would be excessive and out of proportion to any benefit which might ensue. The distribution of population in South Australia does not yet warrant action such as has been taken in more densely settled areas in other States.

## MAITLAND SCHOOL.

Mr. FERGUSON: During this session I have asked several questions concerning the calling of tenders for the Maitland Area School. Has the Minister of Education any information on this matter?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The honourable member previously asked whether the increase in cost (£63,200) for the Maitland Area School, as shown in the Loan Estimates, above the preliminary estimate given on November 7, 1963, was caused by a change in the design of the school. The Director of the Public Buildings Department reports that the increase is caused by cost increases for this type of country work. The design of the school has not been changed in any way, according to that report.

## PORT PIRIE TRADE SCHOOL.

Mr. McKEE: Can the Minister of Works say whether a tender has been accepted for work on the Port Pirie Trade School?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I know that tenders were called and closed, but I do not know whether one has actually been accepted yet. I will endeavour to let the honourable member have that information by tomorrow.

## VIRGINIA WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. HALL: Has the Minister of Education an answer to my question concerning the Virginia water supply?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: My colleague, the Minister of Mines, reports that the Department of Mines has been making systematic observations of the water levels in bores in the northern Adelaide Plains for more than 10 years. The water levels fall each summer, and partially recover each winter. However, a comparison of the summer minimum level 1965 with a corresponding time in 1955 shows a drop in level exceeding 60ft. A similar comparison of winter maximum levels shows a drop of 25ft. It is disturbing to note that the summer water levels are now well below sea level, and there is a distinct danger of the migration of saline waters into the fresh water zones.

## DRAINAGE BORES.

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Mines, a reply to the question I asked on July 29 concerning drainage bores in the Naracoorte area?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: My colleague, the Minister of Mines, reports that the Naracoorte High School was inspected on August

19, 1965, and the drainage bore recently drilled near the southern boundary of the school land was found to be functioning satisfactorily. More than half an inch of rain had fallen a day or two before the inspection, but there was no accumulation of surface water within the school grounds. The headmaster confirmed that the bore had been providing good drainage. Surface water is channelled towards the bore by shallow drains, and prevented from entering adjoining properties to the south by a low bank which has been constructed along the boundary. Water passing down the bore hole passes through a large sump with several baffle plates, and this seems to be effective in removing much of the suspended material. It appears that the area in which flooding occurs lies to the south of the school in the vicinity of Gum and Field Avenues. In this locality there is a low-lying area where surface water accumulates.

In November, 1963, two drainage bores were drilled in this area, one in Gum Avenue and the other in Field Avenue, at the request of Naracoorte corporation. These bores were each drilled to 90ft. and tested for drainage at more than 4,000 gallons an hour over a two-hour period, with a rise of about 1ft. in the static water level. At the time the bores were completed the static water levels were 8ft. 4in. and 7ft. below the surface. Following water intakes the static level could rise close to the surface, possibly resulting in a lower drainage rate. However, the main problem may be the choking of the bores by the quantity of suspended material in the water. It is considered that these bores may need to be cleaned out and deepened to 150ft. to provide satisfactory drainage. In addition, an efficient method of removing as much of the suspended material as possible would help to prolong the effectiveness of the bores.

## LOCUSTS.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Recently, a Victorian daily newspaper reported that English and Australian scientists had found, in South-West Queensland and North-West New South Wales, beds of locusts large enough to cause plagues extending to Victoria. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether such plagues (if they eventuate) are likely to harass this State; whether any beds of locusts have been found in South Australia; and, if they have, whether appropriate action will be taken to deal with the breeding grounds by destructive aerial spraying or some other method?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I have no knowledge of any such activities in South Australia, but I will take up the matter with the departmental officers to see whether they have any such knowledge, and inform the honourable member accordingly.

#### BUS TIME TABLES.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Has the Premier a reply to my question of August 26 regarding the provision of bus time tables at bus stops?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The General Manager of the Municipal Tramways Trust reports:

Although the display of accurate time tables at stopping places along bus routes may benefit some passengers there are many problems associated with such a proposal. Apart from the time and cost involved in compiling and posting time tables at stops and in making the necessary alterations when time tables are varied, it would be very costly to protect them against damage, mutilation and unauthorized alteration, if, indeed, it is possible to do so. Time tables which could be interfered with in this way would be unreliable and misleading and would not therefore serve the purpose for which they were intended. We do not know the extent to which time tables are displayed at stops in Sydney or the measures taken to protect them against damage or mutilation, but we will make inquiries in this regard. However, we have received very few requests for time tables to be displayed at stops and it would seem that there is little demand for them in Adelaide. Time tables in handy pocket size are readily available free of cost for all services and it appears that these meet the requirement of most passengers. Having regard to all the factors involved, we are not in favour of adopting this proposal at present.

#### SCHOOL TRANSPORT.

Mr. HALL: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding the transport of Para Hills children to secondary schools?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The metropolitan area is defined for Education Department purposes in regulation XX/1 of the Education Regulations as approved by Parliament, and under this definition there is no doubt that Elizabeth and Salisbury are regarded as within the metropolitan area of Adelaide. The provision of bus services free of charge to the parents therefore does not apply. On the other hand, I would point out that in the metropolitan area the railways and the tramways trust provide substantial concession fares for schoolchildren and receive compensation for these concessions from the State Treasury. I understand that in the same way the Railways Commissioner makes an annual grant based on mileage to the bus operators

of the Elizabeth-Salisbury area and that last year this was about £4,500. As a consequence these operators are able to carry schoolchildren at a substantial concession rate. As the distance each way from Para Hills to Salisbury High School is about five miles and to Elizabeth High School is about eight miles, it is clear that a weekly ticket for 6s., as mentioned by the honourable member in his question, is considerably below the ordinary fares charged.

#### AGRICULTURAL SCIENTISTS.

Mr. RODDA: Last Saturday's *News* reported the Australian Institute of Agricultural Scientists as stating that Australia faced a serious shortage of skilled men. A survey showed that 337 additional agricultural scientists would be required each year to meet the demand from all sources within the Commonwealth. The total number of qualified men coming from Australian universities was expected to be only 192 this year, and to rise slowly to 245 in 1969. Is the Minister of Agriculture (in collaboration with his fellow Ministers in other States) satisfied that all steps are being taken to encourage young people to study for a degree in agricultural science?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I find it difficult to speak for my colleagues in other States. However, this matter was discussed at the Agricultural Council meeting, and I know that considerable concern has been expressed by all Ministers about the shortage. Encouragement is given in this State to young men to study agricultural science. We have made certain moves this year, of which the honourable member is aware. Of course, he is also aware that the Director of Agriculture is at present overseas endeavouring to recruit scientists from other countries. We have discussed many matters in relation to this shortage, and I am pleased to say that we have had one or two good results recently. I am not at liberty to disclose exactly what they are, but at least three new officers will be coming into the department soon.

#### SNOWTOWN SCHOOL.

Mr. HALL: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question of August 24 regarding the Snowtown school science building?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The Director of the Public Buildings Department states that the new science block being built at the Snowtown Area School will be completed and ready for use when school resumes on Monday, September 13.

**STATUTORY SALARIES.**

Mr. LAWN (on notice):

1. Whose salaries, other than those of members of Parliament, are fixed by Statute in this State?

2. What are the amounts of those salaries so fixed?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: It is presumed that the question refers only to salaried full-time Government officers. If this is correct, the positions are as follows:

Position.	Statute.*	Amount. £
Chief Justice . . . . .	Supreme Court . . . . .	7,000
Puisne Judges . . . . .	Supreme Court . . . . .	6,250
Auditor-General . . . . .	Audit . . . . .	5,202*
Public Service Commissioner . . . . .	Public Service . . . . .	5,202*
Agent-General . . . . .	Agent-General . . . . .	4,052*†
Police Commissioner . . . . .	Police Regulation . . . . .	4,852*
President, Industrial Court . . . . .	Industrial Code . . . . .	5,052*
Deputy President, Industrial Court . . . . .	Industrial Code . . . . .	4,302*
Public Service Arbitrator . . . . .	Public Service Arbitration . . . . .	4,852*

\* The Statutes shown above are the original Statutes in which the salaries were fixed, but for many years it has been the practice when all the salaries are being varied simultaneously to effect the alteration by a Statutes Amendment (Public Salaries) Act. Those marked with the star are currently fixed by this general Act.

† Plus £1,000 per annum allowance.

**RAILWAY CONCESSIONS.**

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. Are any classes of former employees of the South Australian Railways allowed the privilege of free travel on the railways?

2. If so, what is the qualification for this privilege?

3. Is the Government prepared to grant this privilege to all retired employees of the South Australian Railways?

4. If not, is it the intention of the Government to grant the privilege to any further classes of retired South Australian Railways employees?

5. If so, to which such classes will the privilege be extended?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Railways Commissioner reports:

1. Yes.

2. Heads of branches holding office for not less than seven years are allowed free travel on the railways upon retirement. Officers and employees other than heads of branches, upon retirement, are allowed free travel to the extent of two destination passes intrastate each financial year.

3. To 5. Not at this stage. It is to be remembered, too, that in addition to the destination passes, at least twelve privilege tickets at greatly reduced cost to the traveller may be issued each year for travel on these railways by retired officers and employees.

**AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT.**

The SPEAKER laid on the table the Auditor-General's report for the financial year ended June 30, 1965.

Ordered that report be printed.

**ASSENT TO BILLS.**

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the following Bills:

- Supply (No. 2),
- Electoral Act Amendment,
- Petroleum Products Subsidy.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EAST TORRENS) 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 authorize the District Council of East Torrens to borrow on overdraft the sum of £9,000, to authorize the Treasurer to guarantee the repayment thereof and for matters incidental thereto and for other purposes.

Motion carried.

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

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I move:

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

Its object, as its long title indicates, is to authorize the District Council of East Torrens to borrow on overdraft a sum of £9,000 under a guarantee by the Treasurer. For some five or six years the council has not been collecting all of its rates and its accounts and records have not been kept in an appropriate manner. As a result it is unable to carry on without some form of temporary accommodation. In the circumstances, the council approached the Government with a request for a special grant.



While sympathetic to the request of the council, the Government has no power to make such a grant. Under section 449 (1) (b) of the Local Government Act (which empowers a council to borrow on overdraft) a district council is limited in the amount which it can borrow to one-half of the amount of its previous year's income. The council's present overdraft has reached its limit, and the council estimates the amount of financial assistance which it will want at least until the end of this year at £9,000. It is expected the major part of the current year's rates will not be received until early in 1966, and consequently the temporary accommodation will be required for up to one year. It is understood that the council will be able to secure a loan on overdraft up to this amount on the security of a guarantee by the Treasurer. This special Bill is accordingly introduced with a view to assisting the council which, without some form of temporary accommodation, will be unable to carry on.

I come now to the clauses of the Bill. Clause 3 will enable the council, notwithstanding the limitations in the Local Government Act, to borrow up to £9,000 from a bank by way of overdraft. This amount will be in addition to the present overdraft. It is also provided that the special overdraft is to be repayable not later than 12 months after the commencement of the Bill. Clause 4 empowers the Treasurer to guarantee the repayment of any amounts lent to the council by a bank on overdraft on such conditions as are agreed between the Treasurer and the bank. Subclause (3) makes the necessary appropriation. Clause 5 empowers the Treasurer to recover any amounts paid pursuant to or in connection with the guarantee as a debt. As the Bill is of a hybrid nature, it will require reference to a Select Committee in accordance with Joint Standing Orders, and it is desirable that it be dealt with expeditiously.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): I know the circumstances that have led to the introduction of this Bill. At the outset, I express my appreciation to the Treasurer for his prompt action in this matter. As he has said, the accounts of the council have fallen into arrears and, in consequence, it has not been able immediately to collect the rate revenue due to it: it will take some time to get the notices out and to collect the necessary amounts. The council has no large capital debt, and I am certain that the requirements stated will be met by the time stipulated. As this is a hybrid Bill, it must go to a Select Committee. The

Premier has indicated that two members of the Opposition will be invited to sit on this Select Committee and, in those circumstances, I support the Bill and commend the Premier for his speedy action in coming to the assistance of this council.

Bill read a second time and referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon. R. R. Loveday, Messrs. Broomhill, Hall and Nankivell, and Mrs. Byrne; the committee to have power to send for persons, papers and records, and to adjourn from place to place; the committee to report on September 16.

#### WILLS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Committee's report adopted.

Bill read a third time and passed.

#### SUPREME COURT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of the general revenue of the State as were required for all the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Attorney-General) moved:

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Supreme Court Act, 1935-1963.

Motion carried.

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

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I move:

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

In doing so, I appreciate the courtesy of the Leader of the Opposition and members of the Opposition in enabling this Bill to be dealt with speedily. Its object is to make provision for the appointment of a sixth puisne judge to the Supreme Court bench increasing the total number of judges, including the Chief Justice, to seven. The last increase in the number of puisne judges was made in 1952 when, following an amendment to the principal Act, the number of puisne judges was raised from four to five. Considerable pressure for the appointment of a sixth puisne judge has come from the Law Society, which has expressed concern over the steady increase in the business of the Supreme Court and in the number of cases awaiting trial. It has also come from members of this House and from members of the public.

Since the appointment of the fifth puisne judge in 1952, the population of the State has grown from 723,500 to over 1,000,000, which represents an increase of over 38 per cent; but statistics indicate that the increase in the work of the court has been proportionately greater than the increase of population. For example, civil cases set down for trial (including matrimonial cases) have increased from 758 in 1951 to 1,389 in 1964. Decrees in divorce cases in the same period rose from 637 to 940. During 1964 the number of matrimonial causes instituted was 1,053. The number of criminal cases rose from 372 in 1951 to 662 in 1964. Indeed, recent statistics show that the position is, unfortunately, getting steadily worse. A report from the Master shows that there has been a steady increase in business in recent years. In 1964 the total number of processes originated was 3,170, compared with 3,089 in 1963, 2,902 in 1962, and 2,723 in 1961. The total number of processes originated in 1954 was 2,216, so that over the past 10 years the business of the court in civil and matrimonial jurisdiction has increased by 43 per cent. What is more, recently, although many cases are disposed of by hearing or settlement within a month, more cases are set down during that month. Although it would appear that much work is being disposed of in the court, the position is unfortunately growing steadily worse, with the list growing longer every month. Despite the efforts of judges to keep the work of the court up to date it will be seen that the burden of work has become so heavy that an additional judge is urgently required to cope with the steadily increasing work of the court. This Bill accordingly amends section 7(1) of the principal Act by increasing the maximum number of puisne judges from five to six.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): The problem outlined by the Attorney-General has existed for some time, and has caused much concern. The work of the court was undoubtedly heavily increased by the passing of Commonwealth legislation dealing with matrimonial matters. Forms of the law have been changed, and much of the work previously handled by officers of the court under Commonwealth law has now to be dealt with by the court itself. For some time judges have been working under a fairly heavy and continuous strain, and this is not desirable. Apart from that, the work of the court has been accumulating, and I

think everyone in this House realizes that the processes of the law should be available to the citizens of the State without undue delay. I am not sure that the Bill will completely solve the problem. Although I have not checked the position, I have been informed that many cases set down for hearing could not be heard even if a court were available to hear them, because a delay has occurred on the part of the legal profession in preparing cases. I think the Attorney-General would agree that cases have been set down for hearing which, if called on, would have had to be adjourned.

Another matter that may have to be considered by this House at some stage is the work undertaken by magistrates. I believe the time has come when we should review the limitations placed on magistrates and also certain work they are not at present permitted to undertake. I believe that certain matters that have to go to the Supreme Court could well be handled by magistrates. Our magistrates are responsible people and, in addition, the value of money has changed to such an extent over the years that I think the Supreme Court could be relieved by increasing the scope of work undertaken by magistrates, and by generally looking at the limitations at present placed on them. I support the Bill, and I hope that it will have a smooth passage through the House.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (Mitcham): I, too, support the Bill. I am prepared to accept the arguments put forward both by the Attorney-General (which were statistical arguments on information supplied to him by the Master) and by the Leader of the Opposition. However, the plain fact is that the time lapse between setting a case down for hearing and the actual hearing itself is about nine months, and that is far too long. I do not think we need look further than that to find justification for appointing another judge. I think I should come to the rescue of the legal profession to some extent, in view of the suggestion made by the Leader of the Opposition that practitioners are not ready for cases. I point out that there is not much incentive to get a case ready for trial when one knows that it will be nine months before the hearing can take place.

It is because of that knowledge that a delay will often occur and practitioners will not get their cases ready as quickly as they otherwise would. I think a desirable time lapse would be about four weeks. I do not think it should ever be much shorter than that, but it should

not be longer. The point I wish to make (and I hope the Attorney-General will say something about this, if he deigns to reply to the debate) is as to the likely effect on our State judicial system of the introduction of Commonwealth courts of jurisdiction inferior to that of the High Court of Australia. This move has been mooted for a long time, and it seems fairly definite that the present Commonwealth Government intends to introduce a range of intermediate courts. Those courts would obviously take away from the State Supreme Courts some of the Commonwealth jurisdiction with which they are at present vested. The bulk of the work, I suppose, is the matrimonial causes work, to which the Leader of the Opposition has referred.

If that occurs, the quantity of work undertaken by our Supreme Court will be reduced substantially, and it may not then be necessary to have a bench as large as the bench now envisaged. I emphasize that I am talking not about the present situation, but about what could happen in future. No doubt the Government (and especially the Attorney-General) has taken this into account, and he may have some plan to cope with that contingency when it arises. If so, I should like to hear his views on what will happen if those Commonwealth courts are set up. Finally, also arising out of the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition, I have grave doubts about substantially increasing the jurisdiction of our magistrates. I think it would be far better if we had, instead of the present two-tiered system of Supreme Court judges and magistrates, a three-tiered system of Supreme Court, county court judges and magistrates.

I point out the Government seems to be finding desperate difficulty (as happened with the previous Government) in appointing magistrates, because the qualified people just are not available. I do not think that simply increasing the jurisdiction of magistrates at present will bring much relief, until there is a great change in our whole system. However, I should like to hear from the Attorney-General in reply as to the position that will probably arise in South Australia when Commonwealth courts are set up.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Attorney-General): I think that basically three points were raised on this matter by the Leader and by the member for Mitcham. First, as to the lists of the Supreme Court, I think it is true to say that, in the past, cases have been set down which have not been ready to go to trial, and that cases have been set down in the lists

without any great intention that they should come to trial; they were put there to keep them going until there was an urge to settle them at the death knock. Already steps have been taken by the Masters to see that cases are not set down unless they are ready for trial. I believe this is an important step. However, it is only one of the steps that I believe need to be taken.

The Leader talked about the jurisdiction of magistrates. While I agree with the member for Mitcham that this is something that is not easy to effect and that it will not have the satisfactory results that the Leader suggested might occur, I do think that a re-examination of the cases to go to the Supreme Court and those to be dealt with by magistrates needs to be undertaken. At the moment indictable offences must go to the Supreme Court which could be adequately dealt with by magistrates because of their degree of seriousness. Some serious cases are dealt with by magistrates, whereas in other instances trivial cases must, under our somewhat archaic procedure, go to the Supreme Court as indictable. I believe a complete revision is necessary on this score.

It may also be possible that we could take a line from Tasmania in streamlining some of the work of the lower courts and lessening it by re-organizing the procedure of preliminary inquiries. Much work is to be done on the criminal side in this respect. I agree that we must face the fact that eventually we will have to have some kind of intermediate court in South Australia. We cannot satisfactorily cover the whole system with a two-tiered system; other States have found the necessity to have an intermediate court to deal with some cases other than those dealt with by the Supreme Court bench but at a more serious level of jurisdiction and a more dignified appointment than is now accorded to magistrates. A further point was raised by the member for Mitcham concerning the future of the Supreme Court bench in South Australia, given the fact that the Commonwealth may institute a series of courts of Commonwealth jurisdiction in South Australia. I do not think that is likely to arise soon: I believe it will be some time before Commonwealth courts are set up. I know that they have been mooted for some time, but they would not be set up until the necessary buildings had been provided; and, as it would take some time to get the legislation through the Commonwealth Parliament, and the appointments made, I do not think we will see this system for a few years yet.

In the meantime South Australia's population is increasing and the work load upon the Supreme Court is still too heavy for the size of the bench that we are even now appointing. If we appoint intermediate courts and set these up, then we can expect more work for the Full Court bench in South Australia, in which case three judges would be sitting at once on appeal cases to a greater extent than the Full Court sits now. I do not expect that there will be any stage in the future where we will not have sufficient work for a bench of the size that we are now appointing. I believe that we are safe in this and that, if anything, we are being a little conservative in only appointing one additional judge.

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

### THE BUDGET.

The Estimates—Grand total, £121,518,000.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from September 1. Page 1420.)

### THE LEGISLATURE.

Legislative Council, £16,167.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): When he submitted the Budget, the Treasurer presented three documents to the Committee. However, before I deal with them I compliment the Treasurer on his submission of the Budget. It is now many years since a Labor Treasurer produced a Budget in South Australia, and I believe that the last was during the disastrous depression years around 1932. I wish to compliment the Treasurer on securing the Treasury benches, and on submitting a Budget of the affairs of the State and of its revenue and expenditure for this year. I have no doubt that he has gained some satisfaction from this fact. I believe that it is an experience for any man to be in charge of the finances of the State.

I wish to deal with some of the matters with which the Treasurer dealt in his financial statement because, frankly, I cannot agree with some of his conclusions. At the outset I wish to draw the attention of honourable members to the comments made by the Treasurer on the first page of his financial statement. I refer particularly to the following:

From a situation like this it is quite impossible, other than with unacceptably severe financial measures, to alter the run of finances so as to produce a fully balanced Budget in the first year. New revenue measures by the Government, requiring as they do administrative

preparation and in most cases legislative enactment, cannot be effective without some delay, and meantime current expenditures must be met. Accordingly, for 1965-66 the Budget will provide for a current deficit of £1,541,000, which, after bringing into account the residue of past surpluses brought forward, would leave a net deficit of £930,000. It is to be anticipated that the revenue measures will be much more effective in assisting next year, and in the circumstances the Government feels justified in taking the view that to plan a two or even three year period to achieve a balance in finances is reasonable. I would add that the Government is taking a comparable view as to the appropriate period over which it feels entitled to spread the implementation of its election undertakings, although, as will become apparent as I proceed, we will progress with them a very long way in the first year.

I assume that the Treasurer means that as there was not a large surplus handed over to him by the previous Government, he cannot achieve a better result than a deficit of £1,541,000, and anyhow carrying forward a deficit of £900,000 does not matter for he will clean it up next year or the year after, when the revenues he intends to raise will become effective. I should like members to turn to Appendix 6 of the Treasurer's statement, which is a statement of receipts and payments on Consolidated Revenue Account for the last 20 years showing surpluses and deficiencies. There are two or three significant amounts during that period to which I want to draw the attention of honourable members. The first figure relates to 1946-47, when there was a deficiency for the year of a mere £60,000. The important thing there is the statement of how it was dealt with. Members will see that the deficit was funded by the Public Purposes Loan Act of 1949. In 1954-55 there was a very big deficit. After absorbing the prior surpluses, £80,000 was carried forward in Consolidated Revenue Account; of this, £40,000 was met from the special grant from the Commonwealth under section 96 in 1956-57, and £40,000 was funded pursuant to the Public Purposes Loan Act of 1958. Similarly, in the following year, 1955-56, there was a deficit of £1,430,000. Of that, £842,000 was met from the special grant from the Commonwealth under section 96 in 1957-58, and £587,855 was funded pursuant to the Public Purposes Loan Act of 1958.

Members will see that whenever there is a deficit it must be dealt with in an appropriate manner. Under the Financial Agreement, if we do not balance our Budget we have to find the difference from our Loan Funds, and there is no escape from that procedure. As I have pointed out, even the small deficit of £60,000 in 1945-46 had to be funded. For many years

we were a mendicant State, and the Commonwealth Grants Commission was recommending first-part grants to enable us to carry on. I direct honourable members' attention to the figures in the same table for 1961 onwards. Members will see that on no occasion since the commission ceased recommending grants to South Australia have we had a consolidated deficit. The reason for that is obvious: if we have a deficit we can only meet the deficit by funding it under the Financial Agreement, and it must come from our Loan funds. Members will notice that in 1961 we had a surplus of £1,188,000 and that, after absorbing the deficit of 1959-60, £877,000 was carried forward in Consolidated Revenue Account and transferred to Loan Fund in 1961-62. In the next year we had a surplus of £507,000, and £500,000 was paid to the Electricity Trust of South Australia pursuant to the Electricity (Country Areas) Subsidy Act. The next year we had a surplus of £290,000, and that was carried forward in Consolidated Revenue Account. The following year we had a surplus of £1,625,000, and that was also carried forward in Consolidated Revenue Account. Then last year we had a deficit of £1,310,000. We used portion of the money we had saved for that purpose.

Mr. Shannon: Leaving £611,000 in the kitty.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes, leaving that sum still available this year. The Treasurer intends this year to spend that £611,000 and to spend an additional £900,000, but he does not in his Financial Statement indicate how he is going to deal with that. According to my experience in this matter, it will be necessary for the Treasurer to fund this amount, because under the Financial Agreement it is necessary to fund all deficits not provided for. We did not have to fund last year because we had accumulated £1,900,000 to meet the position that had arisen. I do not agree with the Treasurer that we can accept a deficit of £900,000 as something of no moment which can be dealt with at any time when conditions are more favourable. That is not in accordance with fact.

Mr. Shannon: What will happen if next year proves to be a lean year?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I will talk about that in a moment. The Treasurer said that he did not have the large surpluses that I enjoyed last year, but I remind him that they were created by my Government during the period we occupied the Treasury benches. Although the Treasurer did not have a surplus available, he did have, arising out

of the previous year's financial position, an increased Commonwealth grant. He started with a grant of £4,000,000 more than we had to start the previous year. When the Treasurer is providing something he draws attention to the fact that it is in accordance with the election promises of the Government. It is a good thing to fulfil election promises, but the Treasurer did not promise that additional amounts would be collected by increased water charges.

Mr. Shannon: That would not have got any votes.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: That was not a promise made at the election. There were no indications then that the basis of water charges was to be altered so that the amount to be charged for water would be increased. The alteration that has taken place will result in an increase of about 11 per cent in rates collected. The key is in the following statement by the Treasurer:

I may say, however, that the valuation of city and urban properties generally has been made on a very conservative basis and is probably of the order of about 80 per cent of the full modern commercial value.

He emphasizes that it is not more than 80 per cent, but it has been standard practice for many years to charge only 70 per cent, and that is where the additional £600,000 will be provided.

Mr. Nankivell: The Act states three-quarters of the value.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Previously it has been 70 per cent, but now by an administrative Act it has become 80 per cent. I warn the Treasurer that the people of South Australia will be hostile if there is a further alteration. Already it means that many charges are excessive. It has been stated that there will be alleviation in certain cases, but this State has had, over a long period, a proud record of water supply. That record should be maintained. I find that the Treasurer, in explaining his Budget, said something about succession duties that is slightly different from his policy speech. He said:

With succession duties it is proposed to bring down legislation for the approval of Parliament, in accordance with the terms of the Government's election promises. The amendments will raise the exemption for widows and for children under 21 years from £4,500 to £6,000, raise the exemption for widowers, ancestors, and descendants from £2,000 to £3,000, and provide for additional exemption from duties for these same categories of beneficiary where primary producing land is concerned.

Yet his policy speech stated:

Our policy on succession duties provides for an exemption of £6,000 for the estates inherited by widows and children. It also provides that a primary producer will be able to inherit a living area without the payment of any succession duty, but a much greater rate of tax will be imposed on the very large estates. This is a totally different thing from what the Treasurer is saying today, and which is proposed in the legislation he outlined to us. In his Budget explanation, the Treasurer, referring to land tax, said:

The Government has examined the land tax provisions and finds that the effective rates are generally considerably lower than the Australian average for unimproved values in cases of £5,000. An adjustment to bring these to the general level is proposed which should increase revenue by some £425,000 this year. That means that it will be about £1,000,000 in a full year of collection, yet I found nothing about increased land tax in the policy speech. More to the point, I cannot find any acceptance of the fact that our land tax rates are below those at present applying in other Australian States. Forgetting about the £1,000,000 that will probably arise from the new rates, I point out that from the latest report of the Commonwealth Grants Commission (which is the most authentic document on this particular topic) it will be seen that on a *per capita* basis New South Wales collects £2 10s. 6d., Victoria £2 16s. 7d., Queensland £1 1s. 4d., South Australia £2 9s. 2d., Western Australia £1 13s. 4d., and Tasmania £1 14s. 8d. The Australian average is £2 6s. 1d., and I repeat that South Australia already collects £2 9s. 2d., without the addition of what is proposed in the Budget. I am concerned with the next statement in the Treasurer's report, which I think was probably badly framed. The Treasurer said:

The Government will bring down legislation to facilitate the operation of the new decimal currency from February next, and in the course of this will have to amend a number of taxes and duties. Most of these will involve only minor changes. It is proposed, for instance, that the halfpenny per ticket duty on betting tickets should be four dollars a thousand, which is a small reduction.

I think it will cost the Treasury about £120 for the year.

Opportunity will be taken to rationalize the stamp duty upon receipts whereby there will be extended exemptions but some increases, with probably a small net increase overall. The duty on cheques will be revised as from the introduction of decimal currency, and, as an additional revenue measure, it is proposed that this shall be five cents a cheque.

Increased revenue of about £150,000 should be received this year, and £450,000 in a full year, from the new duty on cheques.

Whatever the merits of the increase in the duty on cheques may be from the point of view of revenue, I believe that it was badly placed in the Treasurer's explanation as a matter arising out of the introduction of decimal currency. If there is one thing about which we should be insistent, it is that prices should not be increased as a result of decimal currency adjustments. There is not the slightest doubt that everybody will be reaching out when decimal currency is introduced, and that all the fractional changes will be against the consumer. I believe that this reference to duty on cheques should have been left in a separate paragraph, and made purely and simply as a taxation provision, rather than a matter associated with the conversion to decimal currency. As it is, everybody will be only too anxious to say, "Well, the Government itself set the example; it put the duty on cheques up 100 per cent."

Mr. Coumbe: It doubled it.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes, because of the conversion to decimal currency. I am not expressing any view on the 1½ per cent increase in the margin, but I believe that it was not desirable to insert it in the Estimates in the way that it has been inserted, for it does not give honourable members much information as to how it is arrived at or as to who will receive it. We are forced to anticipate decisions that may never be made. True, from time to time courts make wage adjustments, but they have always been provided for by a provision in an Appropriation Bill, in respect of which the Treasurer may make payments in accordance with any award made by any court, in addition to the sums provided in the Estimates. Does this 1½ per cent increase in margin apply automatically to service payments? Looking through the Estimates accounts it is almost impossible to find out what classes of person are likely to benefit by this increase, and what classes are not.

I should have thought that, for convenience in studying the Estimates, it would be much easier if this reference were left out of the Estimates altogether, as it has been left out in the past, and that it should have been provided for in the way it has previously been provided for. The Treasurer says that up to a certain period all wage adjustments that have been granted are in the Estimates, but for the future we are to put down 1½ per cent, which

may be wanted or which may not be. I believe that the Treasurer's financial statement is rather over-estimating the revenue that is likely to be available to the Government, and I also believe the Government is over-estimating the amounts of expenditure that it can usefully make. Both expenditures and revenues have tended to be exaggerated.

I should not like to be dogmatic about that, but a number of sums contained in the Revenue Estimates will fall short (and some severely short) of what is required. The Treasurer's Estimates have not been as conservative as have previous Estimates. The previous Estimates have always been better in their result than the figures submitted to Parliament. This was the case even last year when excess amounts were put before Parliament after the original Estimate was prepared.

I have examined all the documents presented by the Treasurer in his Budget, and I can find no reference whatever to the road maintenance tax—the amounts collected, how they were collected or where the money was spent. I believe this is a serious omission. The sum collected last year must have been about £700,000, and I assume that the sum collected this year will be much more. I hope the Treasurer will explain why this has been omitted and comment on whether this is to be the procedure in future. If it is to be omitted then honourable members will have no opportunity of discussing it on the lines; we will be able to discuss it only during the general debate. This concerns a sum of £1,000,000, and I believe it should be clearly set out in the Estimates. All other road revenues collected are shown; why is this omitted? Perhaps it is because the Government does not want road maintenance tax debated. I hope that the Treasurer will explain this.

I have referred to the proposed increase in land tax of about £405,000. I doubt whether this sum can be available this year. If it can be, then the rates to be imposed will be extremely harsh on certain property owners. I should also like an explanation from the Treasurer of the sum of £50,000 set aside for the Transport Control Board. Last year the amount collected was £22,636. I was interested to hear the Treasurer say that it was not intended to re-introduce transport control of the type that previously operated. If that is so, then how is it that the sum collected last year will be more than doubled and, of course, this will be for only part of the year? The legislation to be introduced is not yet before Parliament, and when it is introduced it will

be considered for some time. If it is ultimately passed, some time will be needed to put it into operation. I have referred to the steep increase of £436,000 provided for the Harbors Board. Again this will be for only part of the year, and it will be substantially met by the State's primary industries. This Budget is not a good one for our primary industries as most of the additional charges to be levied will ultimately be met by them. Unfortunately, they are unable to meet these charges. This increase, which will apply for a part of the year, appears to be steep indeed. I hope that the Treasurer will further consider this matter.

I do not believe the increase in revenue provided for the railways can be realized. Last year, with a good season, railways revenue showed a slight decrease. This year the Treasurer has provided £321,000 more for the railways and this is to come from two main sources—additional grain holding in the State, and an increase in the Barrier traffic rates and tonnages. All members know that barley is cleared out as soon as it is available. I do not know where the Treasurer received his information about the large quantities of wheat held in the State, but the quantity held now (and I checked these figures only this morning) is almost precisely the same quantity as was held at this time last year—about 5,000,000 bushels. At the moment large stocks of wheat are not held in South Australia, but I do not know whether some wheat has been disposed of in the last two months. Although the general revenue of the Railways Department does not show any great increase, I do not have the specified items. I believe that the Treasurer has probably over-estimated the revenue he will receive from the railways. I have referred to the additional £1,000,000 to come from the operations of the Engineering and Water Supply Department. I believe that sum (apart from whether it can be collected) is excessive.

The other item to which I wish to refer is the item that shows under the sinking fund of the group laundry. That item is merged in with all of the sinking fund provisions on page 9 of the Revenue Estimates. This item comes into our accounts for the first time. The sum provided for it under the sinking fund provision is not clear, but the accounts of the group laundry itself are interesting. I should like additional information on this matter later, because it involves not so much the expenditures on the group laundry but the accounting to Parliament of those expenditures in a way that would enable Parliament to

usefully keep an eye on this department. The figures for the group laundry are shown on pages 23 and 27 of the Estimates of Expenditure, and they represent the most peculiar accounting that I have seen for a long time. On page 23, the only item shown is under the heading "Salaries and wages", and it is "Manager, Secretary, Clerical Staff, Superintendent and Laundry Staff." The figure voted for last year was £6,000 and the actual payments were £4,778. This year £170,000 is provided, which is an increase of £165,222 on the payments for last year. Then, under that line a figure of £170,000 is shown as being charged to other accounts, and we finish with a decrease on the group laundry of £4,778.

Mr. Heaslip: Good financing, isn't it?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Well, it is a peculiar way of setting it out.

Mr. Coumbe: Unusual!

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. We cannot find anywhere in the Estimates where the amounts that are charged to the other accounts come in. If members can find anywhere in any other Estimates where that amount is charged to the other accounts, then they are smarter than I. When we turn to page 27 of the Estimates of Expenditure we see that last year the group laundry vote was £1,000 and that the actual payments were £265. However, no expenses are provided for the group laundry this year. Does that mean that the group laundry is not going to have the ordinary detergents that are necessary for it, for instance? Where are the running expenses of the group laundry charged? The only thing we have on the Estimates is the wages line, and it seem that somebody has slipped somewhere, because I cannot find anywhere where any provision is made for the running of this activity. Apart from that, I cannot find where the £170,000 is shown as being recouped. I suggest to the Treasurer that he look at this matter and endeavour to clear it up. I suggest also that for another year it should be set out clearly in the Estimates what is the amount provided for the group laundry under the various headings, and also where the group laundry carries out a service for another department the other department should show in its accounts that it is paying that money. This would enable us to see clearly the activities of the group laundry. If we do not do this, we shall be going into a system where the group laundry is carrying on business for the convenience of other departments when there is no real check being made of its

accounts or the services it gives. If the other departments do not have to give any account of that activity, I would say that, very quickly indeed, the group laundry will become an excessively costly item, and that it will not have any good business control.

I now wish to say a few words on two other items, in the light of what was said at the election compared with what is being said now. I refer particularly to page 10 of the Estimates of Revenue, the item "Rent of school residences, technical school fees, sale of school books, etc." The estimated receipts on this line are £380,000, an increase compared with last year of £19,000. I understood that it was the policy of the Government to provide amelioration to people having to pay for school books, and that this policy would be fully operative in 1967. I looked at what the Treasurer is reported to have said on this matter and tried to make it balance with the headings of the statement. The Treasurer's statement was that the system would not be instituted before 1967. There is a little difference in that. It seems to me to be rather a confusion on the part of the Government when on the one hand it is proposing to reduce these things and on the other hand an increase is shown on the Revenue Estimates.

I turn now to the Estimates of Expenditure. I believe one or two items require the attention of this Committee. If honourable members look at page 15 they will see that the Estimates for the Police Department are set out fully. About half way down the page there is an item "Probationary Constables in training (each with quarters or allowance in lieu thereof and reimbursement for uniform, £60 p.a.), cadets (each with reimbursement for uniform, £45 p.a.), storeman and labour as required." The line above also deals with the provision of probationers. If honourable members examine the amounts provided in these Estimates, the only conclusion they can come to is that there will not be one new officer taken into the Police Department this year. When we have such a high incidence of road accidents and lawlessness, why is it necessary to curtail the activities of the Police Department? The amount provided last year for the line "Probationary Constables in Training" was more than could be spent and £20,000 more than is provided this year. It is serious when we economize at the expense of training and maintaining the Police Force.

My next criticism concerns the Hospitals Department. Substantial increases have been provided for the maintenance of Government



hospitals, and I do not complain about this. However, it is clear when considering the treatment given to subsidized hospitals, that the Government will not assist people who are trying to help themselves. It is taking it away from these people and giving it to Government institutions. Can the Minister of Education explain why the Government hospital at Port Pirie is provided with £273,000 for maintenance compared with £82,000 for the Whyalla Hospital? It is obvious the Government is not helping people who are trying to help themselves. The Treasurer may say that this is not so, but I am quoting figures. The amount provided for the Port Lincoln Hospital is £148,000, an increase of nearly £24,000, but £82,000 is still provided for the Whyalla Hospital, and this is the same as the amount provided last year.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: I happen to know that the Whyalla Hospital Board is satisfied with the treatment it has received from this Government.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am pleased to hear that because it never expressed that to me. It is getting the same sum as it received from the previous Government.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: No, that's not all.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Perhaps the board has lowered its sights. However, I am not concerned about the Whyalla Hospital.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: You have been talking a lot about it.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I gave it as an example. The Port Augusta Hospital is provided with £154,000, an increase of £7,200 and £347,000 is provided for the Mount Gambier Hospital, an increase of £10,000. How are these figures co-ordinated? Apparently, if it is a Government institution honourable members opposite automatically support it, but if it is an institution run by people who are not under direct Government control then the Government does not support it. In many cases the amount provided for maintenance and other items for subsidized hospitals is the same as it was last year. That attitude is apparent throughout the Estimates of Expenditure. It is apparent in the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and in the Chief Secretary, Miscellaneous, line. Last year the grant to the Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions (Ernabella Mission) was £2,600 and that amount was spent, but this year nothing has been provided. After visiting Ernabella recently, I thought it was doing a magnificent job. I cannot understand why this

item has been omitted. Yalata previously received £4,275, but this year it will receive only £1,000. The Umeewarra Mission received £1,250 last year, but it is completely excluded this year. I cannot understand the Government's attitude on this matter. I should have thought it would be a good thing to help organizations which, after all, bear most of the costs themselves. The sums provided for these missions are only trifling compared with what they actually spend.

However, we find a totally different attitude when we come to the missions directly under the Minister. Expenditure on those institutions seems to be no object. Their increases are substantial, and no suggestion is made that there is any difficulty in financing their activities. Why are the people providing similar services, but with less support, denied that support? This whole attitude is evident in respect of all Government departments. I was astounded to see one item under Chief Secretary, Miscellaneous, referring to Meals on Wheels. That organization gives tremendous assistance to the public; the Government provided £17,500 for it last year, and that sum was actually paid, but this year it is to receive £7,700. I cannot understand that, because time and time again reports from the Hospitals Department (which are available to the Government) emphasize that this organization enables people to have decent food while staying out of hospitals and in their own homes, thus saving considerable expenditure by the Treasury. However, because it is not a Government department and not specifically under the Minister, we see that all the relevant reductions are made at the expense of people carrying on voluntary activities that have the admiration of people in the other States.

I was interested to see that in the Aborigines Department the sum saved on the Ernabella Mission will be spent on a motor car for headquarters. Ernabella gives a magnificent service, which the department would do well to consider. As far as I know, it provides the only medical service in the Far North and North-West. I am sure that, if honourable members were to travel to those parts of the State and were to see the urgent need for treating eye diseases (particularly in Aboriginal children), they would agree that Ernabella should be supported in every possible way. However, Ernabella is apparently subjected to a reduction at any old time. The Treasurer said:

The departmental proposals include considerable increases in the provisions for the social

services, for public undertakings, and for development and maintenance of State resources.

He later referred to that again and said:

In the maintenance and development of State resources the main provisions are for the Agriculture and Mines Department.

The Agriculture Department's £1,100,000 includes provision for the control of fruit fly, should a fresh outbreak occur. For the Mines Department, the allocation of £941,000 includes the cost of an investigation into the feasibility of constructing a natural gas main from the Far North to Adelaide. If we look at the Agriculture Department's estimates and at the additional amount to be provided for possible fruit fly control, and if we add to that the increases in salaries, not even one additional penny is provided for that department. In fact, when those matters are considered, it will receive less than the sum provided last year.

I point out that this department plays a great part in maintaining the State's resources. The figures are even worse for the Mines Department. If we take out the £20,000 provided for the feasibility survey, and then take out the wages as well, the net result is illustrated by the fact that the geological survey has to be curtailed. Instead of the Government's providing £204,000 it is actually reduced to £154,000. We find exactly the same attitude in regard to the Lands and Irrigation Departments. Emphasis is placed on social welfare rather than on developmental matters. Although it might be pleasant at this stage to spend additional sums on social reform (as it might be called), I believe that the ultimate well-being of the community depends entirely on how much emphasis is placed on the establishment of industry and the development of natural resources. These have been completely neglected in the Budget. Inadequate provision has been made in these fields to continue the work. I believe that the Government is wandering from a policy that has been beneficial to the State. That policy was to concentrate on development and production to lift the gross national product. If that is done, the level of employment rises automatically. In the Treasurer's policy speech, he said that the estimated national growth would be £17,000,000 a year.

Mr. Hudson: That isn't true.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: In his policy speech the Treasurer said:

Some part of the receipts I have mentioned will automatically be absorbed by wage adjustment and expanded services, but a very conservative Labor estimate shows that at least £51,000,000—

originally £52,000,000 was typed, but the Treasurer wrote over that £51,000,000—

will be available towards the cost of improved educational, health and other essential social services.

The Treasurer said that £51,000,000 would be available and, if that is divided by three, the result is £17,000,000 a year.

Mr. Hudson: If it grows by £17,000,000 a year, then it is £17,000,000 the first year, £34,000,000 the second year, and £51,000,000 the third year. The total for three years would be £102,000,000.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Apparently the honourable member was the conservative Labor estimator. Of course, this estimate proved to be completely fallacious the first time it was tried.

Mr. Hudson: The Leader has misinterpreted it: it is not £17,000,000 a year anyway.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Treasurer was reported in the *News* as saying that free school books would be introduced in primary schools at the beginning of 1967. This was at a lunch-hour meeting at which the Treasurer addressed several hundred men at the Islington railway workshops. At the meeting he was also reported as announcing that the 1967-68 Budget would provide for four weeks' annual leave for railway employees. He explained that the heavy financial commitments of the Government made it impossible to accede to the railwaymen's four weeks' leave request this year. He said that the Government was obliged to do the best it could with the limited finance available. This was the first time I saw the words "limited finance" used by the Treasurer.

The Treasurer was further reported as saying that the Government was already committed to build two new hospitals soon, one in the south-western suburbs on land acquired opposite Bedford Park, and another at Modbury, where steps had been taken to begin clearing the land for the hospital. The Treasurer added that his Government intended to honour its promise of free books for all schoolchildren, but that he could not see this being done before January, 1967. This promise had been made on a conservative Labor estimate. Unfortunately for the Treasurer, that is where he went wrong. His conservative Labor estimate was £51,000,000, and his adviser led him astray.

Mr. Hudson: The Leader is talking rubbish.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: When one has a bad adviser one is apt to go wrong. I do not blame the Treasurer if he has been led astray. I wish to make other points concerning particular lines. On the general policy my

complaints are, first, that the Revenue Estimates have been boosted above what will probably be attained and, secondly, that in the main the Expenditure Estimates have been boosted accordingly.

However, I believe the sum provided for the electricity with which to pump water is inadequate, and that it will be shown that £750,000 is inadequate. I hope that I am wrong, but the catchment has been meagre during the winter. Although I do not have the figures, I doubt whether the reservoirs are at present two-thirds full, and that is at the beginning of what looks to be a fairly dry year. I do not share the optimism of some people that merely because we have a shower of rain, we are automatically assured of a good season. My present estimate is that the agricultural season is promising but that there is not a surplus of subsoil rain and that we want very much more than average spring rains if we are to get the crop that has been so confidently predicted. Be that as it may, I do not believe that anything that is likely to happen will benefit the catchment area sufficiently to enable the Minister to keep the costs of his pumping down to the amount provided in the Estimates. The £750,000, in my opinion, is not adequate to meet the tremendous drain on the reservoirs this year. As the Minister of Works knows, even the country reservoirs will have to depend largely on pumped water this year. In these circumstances, I believe the Estimates in that respect are not providing enough.

In general terms I believe the Estimates are providing more than can be spent in some departments. However, I very much regret that the activities which are being promoted by private charity and which have done so much for this State should have received a reduction in their grants. I refer particularly to activities such as the Aboriginal missions and Meals on Wheels. Why should it be necessary to save a few pounds on Meals on Wheels when such saving will inevitably force people into public hospitals? I hope that the Government will give more mature consideration to the work being done by so many of these organizations working voluntarily in the interests of the welfare of the community.

The subsidized hospitals are rendering wonderful service. I have not completely analysed the costs, but I invite any member later on, when he has the opportunity of looking through the Auditor-General's Report, to study the cost to taxpayers of a patient in a Government hospital compared with the cost of a patient in a subsidized hospital. I am sure he

will be astounded at the difference. Two subsidized hospitals seem to be treated differently from the rest: Naracoorte and Millicent. If those hospitals can have it, why should others not receive the same treatment?

Mr. Hudson: Many have had their capital grants increased.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I believe all the subsidized hospitals should have the same treatment. Another item in the Budget received only qualified support from me. I think £80,000 is provided towards meeting the cost of pensioners in subsidized hospitals. That amount will provide an additional £1 a week for pensioners in those hospitals. I do not know why the State does not meet the whole of the cost of these pensioner patients. I know that in the policy speech I was privileged to make on behalf of my Party I set out categorically that, if we were returned, we would meet the whole of the cost, which I think amounted to an extra 36s. a day. The amount provided (£1 a day) is certainly something towards it, but, when we are spending well over £110,000,000, why should we be so niggardly?

Mr. Jennings: Parsimonious.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The member for Enfield always comes to my assistance. Why should we be so parsimonious as to expect other patients to pay not only their own hospital costs but portion of the pensioner's hospital costs? I believe that costs should be met by the general taxpayer, and I believe that, if the Government considered that, it would certainly gain the approval of all concerned. The amount involved would be relatively small, but it would give great relief to hospitals. I know that one-third of the total budget of one small hospital is taken up by pensioner payments, and consequently it is under a severe strain in that regard. If pensioners attend Government hospitals there is no problem, because the Commonwealth Government provides some of the cost and the State provides the balance. I admit that we did not provide for this matter previously; if our conversion was a bit late, nevertheless it was very sincere, and we would have provided for it. I think this provision should be made.

I support the Budget, with the qualifications I have mentioned. It would be of great assistance to members if the amounts for certain activities in some departments were shown in one place instead of in three or four different places. In the Hospitals Department, for instance, there are set out in the Budget fairly and squarely the amounts provided for wages

and salaries. However, we must go to another place to find out other particulars. Why these figures are not grouped together in the first place I do not know, but it would be convenient if they were grouped together. I admit that this procedure has been followed in previous Budgets, but I believe that, from the point of view of enabling members to study the Estimates, it would be advantageous if the expenditure on the whole of an activity were stated in the one place.

Mr. NANKIVELL (Albert): I refer to matters raised in the Budget debate last year by members opposite, who were then in Opposition. The Treasurer, as Leader of the Opposition, said:

There are only two indications that these buoyant conditions are not to continue. The first of these is that the Commonwealth Government has decreed that this State is to receive less this year than last year, irrespective of the increased population and prices, not to mention increased Government receipts by way of the removal of the 5 per cent rebate from all personal income tax. The second of those indications is that the State Government has increased substantially its rates of taxes and charges and proposes to increase them still further. I sincerely trust that this is not to be another Government interruption of the prosperous expansion of our community.

There was an estimated increase in taxation last year of £1,250,000, and an increase in expenditure of £1,310,835. However, the revenue increased above the estimate with a resultant improvement, and the Treasurer now says the improvement was £1,181,000. Instead of a deficit of £570,000 we have a surplus of £611,263, despite the claims that we left the Treasury in an unhappy state.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: And after making provision for service payments.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Yes. The next charge made was that we were running into deficit at the rate of £2,000,000 a year. Explaining his Budget this year, the Treasurer made this frightening statement:

The situation in which the Government has had to face its first full year is one in which the Consolidated Revenue Account has been running into deficit at the rate of £2,000,000 a year with only £611,000 in reserve.

Accepting that as the case, what do we find the Treasurer proposing in this Budget? How does he expect to remedy the situation? He does it by increasing taxation by £4,674,000 and budgeting for a current deficit of £1,541,000. If to the increase in taxation is added the deficit and the additional £4,212,378 that has been granted by the Commonwealth Govern-

ment, we find that this year we have an increase in Revenue Account Expenditure of £10,427,418. The actual sum to be spent in the Budget is shown in the statement of receipts as an overall increase of £8,886,418, that is, contributions from State sources and from the Commonwealth Government. Add to that the Budget deficit, and automatically deducting the surplus, a figure of £9,816,155 is arrived at.

Mr. Hudson: How do you get that?

Mr. NANKIVELL: I have added the State sources of taxation and the increases in the Commonwealth Government contribution. I am working in increases. When speaking in terms of the Budget, I am referring to increases, because I have pointed out that the Treasurer indicated we were running into a deficit at the rate of £2,000,000 a year. He said that his first intention was to correct this by increasing taxation, not by a figure of about £1,750,000, which would have allowed for the increase in taxation we budgeted for together with growth allowances, but by £4,674,000-odd. If the member for Glenelg wishes to disagree with me I shall be happy to listen to him. The figure I arrive at is that the increased money available in this Budget is about £9,817,000. That is a considerable sum, and we are concerned with whence it comes and where it goes. Let us consider the statement by the Treasurer (probably his source of information was the member for Glenelg). I quote from the Treasurer's policy speech, in which he said:

Additional funds will also be available on account of the normal growth in Government revenue and Loan funds. The current trend of growth in Government expenditure and receipts is 7 per cent per annum and there is no indication that this trend is likely to alter. Last year Government expenditure exceeded £140,000,000, and therefore we can anticipate cumulative increases of about £10,000,000 each year for the next three years, making £60,000,000 increase in all.

Mr. Hudson: The increases are greater than 7 per cent this year!

Mr. NANKIVELL: I am not arguing about that.

Mr. Hudson: Are you giving us credit for getting that one right?

Mr. NANKIVELL: I shall give the honourable member the percentage increases in the last 10 years. If my figures are wrong, he may correct me. Between 1960-61 and 1961-62, the increase was 5 per cent; between 1961-62 and 1962-63 it was 3 per cent; it rose between 1962-63 and 1963-64 to 7½ per cent. The next year the increase was about 7¼ per cent, and this year it is about 6½ per cent.

This was achieved not by natural growth, but by a calculated increase in taxation.

Mr. Hudson: The amount of £9,000,000 on a total of £110,000,000 is at least 8 per cent!

Mr. NANKIVELL: I did not say £110,000,000. I quoted a figure of about £117,000,000 which was the figure for 1960-61, and the increase was about £6,000,000. I have taken these figures from the Revenue statement and Consolidated Loan statement. We have set about increasing our taxation deliberately in order to maintain what I call a fictitious figure.

Mr. Hudson: If it is not a fictitious figure, you will still say it is.

Mr. NANKIVELL: How can we raise additional taxation? Land tax is estimated this year to yield £405,000 additional income, and it is foreshadowed that a further £20,000 will be obtained in a full year, bringing the total yield to £425,000. Further increases are to be made by increasing duty on cheques—£150,000 for this year, and £450,000 for a full year. As the Leader said, this increase is shown in the Treasurer's statement to be related entirely to the change-over to decimal currency whereas, in effect, it is a 100 per cent increase in tax.

Cheque accounts are commonly used today for payment of accounts and for their convenience and safety. This tax is no different in essence from the one about which the Opposition in Canberra was so critical, that is, the tax on commodities commonly used by the man on the street, such as beer, cigarettes and petrol. The next item on taxation relates to succession duty. We know, of course, that legislation is pending on this subject, which will increase the exemption from such duty to the extent of £6,000 in certain cases. In the case of a primary producer it will do something very mystical, for it will exempt a living area from succession duty. I challenged the Opposition last year on this matter, as it had stated that the use of the term "living area" was part of its agricultural policy.

I have asked members opposite just what a living area is and how we should exempt such an area. Unless, of course, we intend to control land prices and relate them in some way to productivity, then we might obtain a comparable value for a living area throughout the State, but otherwise we shall find that in one area of the State a man may need £50,000 to make a living, whereas others may need only half that in a different area. I do not see how we can achieve any justice in a "living area" being exempted from succession duties. Publicans' licences will also yield increased revenue which, as I understand from

the Treasurer's statement, results from an increase in turnover and the issuing of additional licences. The Betting Control Board will contribute an additional £27,884, as the result of an increase in turnover.

Mr. Hudson: Those two lines are due to growth.

Mr. NANKIVELL: The Transport Control Board provision is also due to growth. That board had previously had its powers whittled away until it virtually had no major function at all. As the Leader pointed out, despite the fact that we shall have the privilege of competing against the Railways, the Treasurer stated:

Rather than adopting the method of prohibiting competitive operations, it is proposed in general to permit them to continue as far as practicable but to require the competitive services to make an appropriate payment for the privilege.

I should have thought that would mean we were not going back to requiring permits and licences to operate. However, under the Bill dealing with transport co-ordination we can expect not only the re-introduction of permits on an increased scale, but also other things as well. Pistol licence fees are to be increased. The Fisheries and Game Department tries to control game in certain areas, by controlling the seasons for shooting, so that people with gun licences will inevitably get something for their money. I notice that receipts from pistol licences show an almost threefold increase this year from £2,600 to £7,500. I wonder why the Government has not introduced the registration of rifles, for they are the most dangerous and destructive form of weapon now used. We often see road signs shot to pieces, and frequently we hear of vandals shooting insulators off posts carrying high tension wires.

Mr. Hurst: Would you suggest they be taxed?

Mr. NANKIVELL: It is a wonder the Government has not thought of doing that. Weighbridge licence fees are to be increased, and these show an increase of from £2,550 actual payments last year to £6,000. I have seen no notice of this increase anywhere, and I do not know whether the local weighbridge societies have been advised, but I take it that this is an increased charge for a service being rendered, to offset some of the costs in the Weights and Measures Department in servicing and maintaining weighbridges. The upshot of all this is that, as a result of the pre-determined or calculated means of increases in taxation, the Treasurer expects to increase revenue by about £795,000 consequent on a

straightout-increase-in-taxation-as a result of a deliberate action. The rest of the growth shows in the taxation revenue returns of £1,320,000. This is the general increase that we can expect from the expansion of Government departments, the extension of services, and from the additional persons who contribute towards them.

Mr. Hudson: There is also the fact that some of the increases introduced last year by the Leader will now have a full year's effect.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Yes. There is a calculated increase this year of about £795,000 in taxation, and it will be much greater next year. That will be the calculated increase looked for to maintain the increase in revenue that is shown as coming from the natural growth of 7 per cent.

Mr. Hudson: The taxation reimbursement grant shows an increase of 11 per cent.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Yes, 11½ per cent. It is interesting to note that the Treasurer (when Leader of the Opposition) lamented the fact that we were not receiving a big enough cut from Commonwealth sources. He now says, after negotiating an increase of about 11 per cent, that this is admirable. Obviously, it is not sufficient to meet requirements because he has had to increase State taxation to offset it. There is a source of revenue set out as "Public Works and Services and Other Receipts." Under "Public Undertakings, Harbors and Marine", there is an increase of £436,788. This has a deliberate component in it of £300,000. It is a deliberate increase because the Treasurer indicated that this was so.

I find the line for the Railways Department rather difficult to understand. "Fares, freights, rents, refreshments and other services" shows an increase of £321,187. This is the only increase in revenue set down in this Budget as being attributable to railways. The reasons for increased revenue are set out by the Treasurer as being largely the result of an increase in the movement of ore between Broken Hill and Port Pirie together with some increase as the result of the movement of additional grain. These are only increases from its present function. No reference is made of what is going to be received as a consequence of the proposed Government legislation, which will return over a period of some years an additional £1,000,000 a year revenue to the Railways Department. Surely some of this will come into effect this year if the legislation is introduced and if the movement of transport is restricted with people having to pay for the privilege of competing against the railways.

These people will contribute to railways revenue. Some indication should be given in the Budget of what it is expected to derive from this source. Instead of that, the explanation given is for the increase of £321,187 which is a normal stepping-up of operations already in existence.

Another omission concerns the revenue taxation of contributions from the provisions of the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act. These matters will probably allow the Treasurer ultimately, instead of having an estimated deficit on consolidated revenue of £929,737, to adjust it over three years. The money will come from somewhere, as the Leader said. I take it that these hidden items will probably counter-balance the deficit immediately. The transport control operations, when they come into effect, will make some contribution to railways revenue and so will road maintenance money.

Another interesting item is for "Waterworks and Sewers", which shows an increase of £1,003,431. This is a build-up of £600,000 calculated increase and £400,000 that will come from the natural growth. Replying to the member for Torrens last year, the Attorney-General stated:

This Government takes from the poor to give to the rich. The poorer people in the community are taxed not only in these new imposts for the benefit of the wealthier people of the community—

and he was referring there to increases in stamp duties—

because the wealthy pastoral interests and the large industrial enterprises in South Australia are the people who benefit from this Government's failure to tax them—but also in water rates, about which the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) had a word to say. He said that water rates had not been increased for some years. It is true that the rates have not been increased but, as the honourable member well knows, what happened was that this Government did not put up assessments at the time when increases in the value of land took place but it crept up the rate to a level far higher than was necessary on the existing assessment basis. It then proceeded to increase assessments. There have been wholesale increases in assessments. There is not a metropolitan member who has not had complaints from people in difficult circumstances faced with considerable increases in water and sewer rates.

The member for Port Adelaide (Mr. Ryan) interjected:

We are getting them this year as well.

Mr. Dunstan replied:

Yes. Poor people in my district have said, "We are pensioners; how can we pay?" The money is going out of their pockets all right.

That is exactly what has happened again in this Budget. There has been some amelioration in that the flat rate has been reduced from £6 to £4, but the present Attorney-General was not aware of the system. The basis upon which the rate is worked out is annual rental value, which is 5 per cent of the fee simple of either the improved or unimproved value or the average rental over a period of seven years in the case of a shop or business. Valuations are made only by assessors of the department, as the Minister of Works will confirm, and those assessments form the basis upon which taxation is levied. There was no funny business about this; the assessment has been going up every year. The rate in the pound has not changed since 1963 (it had not changed in 1964, when the honourable member was referring to it), and it is worked out on the basis of rental value. For rental values of up to £400, 7½ per cent is paid, and 1s. in the pound is paid for every £100 in excess of that. In 1959 the 7½ per cent rate applied only to values up to £200, but the figure that has applied since then has been £400. This year assessments of property values have increased, and these poor people who had money taken out of their pockets last year are having it taken out again this year in just the same way—the Government calculates that £600,000 will be collected from this source.

Mr. Chairman, I suppose that with the Woods and Forests Department growing and being budgeted the way it is (with all the capital increases and some of its operational costs charged to Loan funds), it is only natural that it should show a handsome and increasing profit, and it is not out of order that an additional £60,000 should come from this source under this particular heading in the estimate of receipts. Under the heading "Public undertakings" an increase of £1,833,000 is shown on the lines, of which about £1,000,000 is calculated increase and the balance is just normal increase in revenues resulting from growth.

The question of recoveries of debt services was quite a debating point last year. The member for Whyalla (now the Minister of Education) made a long speech on this subject of the usage of differential rates. With increasing costs and the increase in interest

which must be paid on converted and new loans, it is not surprising that the amounts that are shown are increasing, and they will continue to increase due to the rate of repayments and the increase in interest on increasingly larger sums that are being loaned to the Electricity Trust, the Housing Trust and the State Bank. These are things that can only be expected as a result of conditions. What I draw attention to is that with fixed deposits and current accounts, as a result of running into deficit (as the Treasurer said) there has been a decrease from this source of £89,000. With the interest shown under "Miscellaneous" under "Debt recoveries", the estimated receipts are £670,000, whereas last year the actual receipts were £759,229. Also, whereas I think that for 1963-64 Cellulose (Australia) Limited paid about £20,600 to the Government as interest on the shareholding of the Government in that private company, no revenue is shown as coming from that source this year. I realize that this company has had difficulties.

The Hon. G. A. Bywaters: It will not be so bad this year.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I appreciate the Minister's assurance. I understand that those difficulties have been somewhat overcome. The problem the company was having with one of its machines has been remedied, and also I imagine that probably it is expecting to expand its activities. I am only speculating on this, and I wonder whether in some measure the new de-barking installation at Mount Burr may have something to do with this expansion.

The net gain from interest and sinking fund recoveries is shown as £550,000, which is made up of an increase in interest of £405,000 and an increase in sinking funds of £145,000. The sinking funds automatically have to be increased as they are paid on a percentage basis. Additional rates of interest together with additional interest on the money borrowed is the explanation for the increases in these figures.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.51 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, September 15, at 2 p.m.