

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, September 21, 1965.

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

### APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2).

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.

### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE BILL.

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as were required for the purposes of the Premier's proposed amendment to clause 8 of the Bill.

## QUESTIONS

### TIMBER FOR CASES.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Particularly urgent representations have been made to me to see whether additional supplies of timber could be made available to meet the requirements of the fruit industry. I have been told that supplies provided, particularly to the citrus industry, are rapidly becoming exhausted, and that most important export markets will not be serviced unless the Woods and Forests Department can make available additional supplies of timber or some special action can be taken for the urgent importation of timber from New Zealand. Obviously, as we already have an adverse balance of payments we do not want to import timber if we can obtain local supplies. Will the Minister of Forests have a comprehensive report prepared so that those dependent on timber supplies from the department will know whether additional supplies can be made available, particularly for cases for export fruit?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: The Government received a deputation from members of this House and of the Legislative Council and from people concerned in the fruit industry. Mr. Bednall (Conservator of Forests) and Mr. Hunkin (Chairman of the Forestry Board) attended, and a good discussion took place. It was claimed by the deputation that there was a shortage of cases in the Murray River area, but the Conservator said that one of his representatives who had recently visited that area had been assured that the co-operatives (which normally get their supplies through the department) had adequate supplies for this

year. This question was referred to Mr. Medley, the Secretary-Manager of the Murray Citrus Growers Association, and he admitted that this was so. This information was contrary to the suggestion first made by the deputation. Following that, the discussion dealt with the future. The department stated that there would be sufficient cases for export but that with the increase of citrus production there could be some shortage for the home market. The question arose as to the supply of timber for cases for the Murrumbidgee irrigation area, which had been purchasing cases from the department for some time. It was pointed out to the deputation that it would hardly be fair to cut off those supplies immediately, because we had canvassed for their business some years ago when there was a surplus of timber for cases. However, the department has never supplied the tomato growers with timber, although supplies of logs and fitch timber were made available to some casemakers for their supply. Mr. Joseph (chairman of the casemakers' association) assured me there was no shortage, that they wanted to supply cases, but that they had difficulty in getting firm orders as well as difficulty in getting their money in. If those two things could be overcome there would be no shortage of supply of timber for half cases for tomatoes. It appears that there is sufficient timber for the export market but that there could be some shortage in the future of cases for local use and also for use in the interstate trade. These matters will be considered by the department. In the meantime, I will endeavour to get a comprehensive report on the likely future situation.

### CONCESSION FARES.

Mr. JENNINGS: Some time ago the Premier undertook to investigate the matter of concession fares for students, and to subsequently indicate the result of his investigations with private bus operators. Has he a reply?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I am pleased to say I have completed arrangements with the private bus operators in the metropolitan area, who are licensed by the Municipal Tramways Trust, whereby passes will be issued for scholars under 19 years of age on the same terms as passes issued by the trust. These will cover the whole range of passes and will cost 10s. monthly for one and two section passes; 17s. 6d. monthly for three to seven sections; 25s. monthly for eight and nine sections; and 32s. 6d. monthly for 10 sections or more. They will be available from October, and will

be issued by the trust, upon presentation of the appropriate certificate from the school headmasters, at its Victoria Square, Hackney, and Port Adelaide depots; also by arrangement at the larger schools in the areas served by the licensed services. The passes, of course, will be available for use only upon the licensed service nominated by the holder and only for travel to and from school up to 5 p.m. on school days. For the payment of an additional 2s. a month the passes will be available until 6.30 p.m. The Government will reimburse the licensees for the concessions on the basis of a total monthly payment of 40 times the normal section fare for a child. The 2s. surcharge for late travel will also be passed on to the licensed operator.

#### MOORLANDS-PINNAROO ROAD.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Minister of Education a reply from the Minister of Roads to the question I asked about the reconstruction and re-sheeting of the Moorlands-Pinnaroo road?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: My colleague the Minister of Roads reports that it is not intended to commence reconstruction of the Tailem Bend to Pinnaroo main road between Moorlands and Pinnaroo before 1967-68 as funds are not available. The Moorlands-Peake section will be reconstructed first, and other sections requiring reconstruction will follow as funds permit. The works programme for 1965-66 provides for the resealing of the Geranium-Lameroo and Yappara-Parilla sections.

#### HOUSING TRUST RENTALS.

Mr. COUMBE: Last week I asked the Premier, as Minister of Housing, to obtain a report on the recent rises in rentals of Housing Trust houses, and he promised to do so. I understand that the Premier has since conferred with members of the board of the Housing Trust. Has he any information about the outcome of the negotiations and consultations?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I have consulted with representatives of the trust, but at this stage no finality has been reached concerning the rent increases. There is nothing further to report.

#### WAR PRISONERS.

Mr. McKEE: Has the Attorney-General a reply to my question of September 1 about war prisoners in hospitals in South Australia?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Director-General of Medical Services reports that he has

received the following report from the Acting Director of Mental Health:

I wish to advise that there are no prisoners of war in any hospital of the mental health services. There is, however, one internee from the Loveday Internment Camp who was admitted in March, 1943, and who is still an in-patient.

#### NARACOORTE SOUTH SUBDIVISION.

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the installation of sewerage at Memorial Park, Naracoorte South?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I have received the following report from the Director and Engineer-in-Chief:

There are few, if any, houses on the Memorial Park subdivision at Naracoorte South, and there are certainly not sufficient houses to justify the provision of sewers at present. Lots have been sold but no requests have been received for the provision of sewerage. The cost to sewer the subdivision of 40 allotments would be about £11,000 and, if the subdivider or the vendor of the land desired sewerage, he would be required to pay full cost of the sewerage extensions, in accordance with the department's new practice, and to receive the usual reimbursements of £60 a dwelling when the same is erected.

#### PARA HILLS SECONDARY SCHOOL.

Mr. HALL: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked on September 15, concerning secondary education at Para Hills?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The site referred to by the honourable member has been reserved for a future Para Hills Technical High School. Whether this will be one school or separate boys and girls technical high schools on the same site, is not yet decided. It is intended that this school (or schools) will provide technical high school facilities for children living in Para Hills and the areas to the north and north-east. The nearest other projected technical high schools would be at Para Vista, about two miles to the south, and at Carisbrooke, about three miles to the north. Negotiations are proceeding for the purchase of sites in these localities. It is not intended to erect a high school in Para Hills, but the new Salisbury East High School will serve this district. This school, about one-quarter of a mile east of the Main North Road, and about two miles from Para Hills is now under construction, and it is expected to be occupied by February, 1967, at the latest.

It is at present planned to open the school with first-year students only in February, 1966,

using temporary quarters in the new Northmeadows Infants School. During this period bus transport will be provided from and to Salisbury High School, which is the high school at present serving the Para Hills district. Ingle Farm is considered to be a suitable location for a further high school, and a request has been made to the South Australian Housing Trust to provide a site in that area.

#### BETTERMENT RATES.

Mr. SHANNON: I have read with perturbation the report in this morning's *Advertiser* of the dismissal of an appeal by the Crown against a decision given by a local court in favour of a Mr. Matthews, of Furner, who had initially sought relief from the payment of betterment rates. I noticed that the Full Court decision was not unanimous, the Chief Justice having dissented, which would suggest that a variety of opinion exists on the legality, or otherwise, of recovering betterment rates. As this decision seems to throw the whole of the South-Eastern drainage problem into the melting pot, has the Minister of Repatriation yet had time to study the judgment in this case, and can he say whether the Government intends to pursue this matter further, by, say, referring the case to the High Court, in an attempt to solve this problem? I understand from my reading of the report in the paper that certain factors are involved concerning whether or not these people who operate under a Commonwealth-State agreement actually own the land or are tenants. This rather involved matter, which will be a major problem affecting soldier-settlers, should be resolved in the interests of both the State and the settlers.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I examined this important matter this morning. As the Crown Law Department is examining it in regard to the future, I cannot comment any further at this stage.

#### FLINDERS RANGES.

Mr. CASEY: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question regarding the advisability of appointing a ranger in order to control shooting in the Flinders Ranges?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I have a lengthy report from the Commissioner of Police, part of which reads:

Reports by police officers at Hawker and Blinman reveal that indiscriminate shooting with resultant property damage has occurred in the Flinders Ranges area at regular intervals over a period of years. This type of vandalism is not confined to the Flinders Ranges, but is a State-wide problem, arising

as irresponsible shooters from the cities travel further into the country. The appointment of a "ranger" to be stationed at Wilpena Chalet for the purpose of policing the area against the indiscriminate use of firearms is not within the province of this Department. The Fauna Conservation Act is administered by the Minister of Agriculture, who could recommend the appointment of inspectors and honorary wardens by the Governor in accordance with that Act. However, as reports indicate that the shooting is not confined to the Wilpena Pound but is general throughout the Flinders Ranges and affects mainly owners or occupiers of private land, the appointment of a "ranger" is not recommended. Irregular patrols will be maintained by police officers in the area, who will be instructed to contact local land owners and encourage them to co-operate in this matter by exercising their powers under the Fauna Conservation Act.

I ask leave to have the remainder of the report incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### FLINDERS RANGES PATROL.

The possession and use of firearms is controlled by the provisions of the Firearms Act and Pistol Licence Act to a large extent. Police carry out regular patrols in the country and use their powers under the Fauna Conservation Act to curb potential vandals, but, because of the area involved, it is impossible to detect all offenders by police action alone. Experience has shown that concerted action by owners or occupiers of land and members of the Police Force is the most effective method of combating the problem. Such action is possible under section 45 of the Fauna Conservation Act, 1964, which reads:

- (1) A person shall not be on any land, other than Crown land, for the purpose of taking an animal or bird or the eggs of an animal or bird, unless the owner or occupier of that land has given him permission to be on that land for that purpose. Penalty: Fifty pounds.
- (2) If the owner or occupier of any land or the servant or agent of any such owner or occupier suspects that a person trespassing on that land is committing or has committed an offence against this Act, he may request that person to do either or both of the following things namely: (a) to state his full name and usual place of residence; (b) to quit the land. A person to whom any such request is made shall forthwith comply with it. Penalty: Fifty pounds.
- (3) A person who has quitted land pursuant to a request under this section shall not re-enter that land without the permission of the owner or occupier. Penalty: Fifty pounds.
- (4) In proceedings for an offence against this section proof that a person on any land had in his possession a dog, gun or device capable of being used for the purpose of taking an animal or bird, shall be *prima facie* evidence

that that person was on the land for the purpose of taking an animal or bird.

- (5) The permission of an owner or occupier may be given by any person acting on his behalf.

If owners or occupiers will report promptly to their local police officer the names and addresses and/or the vehicle registration numbers of suspects, and be prepared to give evidence at court if required, the police will make every endeavour to locate and prosecute the offenders.

#### GILLES STREET SCHOOL.

Mrs. STEELE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question of August 5 regarding the additions and alterations to the deaf-blind unit at Gilles Street school?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Further to my earlier reply, the Director of Education has agreed to the proposals for the alterations, additions and installation of air conditioning in the deaf-blind unit at the Sturt Street Primary School. The work is estimated to cost £4,300, and following a recommendation submitted by the Director of the Public Buildings Department, I have accordingly given approval for this expenditure. Early attention will now be given by the Director to implementing the proposals. I am more than delighted to be able to give this report to the honourable member, who has shown keen interest in the alterations.

#### RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: In the Commonwealth Parliament, the Commonwealth Attorney-General has indicated that he will introduce a Bill concerning restrictive trade practices. If I understand the position correctly, complementary legislation will be needed in the States. I understand that the Premier of Victoria (Mr. Bolte) has intimated that he opposes this type of legislation, and that he therefore is not prepared to introduce the necessary complementary legislation in that State. As these trade restrictions apply to trade between Victoria and South Australia, can the Attorney-General say what the position will be in South Australia? Does the Government intend to introduce legislation of this nature, in view of the stand taken by the Premier of Victoria?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: This matter was raised at the last meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General. When the Commonwealth Attorney-General asked what was the position in the various States, only two States were prepared to indicate their position at that stage; they were Tasmania and South Australia, and both said they would co-operate with the Commonwealth. The Ministers from the other States asked for time to

consult their Governments. Since then I have seen only the announcement of the Premier of Victoria, to which the honourable member has referred. We see no reason in South Australia why a decision by Mr. Bolte should delay action here. The Commonwealth Attorney-General has indicated that he will co-operate with us in passing complementary legislation which may cover fields other than those already involved in the Commonwealth legislation. However, the joint administration will be available for both schemes of legislation. The South Australian Government has seen no reason to resile from the position it put to the Commonwealth Attorney-General at the conference.

The Hon. T. C. Stott: Would our legislation have to follow the principles adopted in the Commonwealth legislation?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It would have to follow the general principles, but it might also cover other fields.

#### TEA TREE GULLY LAND.

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question of August 26 regarding the department's intentions in respect of land, on the northern side of Hope Valley reservoir, known as the "borrow pit"?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: This problem is causing the department much concern. The Acting Director and Engineer-in-Chief reports:

Speaking almost without exception, the buffer areas acquired around our various reservoirs are far too small, and the worst situation confronting us is that at Hope Valley reservoir. The Government has approved of the acquisition of much land around this area in order to prevent people from building houses and thereby establishing septic tank systems that would pollute the water. We regret very much having to spend some hundreds of thousands of pounds in purchasing this land, but it is absolutely necessary to do so in order that we may keep our water suitable for human consumption. The report continues:

It is essential with such reservoirs that human activity be kept back from the waterspread a reasonable distance, and this applies even where the drainage from an area is not direct to the reservoir. Habitation and human activity are far too close to the waterspread at Hope Valley reservoir in several locations and, where possible, we have been trying to rectify the worst of these situations over the years. I do not think, therefore, that where we have a reasonable buffer, as we have on the borrow pit side, that we should for one moment entertain thoughts of disposing of some of it.

I think the honourable member will see the logic of this, because many thousands of people depend on the water from our reservoirs and

if it is polluted in any way the cost of rectifying that pollution could be far greater than the purchase price of such land. The report continues:

I recommend that the area in question be retained as part of the Hope Valley reservoir reserve and that the low areas be built up with spoil and the area in general be planted with trees.

#### DROUGHT RELIEF.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Following the announcement of a Cabinet decision approving the complete remission of rentals on drought-affected properties from which all stock have been removed, can the Minister of Lands indicate the position regarding the remission of rentals on such properties from which not all stock have been removed?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: This matter was raised at a meeting held at Marree on Sunday morning. It was suggested that rent remissions, or part remissions, should be made because of the increase in rents in recent years, and that people had believed this would be done in times of drought. On being asked whether I thought this was a time of drought, I replied that undoubtedly we all agreed that it was, but that it was evident that some people were still stocking as heavily as they had stocked in other times, and that this had caused me much concern. I said that at this stage I was only prepared to recommend to Cabinet that total remissions be made where no stock at all were carried on areas that had been affected by drought, and the people at the meeting seemed to be happy that I would so recommend to Cabinet. At this stage, that is as far as I am prepared to go.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Can the Minister of Lands say approximately how many properties are completely devoid of stock at present, and what will be the cost of these remissions?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: No.

#### BURIAL PLOTS.

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Premier an answer to my recent question concerning quotations for burial plots at the Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery at Enfield?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Enfield General Cemetery, which is also known as "The Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery", is controlled by the Enfield General Cemetery Trust by virtue of the Enfield General Cemetery Act, 1944-60. Under the powers of this Act, the trust fixes the fees of burial plots. The trust consists of seven members including two Government nominees. The Act was amended in 1960 to give the trust power to enter into an

agreement with a private body to undertake the selling of the burial plots. Because of the substantial accumulated losses and Government indebtedness as a result of insufficient sales of plots and the very limited use made of the cemetery by the public generally, the trust in 1963 entered into an agreement with the Evergreen Memorial Park Ltd., whereby for a monetary consideration it gave the sole selling rights for the burial plots to this company. The trust and the company share money received from the sale of plots in proportions established on annual budgeted expenses. Under the new selling arrangement, sales of burial plots have increased substantially. It is claimed that the agreement between the trust and the selling company will allow the trust to provide a park lawn and garden cemetery for the use of the community in the northern part of the Adelaide metropolitan area. Charges for burial rights are higher at this cemetery than other cemeteries, the main reasons being:

- (a) the need to reduce the substantial accumulated losses incurred through the inability to sell a sufficient number of plots in the past;
- (b) the major developments and improvements that have taken place in recent years at a much higher cost than cemeteries established in earlier years;
- (c) higher maintenance costs of this type of garden cemetery over other cemeteries;
- (d) the cost incurred by the selling company in employing salesmen to sell the burial plots. This cost is not incurred by other cemeteries.

As this cemetery becomes more established, the need to employ salesmen to sell burial plots should diminish with a resulting saving in cost. The method of selling the plots has the effect of inflating prices charged, but on the other hand, without adequate sales of plots, the cemetery would not be able to meet its commitments and develop and maintain the cemetery in the required manner.

#### WIRRABARA COURTHOUSE.

Mr. HEASLIP: During the Loan Estimates debate I asked a question about the rebuilding or renovation of the police courthouse and residence at Wirrabara. Has the Minister of Works an answer on this matter?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: On October 13, 1964, Cabinet directed that the existing police premises be renovated. A contract was let on July 16, 1965, to E. A. Gale and Sons Proprietary Limited, Gladstone, to effect repairs and alterations. On completion of this

contract it is proposed to paint the building internally and externally. Funds have been made available on this year's Loan Estimates under the provision for minor alterations and additions for police and courthouse buildings.

#### TELEVISION NEWS.

Mr. HUGHES: Some primary producers in my district have approached me expressing dissatisfaction at the way in which the television channels have their news programmes at the same time, namely, 6.30 p.m. They asked me whether the Premier would approach the managers of the television stations requesting that they discuss this matter to see whether they could arrive at an arrangement whereby one channel could run a news service later than 6.30. Will the Premier consider this request?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The national channel has already indicated that its present news programme is for a trial period only. In reply to a recent question I said it was hoped that the national station would be able to determine whether it intended to retain the present time or whether the time would be changed. If the national station cannot alter its programme time, we will see whether one of the other channels can assist. I suggest that members await a further reply from the national television station.

#### EVAPORATION LOSSES.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: On August 24 and 31, I asked the Minister of Works about the possible establishment, in South Australia, of a research group on surface water evaporation. Has the Minister additional information on this subject?

Th Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Acting Director and Engineer-in-Chief states that the Engineer for Water Supply reports:

I discussed the question raised by the Hon. G. G. Pearson concerning establishment of the Surface Water Evaporation Research Group in South Australia with Mr. Christian at the last standing committee meeting in Canberra last June. Mr. Christian informed me that continuation of Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization research in this field was dependent firstly on State authorities' co-operation, which South Australia along with some other States had already promised; and secondly, on selection of suitable storages equipped with standard evaporation pan equipment. South Australia is the first State to initiate steps to obtain plans for early manufacture and installation of the standard evaporation equipment at departmental reservoirs. When the equipment is installed, the C.S.I.R.O. will give thought to the methods it will adopt for research and the location of the research base. The question of the possibility of establishment of the work in South Australia will be further discussed with Mr.

Christian at the next meeting of the standing committee.

I assure the House that the suggestion of the honourable member for Flinders is a worthy one and could be all-important to this State, the driest State in the driest continent in the world. I undertook to try to obtain the services of this department at the recent meeting of the Water Research Council, so that regular evaporation pan equipment would be installed here, and so that the services of this department would be available in this State. I assure the honourable member that no stone will be left unturned to try to obtain these services.

#### BALING TWINE.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: As the hay-baling season is almost upon us, can the Minister of Agriculture say whether the Prices Commissioner has examined the margins obtaining in the consumer price of baling twine?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Mr. Baker (Prices Commissioner) states that the price of twine is not controlled. However, the Prices Department keeps a close watch on the price so that it will be able to reply to inquiries received each season from farmers, producer organizations and members of Parliament. He understands that the price charged depends on the landed cost of imported sisal. Manufacturers usually fix the selling price at the beginning of each season, but the Prices Commissioner does not think that the price has been fixed for the coming season.

#### WARREN RESERVOIR.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Last Thursday the Minister of Works, in reply to a question about the water stored in reservoirs, referred to 12 reservoirs in this State, but did not refer to the Warren reservoir, which has a capacity of 1,410,000,000 gallons and which serves a large part of my district. Can the Minister say how much water is at present held in the Warren reservoir and whether this supply is being supplemented by the pumping of water from the Mannum-Adelaide main?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I regret that I cannot supply the figures for the Warren reservoir at present. However, I shall obtain the figures and reply to the honourable member tomorrow. I assume that limited pumping is being carried out to the Warren reservoir. I have received a detailed report of the situation concerning reservoirs, but it is difficult at this stage to say whether the reservoirs have sufficient water to assure, without pumping, an ample supply for the year. It seems that, if further rains do not fall in the catchment

areas, pumping will have to be increased considerably. I appeal to all South Australians to appreciate the fact that this is a dry State and that few worthwhile falls have occurred in the catchment areas. It is necessary to use water sparingly, and all are urged to do so.

**URRBRAE AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL.**

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: An amount appeared on the Loan Estimates for major additions at the Urrbrae Agricultural High School. I have been informed by a member of the school council that, contrary to an opinion I expressed to him that the amount having been set down on the Estimates the work would go ahead, there is some doubt whether the work will commence this year. Can the Minister of Education say whether the amount set down in the Estimates will be spent this year, or whether there has been a change in priority?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I will bring down a report.

**POTATO PRICES.**

Mrs. BYRNE: I noticed in the press that the price of potatoes has risen steeply. As potatoes are an important part of everyone's diet, can the Minister of Agriculture say whether the present price is justified?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Anticipating this question, I have obtained the following report from the Chairman of the Potato Board:

I have to advise that as has been anticipated the supply position in South Australia is becoming critical. The latest figures obtained by the board show that stocks on hand are adequate for less than two weeks normal trading. The position in Adelaide is not as serious as in any of the Eastern States, but reflects the general situation. Early this week potatoes in Sydney were £115 a ton at wholesale price and quotes cannot be obtained from

Melbourne due to the unsatisfactory supply position. The board has endeavoured to obtain supplies from Western Australia but those that were available some short time ago have either been disposed of or are being held by the Western Australian board. To keep in line with interstate prices the grower price in South Australia has been raised by £20 10s. a ton as from yesterday. A schedule of prices to operate as from that date is attached. If prices rise steeply in Sydney and Melbourne and this is anticipated, then it will be necessary to increase the prices further in Adelaide to at least retain our available supplies. The board is also negotiating with a view to obtaining some of the New Zealand supplies reputed to be coming into Australia, but the quantity is small, the quality poor and it is doubted that any will be available.

The retail price of ordinary unwashed potatoes in Adelaide will be 1s. 1d. a lb., and the retail price of washed potatoes, 1s. 2d. a lb. This still compares very favourably with prices in other States which have been at a level of from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. retail for some weeks. It is of interest to recall that as recently as on Sunday, August 29, wild statements were published in the press concerning the inability of growers to dispose of their potato supplies. No attempt was made by growers or the press to obtain authoritative advice on the situation. The Minister will recall that on July 30, this year, I reported to him on the general situation in view of statements and inferences drawn by members in Parliament, and I stated as follows:

The South Australian Potato Board is willing and able to send local potatoes to the Sydney market on a pool basis. The board did this in December and January last when, although prices were high, excess quantities were available from the Virginia and plains areas. However, the board in South Australia together with other State marketing authorities and State Governments have very carefully and continuously watched the general potato situation in Australia for some months and know that there is likely to be an extreme shortage in Adelaide and elsewhere later this year.

A list of prices is attached, of which I ask leave to have incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

**POTATO PRICES.**

Grade.	Grower Price.		Board Price.		Washing.	Board Fund.		Merchant.	Retail.
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		£	s. d.		
No. 1 . . .	93	10 0	95	0 0	—	—	—	95 0 0 cost	
								100 0 0 ex-store	
								100 15 0 delivered	1 1
No. 2 . . .	80	0 0	81	10 0	—	—	—	81 10 0 cost	
								86 0 0 ex-store	
								86 15 0 delivered	0 10½
No. 1 . . .	98	0 0	99	10 0	7 0 0	4 10 0	—	111 0 0 cost	
(washed)								116 0 0 ex-store	
								116 15 0 delivered	1 2
No. 2 . . .	80	0 0	81	10 0	7 0 0	2 10 0	—	91 0 0 cost	
(washed)								95 0 0 ex-store	
								95 15 0 delivered	1 0
No. 1 . . .	98	0 0	99	10 0	14 0 0	4 10 0	—	118 0 0 cost	
(washed and prepacked)								123 0 0 ex-store	
								123 15 0 delivered	1 2

## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Mr. McANANEY: Does the appointment of justices of the peace last week mean that the inquiry to which the Attorney-General has previously referred has been completed, and that appointees can now be nominated in the usual way? Further, as some resignations were also indicated, can the Attorney-General say whether the usual procedure has been followed?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The appointments made last week were the number required for replacements of Public Service appointments. In some cases concerning the transfer of justices, they are resignations on a request that the new officer in that post be appointed a justice, and this occurred last week. In some other cases there were appointments of justices urgently needed for a particular purpose in members' districts. (Some members had approached me, following my earlier suggestion that, if cases of urgent need for the appointment of justices existed, these would be immediately examined.) The survey has not been entirely completed, although it is nearing completion. At the moment a complete list of justices (and details of the work they think they are able to undertake) has been compiled. This is now being compared with the population figures for various areas. Unfortunately, however, these figures are a little difficult to obtain, because the appointment of justices is normally made in relation to police districts.

Police officers are unwilling to call on justices for court duties or for declarations outside police districts, and there are no easily available figures for the population of particular police districts. However, the officer specially appointed to make the survey is trying to take them from census and local government statistics that we have available. I expect that the survey will be completed shortly, in consequence. The other appointments that took place last week arose from the survey, because the inquiries made during the survey revealed that some justices considered that they were unable to continue with work as justices. Every resignation was voluntary and at the request of the justice himself.

## PORT PIRIE TRADE SCHOOL.

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question concerning the construction of a workshop at the Port Pirie Trade School?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Yesterday Cabinet approved a tender for the construction of this building, but I point out that it is

not Cabinet's policy to disclose the name of the tenderer or his price until he has been informed. I therefore refrain from making that information known to the House today. I assure the honourable member that every endeavour will be made to complete this project as early as possible.

## HOSPITAL BUILDINGS.

Mr. COUMBE: When speaking to the Loan Estimates earlier in the session I referred to the exclusion of Elanora and Strathmont Hospitals from those Estimates. As the Minister of Works said that he would obtain a report on the progress on designs for these two projects, can he now furnish that report to the House?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Director of Public Buildings has investigated the matters raised by the honourable member, and, without reading his report, I point out that he has discussed the matter with me. He states that, by arrangement with me, a copy of the programme has been left with the Under Secretary, who will arrange a meeting with the Minister of Health, the Minister of Works and officers of the departments concerned, with a view to discussing the priority this work should receive in the works programme for the year. Of necessity, the Government must formulate a works programme that will take place over a number of years, but it can commit itself only to work in the current year, and it must not over-commit itself concerning work to be undertaken in the following year. The Government is anxious to proceed with these two projects, not only for the purpose they will serve but for a subsidy that will be forthcoming from the Commonwealth Government if certain work is completed within the prescribed time. I hope to hold an early meeting with the Minister of Health and to be able to determine a programme as early as possible.

## COLLECTIONS FOR CHARITY.

Mr. HALL: I have received a letter from the secretary of a school committee in my district, which states:

At the last meeting of my committee I was instructed to write to you *re* charity children are allowed to collect for through the Education Department. It appears that only three are permitted, namely Adelaide Children's Hospital, Minda Home and, I believe, Legacy. Could you inform me why the children are not permitted to collect for such things as the Freedom from Hunger campaign, etc.? Why narrow the children's activities to the same three year after year?



Although I am not aware of the restrictions and permissions relating to this matter, I should appreciate it if the Minister of Education would obtain a reply on the question raised in this letter.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: This matter has been the subject of much correspondence and many representations from various bodies interested in the Freedom from Hunger campaign. I should explain that when I took office I found that three collections (one for each term) were allowed in the various classes, and I have had to decide whether any more should be allowed. No definite policy had been laid down on this matter previously. I decided that one collection for each term was desirable and adequate. Collections in schools are designed to encourage children to be charitable towards people in less advantageous circumstances than themselves. Schools in themselves are not regarded as places for collecting money, and I regard one collection a term as adequate for this purpose. Representatives of the Freedom from Hunger campaign have been informed that they are at liberty to distribute literature in schools, and to discuss with the other charitable organizations the question of rostering collections for their charity as well as for others. This decision has been made clearly and firmly to the representatives of the Freedom from Hunger campaign. I do not think I can add any more to what I have said, but if the honourable member wishes to see the correspondence on this matter he may do so.

#### GRADERS.

Mr. CASEY: It has been brought to my notice over the past few months that several graders in the Far North, particularly on the Birdsville track, have been out of action for a considerable time. These graders have to be brought to Crystal Brook where the repair shop of the Engineering and Water Supply Department is located, a distance of about 400 miles. I have agitated repeatedly in the House for the construction of a workshop by the department at Leigh Creek, which is only about 60 to 70 miles from the headquarters of the department at Marree. Much work is also being undertaken on the Strzelecki track, and the same predicament applies there as applies on the Birdsville track. Another gang operates in the Oodnadatta region and the distance from Oodnadatta to Crystal Brook is about 700 miles. When one considers that the equipment must be transported from these areas to

Crystal Brook one can see what a great advantage it would be to have a repair shop at Leigh Creek. Has the Minister of Works raised this matter with the department to see whether a repair shop could be erected at Leigh Creek and, if he has not, will he do so in order that the economics of such a proposition can be examined?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I discussed this matter with the Engineer-in-Chief (Mr. Dridan) prior to his departure for overseas some weeks ago, and I also called for a report. I appreciate the case put forward by the honourable member. However, it should be realized that, in order to obtain equipment at competitive prices, the department must buy different makes of tractors and other vehicles to use in this important work. This means that considerable quantities of stock must be carried to meet the necessary repairs on the various types of vehicle and plant used in the areas referred to by the honourable member. Under the honourable member's proposal, we would have to carry a complete stock not only at Crystal Brook but also at the place suggested by the honourable member. Considering the advantages of the establishment of a depot at Leigh Creek or at some other area than Crystal Brook and the disadvantages associated with it, we believe that the advantages are outweighed by the disadvantages. However, I have asked the Director to further consider this matter from the point of view of the urgent need for plant to be operating in these far away areas. These tracks are important to the local abattoirs and to many other aspects of trade in South Australia. The Director has promised to consider the matter. I shall receive a further report and I shall be happy to inform the honourable member accordingly.

#### MEALS ON WHEELS.

Mr. LANGLEY: A letter appeared in Saturday's *Advertiser* alleging that the Government grant to Meals on Wheels Incorporated had been drastically reduced in the current Budget. As a worker for Meals on Wheels, I ask the Premier to clarify the position regarding the Government's grant to Meals on Wheels Incorporated.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: In 1964-65, the expenditure of £17,500 shown on the Estimates under "Maintenance" included £3,400 "Capital" expenditure for the establishment of the Gawler kitchen. A sum of £7,467 was also provided under "Capital" for establishment of kitchens at Port Pirie and Renmark. The

sum of £14,100 was provided under "Maintenance" to cover costs of administration and the library services. This requirement of £14,100 was based on the organization's estimated receipts and payments. Because of a decrease of £1,350 in payments accompanied by an increase in receipts of £6,960, the organization was able, during the year, to better its cash position by £8,310, and, in determining the grant for 1965-66, the Auditor-General has brought this amount into account. Details of the estimated amounts on which the 1964-65 grant of £14,100 was based and the "actual" amounts for that year are as follows:

	Estimated.	"Actual."
	£	£
Salaries . . . . .	12,280	9,820
Expenses . . . . .	5,190	6,130
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	17,470	15,950
Receipts . . . . .	5,600	12,560
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11,870	3,390
Domiciliary service . .	2,250	2,519
Library service . . . .	100	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£14,220	£5,909

("Actual" 9 months.)  
(Estimated 3 months.)

It has always been the practice in past years to determine the maintenance grant to Meals on Wheels on the report of the Auditor-General on the financial position of the organization, and this practice has again been followed for the current financial year. The maintenance grant for 1965-66, namely £7,700, has been calculated as follows:

Administration—			
Salaries . . . . .		£13,700	
Expenses . . . . .		7,000	
		<hr/>	
		20,700	
Less Receipts . . . .	£7,500		
Less adjustment for 1964-65 . . . . .	8,200	15,700	£5,000
		<hr/>	
Domiciliary Services . . . . .			2,600
Library Services . . . . .			50
Chiropody Services . . . . .			50
			<hr/>
			£7,700

In addition, provision has been made under "Capital" expenditure for £8,500 for establishment of two kitchens in 1965-66, one in the Adelaide Hills and one at Millicent. A further submission for an additional grant is currently being examined by the Auditor-General and the Under Treasurer.

#### ABORIGINAL HOUSING.

Mr. NANKIVELL: For two years I have been attempting to get accommodation for a family by the name of Walker at Meningie. I understand the department of the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs has been inquiring in this matter. Has he a report?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: When the honourable member asked me a question about this matter on June 22, I told him that I had visited the house of the Walkers and that I had made representations to the Housing Trust concerning their housing. As the honourable member can see from the file (which I will make available to him), I made a number of urgent submissions to the trust in respect of the housing of these people. However, the trust's assessment was not as favourable as that made by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and by me; it was prepared to consider providing emergency housing where such housing could be found, but, unfortunately, none was immediately available in the area where Mr. Walker and his family are living now. Two alternatives were put to Mr. Walker, one being the possible use of a railway house at Sherlock, the use of which the Department of Aboriginal Affairs has obtained (with the assistance of the honourable member, if I may say so) for the housing of Aboriginal people. As Mr. Walker was not initially prepared to take this house, he was offered a house at Peterborough, a house which the trust felt would be suitable to him as it was in an area where he would be close to medical attention. I urged him to accept this offer of a house from the trust. Unfortunately, he refused and he had to be warned that, if he refused the offer from the trust, the chances of our getting another offer for him would be somewhat remote. However, he chose to refuse, and in consequence at the moment the department is again approaching him to see whether he will accept the house at Sherlock. The Welfare Officer of the department does not think that it has the disadvantages that Mr. Walker seems to see in it, and we hope that he may have a somewhat changed attitude about the house at Sherlock.

#### KULPARA TANK.

Mr. HUGHES: While on a recent visit to Kulpara in my district, I noticed that the old water tank at the top of the Hummocks had either blown off the stand or been pulled off prior to its being taken away. I was most concerned about this, because it could present an accident hazard in the strong wind that

often comes across the top of the Hammocks. Further, it is an eyesore in one of the beauty spots of South Australia overlooking St. Vincent Gulf. Will the Minister of Works direct his officers to remove this tank at the earliest opportunity?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: There are two things I dislike very much: one is the creation of a dangerous situation, and the other is the spoiling of a good view. I shall certainly take the matter up with officers of my department and see that appropriate action is taken.

#### PARAFIELD GARDENS ROADS.

Mr. HALL: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question concerning sewer installations and their effect on the road surface at Parafield Gardens?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The honourable member having raised this matter, I think last Thursday, I took it up with the Acting Director and Engineer-in-Chief, who has now supplied me with the following report from the Engineer for Sewerage:

Sewer mains are being constructed in this portion of Parafield Gardens, and the sewer main in Sunderland Avenue was completed and the sewer trench backfilled and rubbled on Saturday, September 4, 1965. Due to initial subsidence it was necessary to top the trench with further rubble on Friday, September 10, and further work was carried out on September 13. The roadways in this area have been completed to the stage known as Stage 1, Road Construction by the Salisbury Council, and this department has an arrangement with the Salisbury Council that instead of restoring our sewer trenches with metal and bitumen pre-mix topping as normally carried out in the metropolitan area, we will provide the council with an order to restore the sewer trenches at an approximate cost of 12s. 6d. per square yard. This money is used by the Salisbury Council when it is carrying out final road restoration after all services have been installed and kerbing completed. At this stage, an order has been placed on the Salisbury Council to cover the cost of restoration of approximately 2,000 feet of sewer from Ryans Road northwards in Rosalie Terrace and a further order will now be placed this week to cover the streets in which sewer construction has been completed recently, including Sunderland Avenue. The department's obligation at this stage is to keep the trenches in a safe condition until such time as the Salisbury Council carry out the final construction of the roadways which they refer to as Stage 2 Road Construction.

If it is felt that further work is required on the trench in Sunderland Avenue, it is suggested that the Supervising Engineer, Metropolitan Sewerage, be contacted and immediate attention would be given.

#### TORRENS RIVER.

Mr. COUMBE: I noticed with some interest the announcement by the Minister of Works, yesterday, of further investigations into improvements of the Torrens River downstream from the City of Adelaide. Can the Minister give the House more details of this scheme, and can he also assure members that the money to be spent on this investigation will in no way curtail the work being proceeded with upstream in my district and in the district of the Attorney-General, the honourable member for Norwood, in respect of which work the Minister has been so helpful?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I assure the honourable member that the work upstream will have a priority, as it was the first section investigated. I have corresponded with five councils in the western district, asking for their co-operation in the scheme. We are anxious that further arrangements will be made, and that the river will be beautified and services provided as quickly and as effectively as possible with the co-operation of local councils. The inclusion of the western section in the investigation will not prejudice the work to be carried out in the eastern section.

#### NARACOOORTE SUBSTATION.

Mr. RODDA: I noticed that tenders have been called for the erection of a substation at Padthaway for the Electricity Trust. Can the Minister of Works say when tenders are expected to be called for the erection of a substation at Naracoorte?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Although I cannot give a detailed reply to the honourable member, the trust is anxious to give the best and fullest service to aid the development of primary and secondary industries. I will seek detailed information from the trust and inform the honourable member soon!

#### WHEAT.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT (on notice):

1. What amount was received by this State from the Wheat Industry Research Council for the year 1964-65?

2. To what organizations in South Australia was this money allocated and what amount did each receive?

3. On what projects, buildings or other items, respectively, has this finance been used?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: The replies are:

1. Organizations in South Australia received a total allocation of £48,586 from Wheat Industry Research Council funds in 1964-65.

2. The organizations receiving grants from council funds, and the amounts allocated, are as follows:

	£
(1) C.S.I.R.O. Soils Division . . .	8,800
(2) Department of Agriculture . .	7,150
(3) The University of Adelaide .	5,000
(4) Waite Agricultural Research Institute . . . . .	27,636

3. The main projects which are being conducted with the above financial assistance are as follows:

- (1) C.S.I.R.O.: A study of soil tillage practices in relation to soil structure, soil fertility and moisture holding capacity. Investigations relating to the decomposition of wheat stubble and its effect on plant growth.
- (2) Department of Agriculture: Field studies of the movement of soil moisture under fallows. Investigations into the control of pests of germinating cereals. Investigations into skeleton weed control.
- (3) The University of Adelaide: Studies of protein synthesis in the wheat grain.
- (4) Waite Agricultural Research Institute: Wheat breeding and genetic studies in relation to quality. Studies of the chemical, biochemical and physical properties of the proteins in developing wheat grains. Investigations of root-rot fungi. Studies of factors affecting the synthesis and properties of starch granules.

#### NURSE AIDES.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (on notice):

1. How many persons have offered for training as nurse aides since November 26, 1959, in:

- (a) metropolitan hospitals, including Government and Government-subsidized hospitals;
- (b) country Government hospitals; and
- (c) country Government-subsidized hospitals?

2. How many of these applicants have completed the course of training and been enrolled?

3. How many are now employed at:

- (a) Government hospitals;
- (b) Government-subsidized hospitals in the metropolitan area; and
- (c) Government-subsidized hospitals in country areas?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The scheme for the training, examination and enrolment of

nurse aides commenced in South Australia on May 3, 1962. Applicants must be at least 17 years of age and their standard of education must be not lower than that of the seventh grade in the public schools. The period of training is at least 12 months. Nurses who have passed the first examination in the course for general nurses are eligible for enrolment without further examination. Others who have not passed the first examination and have done at least 12 months' training are eligible to sit for the nurse aide examination without further training. There are at present a total of 430 nurse aides enrolled with the Nurses Board.

The answers to the questions are:

1. A total of 175 persons have commenced training as nurse aides since the scheme started in 1962:

- (a) 170 at metropolitan hospitals.
- (b) 5 at country Government hospitals.
- (c) Nil at country Government-subsidized hospitals.

2. Of the above, 79 have completed the course of training and been enrolled.

3. (a) 60 enrolled nurse aides are now employed at Government hospitals.

- (b) Nine enrolled nurse aides are now employed at Government-subsidized hospitals in the metropolitan area. (Adelaide Children's, two; Home for Incurables, seven).

- (c) 15 enrolled nurse aides employed as at July 31, 1965, at country Government-subsidized hospitals.

#### ROAD TRAFFIC.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. Does the Government regard the number of deaths in this State, caused as a result of accidents on the roads, as an urgent problem?

2. If so, what action does it propose to take?

3. Does it propose to introduce legislation to put into effect any of the recommendations adopted in July by the Australian Transport Advisory Council?

4. If so, which recommendations?

5. When will such legislation be introduced?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The replies are:

1. Yes.

2 to 5. These matters are receiving Cabinet's attention.

#### WINDY POINT.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. What is the nature and extent of work now being carried out at Windy Point?

2. Is any further work planned in the future?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The sum of £4,000 has been provided on the 1965-66 Estimates for the maintenance and improvement of Windy Point national pleasure resort. Work is being carried out by Tourist Bureau staff as follows:

- (1) Repairing stone walls and building some new walls around the upper and lower parking areas and the terraced garden area on the western end of the reserve.
- (2) Replacing existing safety fences of concrete posts and galvanized piping with new stone walling.
- (3) Planting Australian shrubs in the garden area.
- (4) Generally cleaning up the reserve.

In consultation with officers of the Highways and Local Government Department, private tenders are being sought for the repair, re-grading and sealing of the upper and lower parking areas and roadways. This includes a roadway leading from the main road at the eastern end of the reserve to the upper parking area. No improvements other than those outlined above are planned for the present financial year. Last Saturday morning I attended the annual inspection by the Mitcham corporation, and during this inspection we stopped at the Windy Point reserve. Members of the corporation were pleased with the work done. Recently, the Director of the Tourist Bureau and I visited the area, and the work referred to in my reply is being carried out. The work, when completed, will be an added attraction. All the old buildings have been demolished and removed, and no further buildings will be erected until it is known when a sewer system will be installed. Inquiries have been made concerning mobile units to supply refreshments at certain times, say, on weekend afternoons, holidays and in the summer months. Finally, I expect that this will be a popular pleasure resort as soon as the necessary repairs have been completed.

#### KOWULKA-THEVENARD RAILWAY.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (on notice):

1. What is the total mainline mileage (excluding sidings) of railway laid in new earthworks between Kowulka and Thevenard?
2. Were new or secondhand materials used?
3. If both were used, what was the proportion of each?
4. What is the weight per yard of rail used?
5. What was the average cost per mile of the line referred to above?

6. What is the total actual cost of the whole line?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Railways Commissioner reports:

1. 38 miles 48 chains (Ceduna Junction to Kevin).
2. New.
3. *Vide* No. 2.
4. 63 lb.
5. £19,000 excluding sidings and main line work between Ceduna and Thevenard.
6. £812,000.

#### PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the following final reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence:

Forbes Primary School Additions,  
 Ingie Farm Primary School,  
 Kingseote and Central Kangaroo Island  
 Water Supply (Modified Scheme).

Ordered that reports be printed.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EAST TORRENS) BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

#### REFERENDUM (STATE LOTTERIES) BILL.

Committee's report adopted.

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

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

Mr. NANKIVELL (Albert): I oppose the Bill as it has emerged from the Committee stage, not necessarily because I oppose lotteries, but because I oppose the principle of conducting a referendum on the question of lotteries in the way this referendum is to be conducted. Knowing this question would arise this session, the Opposition, after considering its attitude towards social legislation and to referenda, decided that it would not oppose Bills which related to social matters and which provided for a referendum, but that it would oppose their introduction if they did not conform to certain principles. It is on those principles that our objection is based in respect of this matter. We did not seek wilfully to obstruct the passage of the Bill before the Committee stage, but we oppose the principle in question. The principle we seek to uphold here is that the Bill should be passed in both Houses before being submitted to the people. As it now

stands, the Bill does not provide for the carrying out of a referendum according to these principles, and because of that I oppose the third reading.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Flinders): I oppose the third reading on the grounds enumerated by the member for Albert, particularly because the people are being compelled to vote on a question without being informed, first, where the profits from this lottery will go and, secondly, whether the Government will conduct it, and if it will not, who will. After many hours of debate last Thursday, a Minister admitted that the profits would go into general revenue. He suggested—

Mr. Millhouse: That was the only indication we got from the front bench!

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: He suggested, for the most part, that it was the Government's function to dispense charity, and that it was therefore proper that the proceeds of the lottery should go into general revenue.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: I suggest you read his remarks, rather than paraphrase them inaccurately.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have read them, and I do not think that what I have said is in any way at variance with his remarks; nor does what I have said do the Minister any injustice. The Attorney-General interjected last Thursday and said that the interpretation of the term "charitable purposes", as set out in the appropriate Act, was far too narrow. This occurred after the member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Shannon) had sought to insert in the question to be put to the people an assurance or requirement that the proceeds of the lottery be devoted to charitable purposes. The Government refused to accept that amendment, supported by every one of its members. This matter has aroused a grave disquiet in the minds of many honourable members who have heard the debate. So far, the general public has not been informed of this matter. During the weekend I found that there was a wide misconception in the public's mind of the Government's purposes in the Bill. I found that people generally expect that the profits of a lottery should be devoted to charities.

The SPEAKER: Although I am not ruling the member out of order at this stage, I point out that the debate on the third reading is limited. In saying that, I hasten to assure the House that I have not forgotten the stand that I, as a private member, took on this matter.

Indeed, I find that my attitude on that occasion is not borne out by the authorities. I do not wish to restrict the debate unduly, but I am sure the honourable member realizes that the third reading is limited to the provisions of the Bill.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I was merely recapitulating one or two of the main factors that arose last week, so that I could make my point, Sir. I have found that people in favour of lotteries are under a grave misapprehension about this matter. The people opposed to them are not so much concerned about where the proceeds will go because, of course, they are opposed to lotteries, anyway. However, those in favour of lotteries, without exception, reacted heatedly and spontaneously to the suggestion that the proceeds of the lottery should go into general revenue. This matter did not receive much publicity. I believe that the people are entitled to know the Government's intentions on this matter. People need much more information before they will be able to vote properly.

If I had no other reason to oppose the Bill, I should oppose it on the grounds that people are being compelled to vote on something the details of which have not been supplied. This is completely unfair and does not do justice to the intelligence of the electors. They want to know for what they are voting when they vote. In this case it is not a question of their being asked to vote—they are being compelled to vote. I take strong exception to that, and I believe the electors will take strong exception to it, too. It is right and proper that all the facts concerning any matter should be made available to the electors prior to a poll, and not at some time afterwards. If Government members are prepared to accept the will of the people on this matter (as they say they are), then people should know who is to run the lottery and what is to be done with the money raised.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): I could not support one part of the Bill under any circumstances. The question to be put to the people, which is provided for in clause 4, has not been amended since it was first introduced. The question is, "Are you in favour of the promotion and conduct of lotteries by or under the authority of the Government of the State?" As far as I know, all previous referenda submitted to people in the State and in the Commonwealth have been sponsored, and a definite proposition has been put to the people. In this case, too, the Premier has said that he

will not speak in favour of or against the measure. This will mean that no-one will be able to get the information he wants. In other cases, where someone has sponsored a referendum, explanations on what is intended to be done have been made. This afternoon one honourable member has placed an entirely different interpretation from that of other members on this side on remarks made by the Minister of Agriculture. The Minister said that charity began at home and that the Government was a charity. By interjection, the Attorney-General said that this was not the proper interpretation.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: I am not concerned with interpretations. I suggest the Leader reads what the Minister said. That is something he is not in the habit of doing in this House.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I suggest to the Attorney-General that he look at *Hansard*, because I assure him that no other interpretation than the one given by the member for Flinders could be placed on the remarks of the Minister. I am opposed to a lottery but I was prepared to accept a referendum to enable the people to decide, provided they were given the opportunity of knowing what they were going to decide. Until they have this opportunity I oppose the Bill.

Mr. SHANNON (Onkaparinga): It is transparently clear that in the Bill the cart has been placed before the horse. The Bill does not set out in detail, as is customary, the matters on which the electors should decide. It provides that all citizens who attain the age of 21 years after August 30 will be denied the opportunity to vote on the referendum; this is undemocratic. They can vote on other matters but not on this. It has been suggested that the returning officer cannot get the rolls prepared in time, but how long does he get to prepare the rolls for elections in respect of this Parliament? He is given about four weeks; therefore the problem is not as great as has been suggested. I sought to have clarified the setting up of the machinery to run the lottery. The question provided for in clause 4 leaves the matter an open cheque. I sought by way of amendment to ensure that the question put would be understandable even if no other explanation were given. I do not like asking people to vote on nebulous matters that could lead to any final result, and I suggest that there is no limit to what might be done if the question is answered in the affirmative in the form in

which it is to be submitted. Therefore, I will not support it.

I have discovered that there is a great lack of understanding outside this Chamber on just what took place on that memorable occasion last Thursday night and Friday morning. However, I will do everything within my power to see that people are given time in which to understand this matter. When the proposal was put that at least some of the profits be devoted to charitable purposes, we had a blank refusal.

Mr. Hudson: That is not correct.

Mr. SHANNON: I am afraid the member for Glenelg is now trying to argue against what is recorded fact.

Mr. Hudson: The Minister of Agriculture said explicitly that he was against putting that in the question because it might prejudice the result and lead people to use sentiment in determining which way they would vote.

Mr. SHANNON: I wonder if the honourable member could interpret what the Minister said?

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask the interjector and the member for Onkaparinga to keep to the provisions of the Bill, and I ask the House generally not to rehash the debate of last week.

Mr. SHANNON: I could not agree with you more, Mr. Speaker: it is what is in the Bill that worries me. The Bill provides that a ballot will be taken "as soon as practicable", and I wonder what those words really mean. The Premier said that possibly three and not more than four weeks would elapse after the assent to the Bill before the ballot was taken. I submit, with all due deference to my good friends who are trying to rush this thing through in a most unseemly way, that using the term "as soon as practicable" is hardly in keeping with making certain that the electorate is properly informed, which I think should be the first function. I want proper time to be provided. I consider that everybody who will be of the age to vote should be able to vote, and that everybody who may vote should be properly informed on the lottery and the disposition of the funds that will accrue from its running. These things are fundamental in a democratic way of life.

Mr. McKee: We heard all this the other night.

Mr. SHANNON: Yes, and the honourable member did not like it. I can understand his not liking facts. However, I am pointing things out not for his benefit but for the

benefit of those who did not fully grasp what happened here. That the Government should rush a think like this to the electors "as soon as practicable" appears to me to be entirely improper.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (Mitcham): I, too, want to make clear my own position on this matter. I am not against a lottery on grounds of principle, but I am not able to make up my mind whether any particular form of lottery should be introduced in this State unless I know all the details of the scheme proposed. In other words, I am unable to say "Yea" or "Nay" to a lottery in this State without knowing just what is involved in it, and I do not believe that the people of South Australia should be asked their opinion on this matter without their also knowing just what is involved. No definite proposition is contained in this Bill. The Government has deliberately refused to make known or to formulate any definite proposition for a lottery, and the question in clause 4 is completely meaningless as it stands. I see the honourable member for Glenelg waiting to switch on his microphone to interject and to say "rubbish", but we had the clearest indication we could possibly get of the different ways in which this matter could be interpreted. We had it this afternoon from the Minister now in charge of the House.

Mr. Hudson: Nothing of the sort!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The Attorney-General gives one gloss on the remarks of the—

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: He doesn't give any gloss at all: it is you who is giving the gloss, as usual.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The Minister is a bit sulky this afternoon. I do not know why he is out of sorts, but he apparently is. He says that we are giving a gloss on this thing. Let me remind the Attorney-General just what the Minister had to say the other night:

Some people believe that we should have a lottery, so that proceeds will go to charity, but that is entirely wrong. It is the Government's duty to provide for charity, and proceeds from a lottery should go into revenue, from where— Then there was an interjection by the honourable member for Onkaparinga. Later, the Minister said—

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Don't mention the next bit!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I will read the lot, if it will please the Attorney-General and perhaps put him in a sweeter temper.

The SPEAKER: In spite of the request of the Attorney-General, I suggest that the honourable member do not. I ask members not

to rehash the debate of last week. This is the third reading debate, and therefore the debate is confined to the provisions of the Bill itself.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I was addressing myself to clause 4, Mr. Speaker, and using this as an illustration of the way in which different interpretations could be put upon the meaning of the question and the significance of having a lottery in South Australia. I have probably made my point. Despite everything that the Attorney-General and his offside, the member for Glenelg, are trying to say this afternoon, there is one clear interpretation, and it does not admit of any doubt or argument to be put on the remarks by the Minister of Lands. That is the only interpretation we have had from any Minister about this matter, and apparently the only one we will get. It is an illustration of the complete uselessness of the question set out in clause 4. I oppose the Bill because this question is so vague and unhelpful; also, I believe that people who have no interest in this matter should not be compelled to vote in the referendum. That is wrong and against all principles in cases where referenda are normally resorted to on social questions.

Mr. Hudson: Such as in the Commonwealth and other States of Australia on liquor hours and so on.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Why doesn't the honourable member for Glenelg make his own speech and stop interjecting? Let us see if he will get up and make a speech. I'll bet he does not.

Mr. Jennings: I'll bet he does not!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Let him shut up then.

The SPEAKER: Order! Interjections are out of order, and I ask honourable members to facilitate the debate by recognizing the Chair.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Thank you, Sir. I do not believe this should be a compulsory vote. I believe that the only possible value to be gained from a referendum on this question would be to see what is the level of interest in the community, and that can only be achieved if this is a voluntary vote. We will see how many people bother to vote at all. These are the two reasons why I oppose the Bill. I believe that the question as framed is no better than a waste of time and money for the people of this State. I hope that they will be spared that waste of time and money, and that the Bill will not pass.

Mr. HALL (Gouger): My vote against this Bill is not to be confused with my general



attitude on the question of whether or not we should have a lottery.

Mr. McKee: Are you going to have a bob each way?

Mr. HALL: I remind the honourable member that he is doing that. He has not defined his attitude, and has not given any facts that we have asked for. In my district during the weekend I found much interest in this question and every person who spoke to me wanted to know more about it. I was unable to give any information, because of the lack of statements by Government members. I agree with my Leader, and oppose this Bill because clause 4 gives no information to the public. However, I differ from him in that I would support a lottery if it were conducted properly. Because of the varied opinions in this Party on support for a lottery, it is necessary to state that we agree in our opposition to this Bill. It is not to be inferred that the Opposition is against a lottery: it is a fact that the Opposition unanimously, I believe, opposes this Bill because the Bill does not tell the people what they want to know.

Mr. QUIRKE (Burra): I intend to vote for this measure. I have considered it since last week's marathon debate, and was puzzled about the urgency of getting it through. The Minister of Lands gave me the clue. This Government has committed itself so much that it will have difficulty in financing these projects, and the lottery will help it to do so. That is probably the answer. I disagree with that attitude, but that is probably one of the reasons why the Government is forcing the Bill through. I disagree entirely with the compulsory clauses, and disagree with the Government's attitude in refusing to give information about where the money will go. Now that I know, I am happier. If it is the Government's intention to place this money in general revenue, why doesn't it say so? We have to make up our minds to vote for something nebulous. The Government should not run away with the idea that this matter has not been considered outside this House. It is possible that the Government's attitude in this matter will destroy the possibility of the legislation being passed. There is much latent opposition to this measure, and it is growing, because people want to know where the money is going. The Government seems to think that people want a lottery. Many thousands of people who want a lottery want to know what is going to happen to the proceeds.

Mr. McKEE: Sir, this debate is getting out of hand. The honourable member for Burra refers to revenue derived from a lottery. As this is a Bill for a referendum, should the question of revenue be dealt with in this debate?

The SPEAKER: The debate is confined to the provisions of the Bill and, except for the purpose of illustration or reference, matters outside the Bill are not in order. I understand that the honourable member for Burra is linking his remarks with the provisions of the Bill.

Mr. QUIRKE: Thank you, Sir, for your understanding. It is always a pleasure to have your interpretations on matters affecting the good conduct of the House. I hope that the honourable member for Port Pirie learned from that. I think this is a good opportunity to show that the Government's measures and thinking are peculiar and compulsive. If I can do good by bringing this matter to the notice of the people of South Australia by voting for the measure, I shall do so. Therefore, I will vote for the third reading.

Mr. McANANEY (Stirling): You have ruled, Sir, that members are not allowed to speak about what is not in the Bill, although we could take a long time to talk about that, and only a short time to talk about what is in it. I have already announced that I am prepared to support a lottery under certain definite conditions, but this Bill contains a vague question that should be more definite, so that the people could register an intelligent vote. Many people will be disposed to vote against a lottery, because of the compulsory provisions in the Bill, as well as because of its vagueness. I oppose the third reading.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT (Ridley): I opposed the Bill on the second reading, because I am not in favour of a referendum to introduce a lottery. I believe the Government should stand up to its responsibility, and introduce a Bill for this purpose. Consequently, I must oppose the third reading. If the Government wished to obtain the people's opinion about a lottery, it should have introduced a Bill providing that, before it was proclaimed, it should be subjected to a referendum, and if a majority were in favour of the question, the Governor in Council could proclaim the Bill.

This has happened with many Bills of this character, particularly when an opinion has been sought from the people concerning sectional legislation. Every honourable member should vote on this matter as his conscience

directs him, and he should not be tied by a rule of Party on a social matter such as this. I am in favour of a lottery conducted on proper lines. I also favour the proceeds going to such charities as hospitals and homes for the aged, as happens in Western Australia. Unfortunately, I do not have the information I have been trying to obtain while I was recently in another State, as to the sum of money—

The SPEAKER: The honourable member will realize that this Bill is to provide for a referendum only, and not for a lottery. I have drawn this to the attention of honourable members previously, and I cannot depart from that ruling. The debate must be confined to the provisions of the Bill.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: I agree, Sir, and I was merely going to explain why I could not support the Bill. I have not altered my opinion since speaking to the second reading, and I therefore oppose the third reading.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER (Angas): I do not oppose a referendum on the question of a lottery, but the question to be considered by the electors must be explicit and clear. The question pursuant to this Bill does not meet that test. Over the weekend I attended several functions in my district, and also one in the adjoining district of the member for Light, where I was approached by many people who had read in the press of the debate that took place last Thursday and Friday. I was asked many times just what would be the destination of money invested by people in a lottery, if one were introduced, but I regret that I was unable to inform them just what would happen to it. It is vital for the public of South Australia to know what use will be made of that money. In view of the scant information given to us on this matter, and in view of the fact that a certain clause in the Bill makes voting compulsory, I oppose the third reading.

Mrs. STEELE (Burnside): I, too, oppose the third reading. Quite apart from the people who will be deprived of voting on this referendum (because the rolls closed before the Bill was introduced into the House), I believe that many people will record an informal vote or will vote against the question because they will not understand it, or will not have full information about what they are voting for. Like other honourable members, I was asked by many people when I attended various functions in my district at the weekend the reason for the long debate on this Bill last Thursday and Friday. I told them why the Opposition

had taken its stand, and why it had opposed every clause in the Bill, why it would continue to oppose them, and why it would oppose the Bill's third reading. People were amazed to think that the various points raised by members of the Opposition were not clearly stated in the clause relating to the referendum to be submitted. The public should have every right to know the conditions under which they are voting on this referendum. They believe that we, as their representatives in this Parliament, have taken the only right and proper step—to try to obtain from the Government some indication of the conditions under which the lottery is to be conducted.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Attorney-General): Honourable members opposite have said that people outside are confused on this issue. I agree with them that much interest has been shown since last Friday morning's debate. However, I must confess that I have not found people to be confused. I have found them to be annoyed, and annoyed by the attitude taken by honourable members opposite. Included in these people are many previously die-hard supporters of the Opposition. Members of my own profession said to me that they considered the attitude of honourable members opposite was absurd. I shall deal with the attitude taken by honourable members opposite this afternoon. One objection raised to this Bill was that it was not a referendum of the kind outlined in the works of Herman Finer. It is new to find members of the Liberal and Country League quoting Professor Finer in this House. In fact, it is strange that they do not seem to use his remarks when it comes to electoral matters and to questions of democracy and so on.

The SPEAKER: They would not be entitled to do so.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Not in this debate, Mr. Speaker, but they would be in other debates. They referred to Professor Finer's comments relating to certain Constitutional provisions elsewhere for the conducting of referenda in constitutional matters; that is in those countries that have the institution of the initiative, the referendum and the recall as means of direct legislation by the people. That is not the Government's policy: we do not believe in direct legislation. Many years ago we cut out of our platform the provision for initial referendum and recall. As Finer points out later in the passage referred to by honourable members opposite, this has

proved an extremely unsatisfactory method of legislating.

What we propose here is not to conduct a referendum of that kind but to take a poll of the people. The reason for it was made perfectly clear at the election when the Government got a complete mandate for doing precisely what it is doing now. We said that, on this issue, the Government did not have a policy, nor did the Opposition. The question of a lottery was not an issue at the election between the Parties because the Parties did not take specific stands on it. We said that the Labor Party would ask the electors to instruct the Government on their views whether there should be a lottery and, if the people said that there should be, then the Government would undertake to introduce legislation to give effect to the wishes of the people. What if the Government had gone to the people and said that it believed there should be a State lottery, and that it should frame legislation to give effect to it? In those circumstances the details of the legislation could not have been outlined in detail. The Government is now doing nothing more than to completely carry out the undertaking it gave at the election.

Something has been said about the question of different interpretations from the front bench. The other day the Minister of Lands made the observations that have been quoted by the member for Mitcham. He also said that he was putting these forward purely as his personal view. The objection I take today is that the Leader of the Opposition and other speakers opposite have said that this was a statement of the Government's policy.

Mr. Millhouse: That was not the objection we took at all.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: That was the objection I took. I objected to Opposition members putting glosses on what the Minister said. I invited them to read what he did say. In fact, there is no disagreement amongst members of the front bench as to the putting of the question that occurs in this Bill. It is a question that was designed carefully to see to it that technical objections could not be taken and so it would be possible for the people to express themselves effectively upon the general question of whether there should be a lottery conducted either directly by the Government or directly under its authority in South Australia.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: The words "in South Australia" do not appear in the question.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Unfortunately it is going to be peculiarly difficult for us to do very much of the conducting of the lotteries in other States. If we can get some revenue from other States that will be nice, but if the Leader thinks we are going to get very much from the other States then I think he is being extraordinarily hopeful. Let me make it clear that we do not intend to have the headquarters of the lottery somewhere else.

The other question raised by honourable members opposite was that of compulsion. Strange attitudes were taken here because some members said the reason they did not want compulsion was that if the vote were not compulsory it would then give some indication of how much interest there was in the question. However, other members opposite said there was much interest in the matter. Of course there is a great deal of public interest in the matter. It is something that will affect the future of the State if it is carried, and therefore every responsible citizen should express his opinion on the matter.

Mr. Shannon: Provided he was 21 before August 30.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: At any poll certain people are unable to vote if they are not 21 at the time of the poll.

Mr. Shannon: I am suggesting that the Government is disfranchising a large percentage of the people.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member does not have any idea of how many people will be disfranchised by this measure, and I suggest he will find it is an extraordinarily small number. The plain fact is that this talk about the date is a quibble like so much else that has been said in the debate.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: Will this lottery be for charity or not?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have no doubt that organizations which are charities in South Australia would, if a lottery were conducted here, benefit greatly from its conduct. I have not the slightest doubt about that. All this talk about the terms of the Collections for Charitable Purposes Act could be overcome if honourable members opposite who had been Ministers would only consult their files concerning the opinions of the Crown Solicitor on the definition contained in the beginning of that Act. They would see that many complaints have been received from the Crown Solicitor

about the inadequacy of the interpretation, in that it excludes some charities that should be included and includes others that should not be. I received an opinion from the Crown Solicitor only last week on this very point. In fact, that particular definition is inadequate for this purpose.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. You have ruled that the debate must be confined to what is contained in the Bill, and you have called us to order. I think the Attorney-General is also going outside the scope of the Bill.

The SPEAKER: The honourable the Attorney-General was replying to matters that had been raised in the course of this debate this afternoon. When the honourable member rose on a point of order I was about to ask the Minister not to pursue the matters with which he was dealing, and I ask him now to refrain from dealing with those matters.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I was led away by interjections. One other thing has been said concerning the nature of this measure and the reason why the Government is pressing on with it. The Government is not concerned that this measure is more important than a number of others that are on the Notice Paper.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: It is the last on and the first off, though.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It was put to the top of the Notice Paper for consideration because it contained certain dates in respect of polls. We had to consider the measure reasonably quickly as, unfortunately, its consideration had been delayed beyond the time when we thought it would be concluded. The reason why we are demanding that members pass legislation is contained in this session's *Hansard*.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: What Bills is the Minister referring to now?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am replying to the allegation made by the Leader that the Government is trying to rush this third reading through. I am entitled to reply to that. The answer to that is here in *Hansard*: this file is much thicker now than it has been at this stage of any previous Parliamentary session since I have been a member, and this is my thirteenth year.

Mr. Millhouse: An unlucky year for you!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We will see about that. The *Hansard* file is much thicker, yet how much legislation has actually been passed?

Mr. Nankivell: It consists mainly of second reading explanations.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: They do not constitute very much of it. We have not been long-winded in second reading speeches.

Mr. Nankivell: There have been plenty of them.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Of course, because we have a lot to get through. At the same time, the vast majority of what is contained in here is not related to Bills before this House. In fact, this Parliament has been held up for a long period without the opportunity to consider legislation because honourable members opposite have been far more long-winded than honourable members in this House have been for the last 12 years.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: Who is holding up the House at the moment?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: A moment ago members on this side of the House were challenged because nobody would speak, and now because we answer honourable members opposite on the things they have been allowed to say in this debate we are, though having only one speaker on the floor, told that we are holding up the business of the House. The plain fact is that the business of the House has been delayed. The Government is determined that the legislation shall pass, and we are going to sit here until it is passed.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Alexandra): Notwithstanding the abuse that has just come to us from the Attorney-General—

*Members interjecting:*

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: All I can say is that apparently we are being long-winded when we speak whereas, when a member of the Government speaks, it is a statesmanlike speech.

Mr. Lawn: How many times have you spoken in the last 15 years?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I want to say a few things about this Bill, and, unlike the Attorney-General, I am going to stick to the Bill. It is a complete shame that the leaders of the State are willing to put a question to the people of this State without describing the details of what is proposed in any lottery that may result from a referendum. The people are being asked to vote on something on which they have not been given a lead. We have had to persist in this debate to an unusual degree in order to try to get some information for the people when the vote is taken, some information as to what is likely to be involved in this lottery. All we have

been able to get is a mere statement here and there from a member of the front bench. One Minister did not agree that the proceeds from a lottery should go to charities. He said it should go into general revenue. That is just a little bit of information, but it was one Minister's information. After several hours, the Premier got up and said that Mr. Bolte would not have one "deener" of the proceeds of this lottery, and that was a little more information. The Attorney-General has now said that it is not proposed that the headquarters of the lottery will be somewhere outside the State, and that is a little more information. The fact is that the Government has shamefully avoided giving information. It has shamefully avoided saying how a lottery will be conducted, by whom it will be conducted, and how the proceeds will be distributed. That is why I oppose this Bill.

The House divided on the third reading:

Ayes (20).—Messrs. Broomhill and Burdon, Mrs. Byrne, Messrs. Bywaters, Casey, Clark, Curren, Dunstan, Hudson, Hughes, Hurst, Hutchens, Jennings, Langley, Lawn, Loveday, McKee, Quirke, Ryan, and Walsh (teller).

Noes (16).—Messrs. Brookman, Coumbe, Ferguson, Freebairn, Hall, Heaslip, McAnaney, Millhouse, Nankivell, and Pearson, Sir Thomas Playford (teller), Messrs. Rodda and Shannon, Mrs. Steele, Messrs. Stott, and Teusner.

Pair.—Aye—Mr. Corcoran. No—Mr. Bockelberg.

Majority of 4 for the Ayes.

Third reading thus carried.

Bill passed.

### THE BUDGET.

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

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from September 14. Page 1474.)

### THE LEGISLATURE.

Legislative Council, £16,167.

Mr. NANKIVELL (Albert): I continue my remarks by discussing further sources of revenue as set out in the Budget. Increases in revenue are shown in the Education Department and the Hospitals Department as a result of a full 12 months of increased fees. Apparently it is assumed that there will be an increase in crime in the country and in the suburbs, because the Country and Suburban Courts Department is to return an estimated additional revenue of £45,000. Other increases in revenue are from

the Registrar of Companies (£20,560) and Registrar-General of Deeds (£18,000), both increases resulting from increased business. Apparently clerks who wish to qualify for the local government certificate will have to pay twice as much as they used to for examination fees. The net result of these increases in the Budget is that there will be an increase of £1,800,000 from new taxation, and an amount almost equal to that paid out for increases in service pay and anticipated marginal increases.

I correct a figure in my earlier statements, and thank the honourable member for Glenelg for drawing my attention to my error. I quoted a figure of £9,817,000 as the amount the Government would have to spend this year. As a result of carrying forward the estimated deficit, and not the estimated increase in deficit, I made a mistake of about £700,000. The actual figure should be £9,117,000-odd, which is the amount the Government intends to spend in this current Budget. In 1964 we passed the Road Maintenance Contribution Act, which has operated since July 1, 1964. That should be considered as a special Bill and the receipts should be shown in the early part of the statement. The sum of £321,000 is shown as an increase in railways revenue, but new legislation is pending which promises a substantial increase in railways revenue of about £1,000,000, some part of which would be received this financial year.

The taxation increase this year has been a deliberate increase by legislation of some £795,000. A normal growth rate as a result of the full effect of last year's taxation increases and in business will result in £1,320,000, resulting in an overall increase of £2,115,000, to which has to be added the deliberate increase of £1,000,000 of revenue from public works and services as shown in Part II under the Estimates of Receipts and Consolidated Revenue. This £1,000,000 together with a normal increase in growth of taxation of £1,564,000 gives a total of £2,564,000. This total is the full effect of taxation, and provides an amount for expenditure from State sources of £4,679,000-odd. The grant from the Commonwealth is about £4,212,380, less the territorial loss that is shown. A deficit increase of about £230,000 brings the total receipts, as shown in the Budget, to £9,116,583. The Treasurer said:

Provision is made in the Estimates for the payment of the 1½ per cent increase in margins

which, following the decision of the Arbitration Commission, is being extended through most awards and agreements. Because at the time of preparation of the Budget details by no means all sections of Government employment had been covered by these particular increases, the appropriation is shown as a separate line for each department.

That is interesting. Then, the Treasurer said:

The provision in the Estimates will not in itself constitute an authority or decision to pay the increase—

That, again, is interesting, for no guarantee exists that money is to be paid for this purpose—

but it will constitute a provision to meet the additional costs if and when they are awarded or determined by the appropriate authorities.

**That is merely a blind.** Nearly £300,000 has been covered up in that statement, as the figure stated in the Treasurer's speech is £685,000, whereas the amount provided on the lines is £942,220. I shall segregate increased payments to various departments into wages contingencies and the miscellaneous category, because that is the way they are presented in the Estimates. According to the Auditor-General's Report, the increase in Government employment to June 30 was about 1,100 persons; the Education Department received an increase of 610; Hospitals Department 231, and the Highways and Local Government Department 132. The staff of the Railways Department was reduced by 189. However, the total wages and salaries increase, as allowed for in the Budget, is about £3,518,800, the actual wages and salaries increase being about £2,577,000, plus the 1½ per cent contingency of £942,221. For the operational expenses of the various departments, the increase in contingencies is £1,774,344. Under "Miscellaneous" that increase is £1,949,617. Increased payments under "Special Acts" total £1,873,826, making a total of £9,116,583. A substantial allowance is made for payroll tax and long service leave. The sum appropriated for long service leave in the Education Department is £33,500. Under "Contingencies" the legislature shows a saving of about £4,900.

Most of the increase (£550,000) under "Chief Secretary" will be spent on hospitals and, if tallied up, it is mostly related to an increase in the cost of administering hospital offices, in providing additional machinery, office equipment, and in general running costs. For hospitals £451,000 is provided. The sum allocated under "Police" is £73,000, £30,000 being for office expenses, £19,570 for cars, and £21,100 for pensions. The line "Sergeants

and other personnel" shows a substantial decrease on last year of £101,000, and the sum relating to probationary officers shows a decrease of about £58,000 on last year's figure. It is interesting to repeat what the Leader has said, namely, that we have been informed that no recruiting in the Police Force will take place this year. Indeed, I am given to understand that the Superintendent in charge of recruiting (Superintendent Lenton) has been given a holiday in the country at Kadina for 12 months. The state of our Police Force is of vital importance, and it is at present under-staffed. It is a most inappropriate time to reduce this line by reducing the intake of cadets. Under the line "Attorney-General" we see that expenditure is necessary in relation to establishing the Davenport Reserve, and sundry expenses are associated with Coober Pedy and Koonibba. The total for the Aborigines Department is about £36,000. The increase in respect of court expenses is about £19,000 of a total increased contingencies expenditure of £81,000. The Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department has received an increase of £24,270, being increased costs for running Windana and Brookway Park and for general relief expenditure. Regarding the Aborigines Department, the allocations to most of the reserves have been reduced. This is possibly as a result of the new policy of reducing the number of Aborigines on reserves and trying to move them out.

A sum of £78,000 is provided for contingencies in the Premier's Department and is made up of £22,000 for motor vehicles and the cost of moving the Agent-General (together with long service leave in this department) of £16,780. A sum of £14,962 is provided for new machinery and office expenses. The increase in the cost of administration in the Tourist Bureau is £14,300. The amount proposed for subsidies towards swimming pools and sundries this year is £15,692. The amount actually paid last year was £23,478 and this year's figure shows a decrease of £7,786. It is interesting that on the very next line the provision for tourist resorts is increased by the same sum. Therefore something has been taken away from swimming pools and given to tourist resorts. It is six of one and half a dozen of the other and this is the general character of the Budget.

There is a general saving in the provision for the Lands Department. The sum of £479,950 is provided for contingencies for

the Engineering and Water Supply Department. A sum of £52,500 is provided for expenses and £309,920 is provided for pumping for the Adelaide-Mannum main and £46,440 for pumping for the Whyalla-Morgan main. These figures are not in excess of those for previous years. However, we have experienced a season in which there has been a poor catchment of water in our storages. We have already seen a considerable amount of pumping to try to build up the reserves before the summer. Therefore, this figure appears to be inadequate to meet pumping requirements for the coming year unless, of course, we are fortunate enough to have a wet finish to the season. There has been an increase of £101,940 for contingencies for the Public Buildings Department. These are principally made up of items for the Education Department of about £19,000 and for the Hospitals Department of £12,500. There is a total of £35,690 for Government offices, power and sewerage.

A sum of £280,500 has been provided for the Education Department for contingencies and for the provision of equipment and subsidies for schools. The Libraries Department has an increase of £44,800 and this has been made up of £13,000 for the transfer of the library plus £31,000 subsidy under the Libraries Act. Minor amounts have been allocated to provide for an increase of £4,000 for the Museum Department and an increase of £680 for the Art Gallery Department. The Minister of Labour and Industry has been industrious and there has been a general saving in all branches. Of course, most of this has arisen because of the industrial assistance branch being moved from under the control of the Minister of Labour and Industry to under the control of the Treasurer.

In his speech the Treasurer, when referring to the provision for the Minister of Agriculture and Forests, said:

In the maintenance and development of State resources the main provisions are for the Agriculture and Mines Departments. There is a provision for fruit fly control should a fresh outbreak occur. This provision has always been interesting to me because I have understood that if it is not spent it goes back to the Treasury. In most years this has been exactly what has happened to it. An allowance of £120,000 has been made for this purpose this year. It is most unlikely that this sum will be spent. In fact, in view of the anticipatory work being done by the department on the establishment of fruit road blocks and the discovery that possibly green bananas have been

a greater source of contamination than was previously anticipated, and in view of the active work now being done in checking bananas coming into South Australia, it would seem unlikely that this amount would be realized. The appropriation for fruit fly control is £170,649. The actual expenditure last year was only £71,000, so £100,000 is shown which would not be spent for this purpose. It has not been spent in this way in the past, and I doubt whether it will be spent that way in the future. It will probably go back to the Treasury. I should be pleased if the Minister of Agriculture would comment upon this.

A sum of £20,000 is provided for a feasibility study of natural gas pipelines. Under the provision for the Minister of Mines a saving of about £49,000 has resulted from the curtailment of geophysical and other survey work previously carried out by the department. The actual net contingencies provided for amount to £102. Under "Minister of Marine", the principal increases in costs have concerned the maintenance of wharves and jetties (£55,500) and the purchase of office machinery (£9,000). Under "Minister of Transport", the major item is railways. The increase in cost of operating the railways offices is £70,183. There has been a saving in sundry expenses here of £17,000, a saving in office expenses of £18,000, and a saving in fuel expenses of £34,240; so, despite what has been said about the Commissioner's alleged mismanagement of the railways, he has been able to provide a service and yet so continually effect reductions in operational expenses that we have got to the stage where the actual budgetary deficit for railways this year is under £1,000,000. Of course, the account will now balance when the Government introduces its transport control measures and regains that extra £1,000,000, and the Railways Department starts to show a handsome profit! In the meantime, as a result of wise management and good administration, the costs in the department have been kept down, the volume of business expanded, and the revenue from that source increased.

Under "Minister of Local Government and Highways", there is an increase in contingencies of £58,170, of which £36,000 is an increase in office expenses and £7,000 an increase in cost of equipment. The total of all that assessment of contingencies shows that there has been a general increase in the running costs of the State, and this in a large measure has absorbed the surplus revenues that have been derived as a result of the increase in taxation

and as a result of the additional taxes imposed in this Budget.

Turning to "Miscellaneous", we come to the charity side of this Budget. I refer to hand-outs that are made by the Government through departments for various purposes. Under "Chief Secretary and Minister of Health—Miscellaneous", which by far is the biggest miscellaneous section in the Estimates, there is proposed expenditure of £5,077,065—an increase of £958,465 over last year. I had a look to see where most of this went. There has been an increase of £677,626 in hospital subsidies, the notable items of which have been £172,140 to the Whyalla Hospital and £350,000 to the Queen Victoria Hospital. The latter, of course, is to assist in its rebuilding programme. Subsidies to other bodies include £250,000 for the Home for Incurables, and I believe this sum would help towards its rebuilding programme; Crippled Children, £23,000; Mothers and Babies Health Association, £9,300; and St. John Ambulance Brigade, £9,750.

Mr. Chairman, you have asked a question in this place in my hearing about what was done by the Opposition, when it was in Government, to provide ambulance services in this State. I say that without question we now have an excellent ambulance service in various centres throughout the country operated by the St. John Ambulance Brigade. It may not be a straight-out Government ambulance service as in Victoria and other States, but it is an excellent ambulance service. Only a short time ago His Excellency the Governor visited the district of Albert. He paid a special visit to Pinnaroo, where, fulfilling the functions of his high office in that organization, he handed over the keys of an ambulance to the local people who were to operate this ambulance service. As that service has now supplemented the one from the north-west of Victoria, we now have an excellent service in that part of the State. We also have these services at Bordertown, Keith, and Coonalpyn. In fact, throughout my district there are ambulances operated voluntarily under this St. John Ambulance scheme. Therefore, we have an ambulance system in this State, and it is being assisted by this Government.

Under "Chief Secretary", substantial assistance has been provided, and I have only referred to portion of it which comes under hospital subsidies. We find that under "social assistance", increases have been made to Archway Port, in the Port Adelaide district, which is helping alcoholics. There has been another increase in assistance to the Prisoners Aid

Society, another of the voluntary organizations that have grown up. This body's function is to assist in the rehabilitation of prisoners when they are released from our gaols. Theirs has been a slow growth, but they have now grown to the stage when they are well qualified to handle the probation of prisoners, to assist them with their domestic arrangements, and to help them to be rehabilitated in jobs. I am very pleased indeed that this organization has been recognized. I can remember that when I spoke on this matter some years ago the amount allocated for this purpose was only some £3,000. I believe I am correct in saying that the amount now allocated to this society is about £6,500.

The sum of £10,000 is allocated for Aged Citizens Clubs. In company with the honourable member for Barossa (Mrs. Byrne), I attended a meeting at the Adelaide Lions Club at which it was pointed out that the funds for this purpose were very low. At the same time the wonderful work that was being done in assisting aged people was stressed. In addition to providing people with an interest in life, those clubs are providing useful occupational therapy. We were treated to a most interesting address by a Miss Taylor from Victoria, who spoke on the services provided in other parts of the world to assist aged persons. She covered a wide field, including such subjects as home care, Meals on Wheels, mobile libraries, and general services to assist those older people to stay in their homes. She was definitely opposed to institutionalizing people. She said that, as a result of investigations in Victoria, people in this field were satisfied that if there were more than a certain number of units, I think 30, an institution became too institutional. It took away the independence of these people and in some way offended their pride. I am sorry the Government could not provide additional funds for this work, and assume, from what the Treasurer said today, that the reduction in the amount provided for Meals on Wheels has no significance, and that this worthy cause, together with the clubs, will be helped to assist aged citizens in this State to find occupations and to keep them in their houses so that they may enjoy their independence as long as possible.

An additional grant has been made to the South Australian Fire Brigades Board, which needs additional support, as the safety service provided is something that should be maintained. I was impressed by the brigade's efficiency at Craven's fire, but no doubt some of the equipment could be modernized. Most



of the increases in the Attorney-General's Department are in social service payments. Apparently a land agent has defaulted because some fidelity bonds are shown to have been cashed, and restitution has been paid to certain persons. An amount of £80,500 is provided under "Minister of Lands" for the purchase of land for reserves. In 1963-64 there was a vote of £147,000 under this line, and an actual payment of about £144,000. In 1964-65 the vote was £77,000, and actual payments £68,804. This year's vote is an increase on the expenditure for the previous year. I realize that in 1963-64 land was acquired for Para Wirra National Park, but the amount voted this year is about £66,500 less than voted in that year. This line has been current for many years. "Minister of Education, Miscellaneous" has been increased by £647,116. I have not had the opportunity to assess the implications of school fare concessions as outlined by the Treasurer today, but the total would be about £10,000. It was expected that the proposals of the previous Government, had it been returned, would have cost £450,000, as our policy was to pay £4 a year a scholar up to seven sections, and £8 a year a scholar in excess of seven sections.

Increased grants have been made to the University of Adelaide, to the Institute of Technology and to the Workers Educational Association, and £18,000 has been made available, in part, to meet the fees of students. The previous Government assisted students from the country, and the actual payment last year was £14,000. This amount has not been substantially increased.

Under "Minister of Agriculture", the principle amounts are for the control of weeds on travelling stock routes, and councils have been subsidized for this purpose. General concern has been expressed about the increased growth of weeds not only on stock routes but on main roads and highways. The increased use of road transport has been valuable to primary producers, but has also been the means of introducing many noxious weeds into this State.

Mr. Hall: Some weeds are carried by vehicles of the department when it builds a road.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Yes. Frequently when roads are being constructed and local stone is crushed, weed seed is introduced from another part of the district to a place that was previously free of this weed. The spread of horehound can be attributed to the fact that heaps

of material for shouldering are heavily contaminated with this weed. When it is carried out the seed is present and germinates, and then spreads alongside the highways. Another weed, asphodel, or wild onion, is being dragged by graders and spread by contaminated shouldering. Noxious weeds are a major problem on stock routes, on three-chain roadways and along the shouldering of roadways. Except where Crown lands or stock routes are involved, the Government is doing nothing to subsidize councils in controlling noxious weeds. Under "Minister of Highways and Local Government" provision of £95,112 is being made for the purchase of land, pursuant to the Public Parks Act. However, I fancy that this allocation is merely a matching grant by the Government to that provided by local government in order to produce £250,000 per annum which the Town Planner has recommended be set aside. I must confess that I was pleased to see that future unexpected balances will be paid into a trust fund and not into general revenue. I am sorry that additional money is not being spent on providing a training hospital at Bedford Park to cope with the lack of trained general medical practitioners not only in the country but in the city as well. We need more practitioners, but we are not training them, and we have not the provision to train them. A person of high standing in the profession predicts that, unless something is done to remedy the position, we shall have licensed "quacks" in the country similar to licensed veterinarians who are operating there at present.

Some of the criticism made by the Treasurer of the previous Budget is false. He said that the Budget he had inherited was an inflationary one, but he has maintained that same volume of inflation. He has met the requirements of some of the members in his Party by giving effect to a promise that was made in the introduction of the Budget relating to service pay, which has cost £1,100,000. Provision of £942,000 is made for a possible increase in salaries, if the 1½ per cent marginal increases are introduced. This is about equivalent to the £2,000,000 revenue being derived by a deliberate increase in taxation. Increased water rates and bus fares, which affect the small man, have made this Budget the biggest one ever, but little is provided for State development. It has been said that the Budget's main provisions are for the Agriculture and Mines Departments for this purpose, but if this is the manner in which the Government is to finance the development of

the State, I think many people will be quickly disillusioned. I do not believe the Government will introduce a Bill to amalgamate the banks. The Treasurer said that a 7 per cent growth would provide additional finance but I have proved earlier in my speech that this is fictitious. The only way the Treasurer will be able to increase revenue is by grossly increasing taxation, and that is exactly what is happening. The Treasurer's statement that he would have no trouble in finding the money to put his promises into effect was so much eyewash. This Budget leaves development mainly at a standstill, and provides mainly for social benefits. If revenue is to be increased it will have to be done by substantial increases in direct taxation and by increases in indirect taxation such as the measures envisaged under transport control, which will make it difficult for an individual to carry on his business in his best interests. Nevertheless, I support the first line of the Budget, and await further opportunity to speak on certain other matters when the individual lines are debated.

Mr. CUMBE (Torrens): I commend the honourable member for Albert for his contribution to this debate and for his study of the facts. Obviously he spent much time preparing his speech, and has dealt with the Estimates line by line. I believe honourable members should congratulate the Treasurer on introducing this Budget. This is a personal honour to him as he is the first Labor Treasurer to introduce a Budget for over 30 years. I appreciate the difficulties he has had in presenting this Budget. It could not have been easy to take over from another administration and to learn the intricacies of being a State Treasurer and a member of the Loan Council. In addition he is faced with members of Parliament, the public and various Government departments clamouring for more funds. At the same time he had to implement his own policy, try to keep costs within some reasonable limit and provide sufficient funds for the natural increase and development of the State.

This is the first Budget that the Treasurer has presented and likewise it is the first time that many members on this side, including myself, have spoken as Opposition members. Like the Treasurer I have found that certain circumstances are different. I believe that the role of the Opposition in dealing with a Budget is to examine all the provisions made and to be critical, but not capriciously critical. I believe we should be constructive and

should probe and seek out weaknesses in any Budget to see whether improvements can be made, and generally act as watch dogs on behalf of the taxpayers. That is the line I shall take. This Budget has certain weaknesses and certain good features, and I believe I may be able to make some suggestions. Of course, I realize that my point of view may not (and probably will not) be the same as that of my friends on the other side.

First, I appreciate the Treasurer's assurance concerning decimal currency. I was the member referred to in his speech who raised the question of decimal currency. By way of a question I pointed out earlier that this Budget would cover the period up to June 30, 1966, and in that period, from February 14 onwards, we would be officially using decimal currency and would be obliged to read both sterling and decimal figures dealing with financial measures. The Treasurer examined this matter for me and pointed out the printing difficulties that would be involved in getting these papers prepared for us at this time showing both the sterling and decimal currency figures. The Treasurer has undertaken to introduce later this year comparisons so that honourable members will be able to work in both currencies. It will be extremely interesting later this year (and probably next year) for members to see how they can compare past records with the records that will be presented next year.

This year some members have had to do a little stumbling around with the Budget papers because new Ministries have been created following the election and because several lines have been transferred from one Ministry to new Ministries under the new arrangement. Some lines, which we thought had been dropped, we managed to find in another position, and all was well. This was another small hurdle we got over. Reviewing the general budgetary position we have found a remarkable growth in the last 10 years both in receipts and payments. It took this State 96 years to obtain a revenue income of about £50,000,000. It took only another 10 years for another £50,000,000 to be added and today the figure stands at almost £120,000,000 on the Revenue Account. I put this to illustrate the rapid expansion in money and services, and the considerably increased sum of money for which this Parliament is responsible and which the Ministry has the responsibility of administering.

Of course, it must be realized that several new lines have appeared. The Commonwealth general purposes grants in that time have

doubled but they only account for about one-third of the Budget we are now considering. This huge increase in the moneys being handled today reflects on and is indicative of the enormous growth in South Australia, particularly in the last decade. This growth, which brings in more and more revenue, means that Government departments have to provide more and more services to keep the expansion continuing at the fastest rate. We must not allow the rate of progress to slacken. The Treasurer was confident he could increase revenue next year, and I sincerely hope he can.

It has been estimated by those in a position to do so that in this financial year there could be a drop of between 4 per cent and 6 per cent in the total number of houses built from all sources. Of course, this will have a direct bearing on revenue items such as water and sewerage connections and rates, stamp duties and so on. This could, of course, affect the overall estimate of the Treasurer that he will have more money next year. I believe this is pertinent. I certainly hope that this important industry, which employs so many people, makes a good recovery to the levels it enjoyed in previous years, not only because of the employment it provides but also because of the house buyers themselves and the various suppliers and merchants who look to this industry for their own wellbeing. It is important also to the revenues of this State which rely to such a marked extent upon the general prosperity in the community and more especially upon the housing and building industry.

We must keep our national growth at the highest possible level and we must give it an impetus whenever possible. We are taking into this country all the time thousands of migrants from various parts of the world, and we have to provide housing, jobs, and various community services for them. I believe every member here would agree that we have to keep this rate of growth rolling along so that there shall be no impediment to it. The Government can help this rate of growth in several ways, principally by the Loan Estimates and by budgetary provisions. That is why I say I hope that the building industry makes a recovery from the present 4 per cent to 6 per cent decline, so that next year the Treasurer's forecast of more money being available to be used on Revenue Account will be fulfilled.

Reviewing the whole position as presented to us by the Treasurer, we find that the payments side of £121,500,000 is up by £9,100,000,

and the revenue of almost £120,000,000 is up by £8,800,000. There is a gross deficit of £1,541,000 which, when taking the past surplus of £611,000, gives us a net deficit of £930,000. That is the important figure that we are considering today. We get this figure when we have a record Budget, record revenues, and record expenditures. Various estimates have been made of the rate these figures have increased. According to me, it is an increase of about 8.1 per cent on the revenue side over the actual receipts of 1964-65, and this 8.1 per cent of revenue increase compares with about 5.7 per cent increase in 1964-65 over 1963-64. This is about the same percentage increase that we find on the expenditure side.

We have not had any substantial increases in taxation in major items for some years now, but we have them here now in this Budget. Let me say here and now, speaking for constituents in my district (and I believe this position applies in other districts as well) that sections of the public are becoming worried about increased charges. This applies particularly to people on pensions and others on fixed incomes. The increased charges that are leading to their worries and their concern and their uneasiness have been brought about only in recent months. The water and sewer rates were the first impost with which they were hit. Then we find in this Budget that there are adjustments in land tax. In many instances local councils have increased their rating. I freely admit that this has nothing to do with this Budget. This has coincided with rises created either before or since the introduction of this Budget. Not only council rates but bus fares have increased, and only last week Housing Trust rents were raised. I mention this to emphasize that many people are becoming uneasy about these things; they are concerned about this accumulation of increases and wonder what will hit them next. Earlier this session it was announced by the Government that service pay would be awarded to some members of the Government service, but this pay and the 1½ per cent court award adjustments in respect of salaries and marginal increases have been swallowed up by these increased charges resulting from the Budget. No sooner is the present Government in office than on go the screws and up go the charges: hence, this uneasiness among the people.

Turning to revenue, we see that State taxation has increased in respect of land tax, stamp duties, succession duties and motor vehicles, a new gross total being reached of £19,500,000 for State taxation alone, representing an

increase of about £2,100,000 compared with last year. Under "Public works and services" there are upward adjustments again under Harbors and Marine, Waterworks, Railways, Education, Hospitals, Reimbursements, Fees, etc. "Public works and services" is responsible for an increase of £2,500,000 compared with last year. The Territorial revenue is static. Under "Commonwealth", which is mainly taxation reimbursement grants, because of natural population increase and higher wages and returns from taxation, there is an increase of £4,200,000 over last year, which is considerable. Compared with an increase last year of £5,500,000, the total revenue account increases by some £8,880,000, an additional £3,300,000.

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

Mr. COUMBE: I had referred to the total revenue and the increase by £8,880,000 in this estimate compared with last year, when we had a rise of about £5,500,000. It is interesting to note the many regulations being introduced this session to increase fees under various Acts. Some have had modest increases but many have doubled. This is a quiet way by the Government to obtain additional revenue generally. Some of these increases are not so modest. Last year, £2,500 was received for weighbridge licences, but this year the amount is estimated to be £6,000. No-one can say that there are more than twice as many weighbridges operating now compared with last year.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: The fee has increased by 300 per cent in some instances.

Mr. COUMBE: Yes. This is a specific instance where fees have been increased quietly by regulation. Another small item, but indicative, is "Pistol Licences", which last year actually brought in £2,600. This year the amount is estimated at £7,500, three times greater than last year's provision. Last year £22,000 was received by the Transport Control Board, but £50,000 is estimated this year. This increase will represent only part of the year's income, and no doubt will be as a result of the Government's announced intention to control road haulage in favour of the railways. It was announced earlier this year on a memorable occasion, that the Government would introduce control. In explaining the Budget the Treasurer said:

. . . by requiring competitive services to make appropriate payments for the privilege. This is rather unusual phrasing to describe this increase, and I emphasize the words "appropriate" and "privilege". Privilege to whom? Privileged to compete against the

Railways, or to cart goods on the Queen's highway? The phrasing is unusual. This year examination fees for local government officers are doubled, and this is another insidious way of increasing revenue. Harbors Board charges are about £500,000 higher than those of last year and I assume that this covers additional harbour dues, coal handling charges at Osborne, lightering charges, and the like. I hope that this increase is justified and that it will not lead to increased costs to consumers for goods brought to South Australia from other States and from overseas.

The Electricity and Water Supply Department, which deals with water supply, sewers and similar activities, shows an increase of £1,000,000 this year, mainly because of increased water and sewerage rates. There have been modest cost increases because of additional connections made to various new householders but, in the main, the increase is a result of extra rates being levied for both water and sewerage. Of course, the greater the number of houses built and connected, naturally the greater will be the amount of water rates collected. Here again it appears that the poor old householder is being slugged. The quantity of rebate water is being reduced by 20 per cent, so a householder will have to pay the rates for excess water after consumption of a smaller quantity than was the case in previous years. In all, this will mean a considerable imposition on the average householder who takes care of his garden. Many people will be paying a higher rate but, at the same time, a lot of people at North Adelaide, in my district, will pay less.

However, the member for Enfield may pay more, because he has one of the best gardens in my district. There is also an increase in the land tax provision of about £405,000, a substantial increase for one line. This stems from the upgrading in rates foreshadowed by the Government in its policy speech and in the Treasurer's explanation of the Budget. The Treasurer has explained that it is intended to increase certain rates of land tax and, as a result, we find that, although these estimates only cover a part of a year, there will be an increase of about £405,000. This, again, is a fairly large impost on many householders.

Next year there will be a quinquennial assessment of land tax values, and this adjustment will result in fairly steep increases in addition to the variations we are now considering. It appears that the Government is not content to wait until next year when there will be an increase because of the natural appreciation

in the value of properties; it is making an adjustment this year, and so, in many cases, there may be a compounding of the rate to be paid. These variations will cost the taxpayer £405,000 a year. The natural increase in land tax because of new building seems to be slowing down, and that slowing down appears to have started since this Government has been in office. The rate of new building has been estimated by those in a position to judge to be between 4 and 6 per cent this year. I hope this falling off is arrested.

Apart from increases in land tax, there will be increases in stamp duties and rates and taxes of various kinds, and I am afraid their effect may be a little more severe than the Treasurer has predicted. There will be a mere £500,000 increase in succession duties! The announced policy of the Labor Party was to step up rates of probate and succession duties. Although it was announced that the exemption would be increased from £4,500 to £6,000, many citizens will be affected by higher duties, as £500,000 is the estimated increase from this source for the balance of this financial year. I suggest that when people are affected to this extent they, or at least their dependants, will begin to think seriously. The revenue from stamp duties will be increased by £833,000 to £3,750,000—a 17 per cent increase over last year's receipts.

Mr. Hudson: Half of that is due to the increased rates imposed last year.

Mr. CUMBE: Some of this will be a carry-over from last year. The doubling of stamp duty on cheques is to be imposed, I believe, because it is thought that those in commerce are best able to pay the extra duty. However, it is the trend now (and it has been encouraged by all sections of the community) to suggest to housewives and people on small incomes that they should open cheque accounts with the Savings Bank or one of the various private banks. These people will also be affected by this increase in duty.

I should like to have information on one or two items and, as they relate to revenue, I shall not be able to deal with them when we are debating the lines. I mention them now in the hope that someone will give me an answer. Under the heading "Public Works and Services and other Receipts—Miscellaneous" is the item "Bank Fixed Deposits on Current Accounts", and there is a drop of £89,000 from last year, when there was also a small drop. I should like to know what is covered by this line. Are these trust accounts required by Statute? Perhaps the Treasurer

will say what this line is for, and why the sum has been decreased this year. I should also like some information on the unclaimed money under the line "Attorney-General, Supreme Court". Last year the sum was £1,757, similar to the previous year's sum, but this year it is shown as a revenue entry of about £20,400, which appears to be out of all proportion.

Referring to the expenditure provisions of the Estimates, the Treasurer said that, whilst some lines have been decreased this year (or whilst some organizations may have to do without what they require) he hoped that the position would be better next year, and that more payments of this nature could be made. I trust that his prognostications are well-founded and will come to pass. I presume that, in making this forecast, the Treasurer is basing his hopes on several factors, such as the natural increase in taxation reimbursement from the Commonwealth Government and the increases in State taxation, including land tax. Many such increases come about as a result of increased population through, say, migration, but perhaps the Treasurer is basing his forecast on the fact that several increases are provided in the Budget which reflect only portion of the year's income, and that the full effect of the year's undertaking will be reaped next year.

Apart from the fact that we, in South Australia, largely rely on nature and on the conditions of our harvest, I sincerely hope that the position next year will allow a much wider spread of funds, and I certainly hope that we shall not be in a position of having recurring deficits which, of course, as we all know sooner or later have to be refunded from Loan funds at the expense of capital works. These funds are essential for the progress of the State. I also query the provision of £750,000 made to the Engineering and Water Supply Department for pumping Murray River water into the metropolitan reservoirs in times of drought.

Much pumping has already occurred this year, because of the dry season. Despite the recent rains that we have enjoyed, the level in our reservoirs is far below what it normally should be, and, indeed, much of the reservoirs' holdings is pumped water. The sum provided for this line is far too small. Regrettably (and I know all honourable members share my view) I believe that much water will have to be pumped before the summer is over. If the line to which I have referred is totally inadequate, some other section of the department will have to go without or we will have to

have a partial water restriction in the metropolitan area, a thing we hope to avoid. I query this provision and seriously suggest to the Treasurer and the Minister of Works that it is inadequate.

Two unusual provisions appear in the Estimates that are not normally seen in a Budget: the provisions for service pay and salary adjustment. Provision for service pay was enacted by legislation in this place earlier this year as part of the Labor Party policy, and it was estimated by the Treasurer on that occasion to cost about £1,000,000 in a full year. Details have already been gone into about this matter. Then there is the provision for 1½ per cent adjustment on salaries. It is impossible for me (as a member of the Opposition) to calculate with any degree of accuracy what these two items will actually cost. However, I know that service pay has cost the Government this year (for a full year) about £1,000,000. Therefore, I know that the two items will cost something above that. Large departmental expenses under these headings will be incurred in the Highways Department, the Engineering and Water Supply Department, the Public Buildings Department, the Hospitals Department and many other departments. I suggest that these two increases will more than cover the estimated net deficit provided by the Treasurer. The previous Government, over a number of years, tried to avoid directly increasing costs on items connected with the cost of living. I believe this Budget seriously departs from this principle in several ways.

I wish to refer to several items affecting my district, and to query one or two omissions and reductions. The question of Meals on Wheels Inc. has been raised today, and I do not want to pursue this matter except to note that there was a reduction. I will wait until I hear further information in answer to the question. One provision that is conspicuous by its complete deletion from the Estimates this year is that for the National Safety Council. This was rather markedly brought to my attention because the headquarters of this organization is in Prospect, in my district. I have been to the headquarters and seen the operation of the organization, which is extremely concerned about the omission of this provision.

Mr. Clark: Has the honourable member gone to the trouble of finding out why it was omitted?

Mr. CUMBE: I have tried to find out. I refer to the matter now in the hope of receiving the information I seek at some appropriate time. I do this because of the genuine concern

expressed to me by the officer-in-charge of this organization, which is State-wide in its operations, and works for a worthy object in close co-operation with the Minister of Education and his department. I should be happy indeed ultimately to be told why this has been cut out.

I cannot find any mention of a donation by the Government to the Freedom from Hunger campaign. I mention this particularly because I understand that at a public meeting the Treasurer, when opening this campaign, promised that there would be a contribution from the Government towards these funds. I do not believe that this matter has been overlooked or purposely deleted, but I find no provision for this worthy cause for which many people are working so strenuously today. I suggest that an answer should be forthcoming on this item. If it has been deleted I should like an assurance from the Government front bench later in the debate that a contribution is to be made towards this worthy appeal.

I appreciate what the Treasurer in his wisdom has provided for various organizations in my district. I started by complimenting him on the job he had done, but said that I would point out certain weaknesses. I conclude by saying how much I appreciate some of the things that have been done in my district, such as the provisions being made towards the building of the Morphett Street bridge, the commencement of the festival hall in North Adelaide, and the provisions for various hospitals, such as the Children's, the Memorial, and McBride's, and the contribution towards the South Australian Oral School, of which my colleague, the member for Burnside (Mrs. Steele) is the President. I mention also the Travellers' Aid Society, the Royal Institution for the Blind, the Helping Hand centres and so many other organizations which rely year by year upon Government contributions to enable them to continue the very worthy job they do for the community. If they did not get the continuing Government grant year after year, irrespective of Government, they would have to fold up or curtail their activities.

This Budget appears to provide a wide spread for many organizations, but it is being provided on the contra side by a general raising of the level of taxation. I issue a word of warning to the Government that many people today are becoming a little uneasy because of the number of imposts that are being made. I mentioned earlier the increase in water and sewer rates, the fact that land tax was going up and the fact that council rates in many instances were being increased. We find that

bus-fares have been increased in some cases by 50 per cent, and this increase affects the people who can least afford it. Last week we heard that rents of Housing Trust houses were being increased. People are getting worried about what they are to be slugged with next. These increases have occurred in the last six months; in other words, they have come about only since the new Administration has been in office. This is a matter of grave concern to many people, especially those on pensions and others on fixed incomes—the people who can least afford these increases. This is the most regrettable part of this Budget. I hope we are not to be faced before the end of this financial year with a continuance of these increased charges. With those comments, I support the Budget.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Flinders): I support the first line. I do not intend to speak at great length but wish to refer generally to some items and to Government policy as it affects the Budget. I compliment the Treasurer on his first Budget. I am not unmindful of the problems connected with the preparation of Budgets. I was privileged for some years to sit in Cabinet and discuss with the Treasurer such problems. Every department for the best of reasons naturally desires and expects an increased expenditure allocation each year to cope with what is inevitably a fully justified departmental growth and, on every occasion I can recall, the Treasurer had to draw the attention of Ministers to the limitations that must necessarily apply to all departments. Invariably and inevitably the problem each year is how to cut up the cake so that each department will be able to continue to fulfil its proper functions to the fullest extent and to work with probably much less money than it would have liked to have.

Not unexpectedly, the Treasurer on this occasion prefaced his remarks when introducing the Budget with a statement purporting to set out the peculiar difficulties under which he is now operating. He says, fairly, that he does not wish to criticize the policy and determinations of previous Administrations but points out that, according to his figuring, he was faced with particular difficulties this year because of the paucity of Treasury balances in hand when he took office. He says that the previous Government had budgeted to use up the balances it had in hand, including a contribution from the winding

up of the Radium Hill project amounting to about £680,000. The Treasurer states:

In other words it (the previous Government) proposed a current overspending of £3,172,000. In point of fact, for reasons and in ways which I shall explain later, there was an improvement of £1,181,000, and instead of the year finishing with a net deficit of £570,000 it finished with a balance of £611,000 in hand. Balances were run down during the year by almost £2,000,000.

I expected that the Treasurer would preface his remarks with some comments of this nature, because he desired to create a position in which fairly severe taxation would be acceptable to the electorate at large on the grounds that he was faced with a shortage of funds on assuming office.

Let me say at the outset that the previous Government did not frame its 1964-65 Budget with the intention of going out of office at the last election. One would have thought that the Treasurer anticipated doing that and, therefore, decided to use up all the resources he had while the going was good. The previous Treasurer was a Treasurer of outstanding acumen and ability. He arranged finances to keep the State on a programme of steady and continued development. He was always able to meet somehow the requirements of departments, and always had a little something put by for an emergency. The State did not get into serious financial difficulties when there was a dry year and we had to pump large quantities of water, or a series of outbreaks of fruit fly, which cost much money to eradicate. Somehow the necessary funds were found. If we had an emergency in water supply the previous Treasurer was able to find the moneys to remedy the problem.

I remember that in 1959, when faced with the worst drought in our history, we were involved in a colossal programme of pumping water, and, in addition, had other emergencies, which the Treasurer was able to meet. When rainfall was light in the catchment areas of the Tod River reservoir, I told the Treasurer that we were in serious difficulty with water supply on Eyre Peninsula, and that whichever way I worked it out we were 400,000,000 gallons short. He asked me for the remedy, and I told him that we had to harness the Poldas Basin at a cost of £500,000. He asked me how much I could supply and I told him £180,000 which we had expected to spend on enlarging the Tod River trunk main. He told me that if I put that amount in that he would find the rest, and he did. That has been the proud record of Sir Thomas Playford as Treasurer of this State for many years.

On this occasion, the first time it has not been a Budget of his preparation since I can remember, I say publicly that the previous Treasurer was a Treasurer of outstanding capacity in the management of the State's finances. Every member, whatever his political colour, will join me in that expression of appreciation of the services rendered by him while he was Treasurer. Although we had our difficulties in Cabinet, we all want the previous Treasurer to know how much we appreciated his husbandry of the State's financial resources and how much, in retrospect, we honour him for his services. I pay tribute where tribute is due, and emphasize that the Treasurer in relation to the 1964-65 Budget was not deliberately running headlong into a blind alley from which neither he nor his successor could extricate themselves. The position outlined by the Treasurer is the same as that which the previous Treasurer would have had to face, and I believe the latter, would have overcome it with less pressure on the resources of the State. Accepting the Treasurer's statement as correct, and I do not suggest that it is not, he said that balances were run down during the year by almost £2,000,000. The Treasurer says that under the reimbursement formula there will be available to this State from the Commonwealth as a financial assistance grant for the current year about £43,290,000, which is 11 per cent greater than last year's grant, and which is 11½ per cent of the estimated aggregate distribution of the States. If my arithmetic is correct, 11 per cent of £43,290,000 is much more than the £2,000,000 that is the extent to which the Treasurer says our balances were running down during the current year.

The Treasurer also said that the operation of the formula for taxation reimbursement grants for this year will mean an increase of about £4,212,000 for 1965-66. Even if we did run down to the extent of £2,000,000 last year, the recovery so far as Commonwealth reimbursement grants are concerned adequately covers that position. I do not think that the Treasurer has made out a case for increased taxation that is anything like as strong as he imagines it to be or as strong as he would have us believe it to be, because, apart from any other matters I may deal with later, this additional reimbursement grant from the Commonwealth is more than sufficient to meet the accumulated deficit of the previous years.

Every State Treasurer knew that the reimbursement formula was coming up for review and was entitled to expect that there

would be some increase in the State allocations as a result of it. The justification for this is obvious. The income that the Commonwealth derives from taxation is earned by the citizens of the States and the increase in prosperity of the States automatically increases Commonwealth revenue. State Treasurers have had to face the problem of responsibility for the cost of developmental projects without directly receiving the results of increased prosperity.

Because of this, the Commonwealth has assisted the funding of State deficits over a stipulated period of years. The Treasurer has said that South Australia receives 11½ per cent of the estimated aggregate distribution to the States. However, I do not accept that the Treasurer proposes to take unto himself the credit for this formula, because to do so would be unfair. The 11½ per cent basis has operated for some time and the Committee will see, that, although South Australia has less than 11½ per cent of the total Commonwealth population, it receives that percentage of the reimbursement. This is entirely due to the acumen and perspicacity of Sir Thomas Playford, who negotiated the formula and set the pattern for the percentage some years ago.

I have never been able to find out how he organized it, but he did, and it has operated to South Australia's advantage for many years. I think the present Treasurer would be the first to acknowledge that, and I am not suggesting that he would not acknowledge it. The negotiation of a percentage that is higher than the amount to which we would be entitled on a population basis has been of great value to South Australia over a long time.

Another comment I have on the Budget as a whole is that I believe that in order to condition the electors to heavy taxation this year the Treasurer has tended to overload the expenditure side. From his point of view, of course, that is not bad tactics. It is not unusual for a new Government in the first year of office to do the unpopular thing early in the hope that people's memories will dim somewhat before the next triennial election, when the public may be conditioned to accepting the additional taxation.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I wish you had told me that earlier. I had not thought of it.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am sure the Minister is not so uneducated in political tactics that he does not appreciate the point. It is correct—and the Minister does not deny it—that the Budget has been loaded heavily on the expenditure side and that there will be levels of taxation that will carry the Treasurer



through the next three years without his having to come back again next year, or in the crucial third year of his term of office, to take heavily from the taxpayer's pocket. This would be well known to Parliamentarians, and particularly senior Parliamentarians, but it would probably not be appreciated so well by the public. I believe that is the purpose of this Budget.

After the election I made one or two forecasts. I am not given to making forecasts as a rule, but many people in my district, some of whom were fearful of the result of a change of Government (I say that sincerely) wondered what would happen in the Budget. They asked what I thought the Government would do, and I said, "I think three things will happen. There will be an increase in water rates, land tax and succession duties for those above the lower income bracket, and a fourth thing may occur." However, I will not mention the fourth thing because I do not want the Treasurer to catch on to the idea.

The Hon. C. D. Hutchens: Go on; be helpful!

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: No. Of the four things I suggested would happen, three have happened.

The Hon. C. D. Hutchens: Where did you make these predictions?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I made them a week after the election result was known, when the people were asking what sort of deal they could expect.

The Hon. C. D. Hutchens: Where did you make them?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I made them to anyone who inquired of me what I thought would be the policy of the new Government.

The Hon. C. D. Hutchens: Tell us the fourth.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I do not want to enlighten the Minister, although I am sure he knows about it. Possibly he is holding it in reserve. As the Treasurer rightly pointed out, the Government was committed by the previous Government in relation to some of this year's expenditure. He is honouring this, as everyone expected that he would. I am not referring to general expenditure—wages and salaries, interest charges, and so on—which forms the main body of the Budget; I am referring to such other things as the subsidy to the Electricity Trust in respect of the Kangaroo Island underwater cable and the arrangement with the Broken Hill Associated Smelters at Port Pirie to supply power to that company to enable it to develop its reclamation works at Port Pirie at an economic level. Of course,

these are both economically sound propositions, and I am sure they will recover their initial subsidy in a short time. It is gratifying to know that the people of Kangaroo Island, a rapidly developing part of the State, will receive an adequate power supply at reasonable prices. It is also gratifying to know that something will be done with the huge heaps of slag which have been accumulating at Port Pirie for many years and which have not been processed. Much wealth exists in those heaps of slag, which should be extracted for the benefit of the State. This would add to the employment potential of Port Pirie, which is an important mining and processing town.

It is interesting to members on this side, whose Party initiated many developmental schemes in South Australia in recent years, that many of those schemes, although they have not come fully into fruition, are in the process of development. We sometimes regard with grim humour press announcements relating to the Government doing this and that, knowing full well that the present Government is inheriting schemes that had their genesis in the term of the previous Government. True, many schemes are coming into fruition, and the present Government is giving attention to them, but it is equally true that they were commenced by the previous Administration, and I do not think any Minister opposite intends to take from the previous Administration the credit due to it for initiating such schemes. That is the luck of the political game: somebody sows, somebody waters, and somebody reaps the harvest.

We should get on with the job of developing the State, and I hope the projects initiated by the previous Government in recent years will turn out as well as we originally expected they would. I noticed recently that the Minister of Mines toured Eyre Peninsula extensively, and it was reported in the press that, I think, two or three new underground water basins had been discovered. However, their discovery goes back several years. The Poldia Basin, and outlying parts of it, were referred to by the Minister in his statement to the press, but that basin was previously harnessed by the previous Government to meet an emergency. Fortunately, it has proved to be better than we had hoped for at the time, and I believe its potential is still largely unknown. I believe there is a great deal of water in Poldia Basin. I point out to the Minister of Works that no evidence exists, of which I am aware, that the supply in Poldia Basin comes from any

remote source. It appears to be catchment from local rainfall which permeates through the porous upper crust of the basin area and is held in perched water tables with clay bottoms, something like underground dams, covered with a limestone crust. Therefore it would be quite unwise to take out of Polda any more water than we can be certain is delivered into it by the natural rainfall in the area. One can rob the bank in these matters without being aware of it. A person could pump water out from an underground basin merrily noting that the basin dropped a little this year, a little more next year, and a little more the year after until he suddenly realized that in total the water level had dropped significantly a number of feet, from which he must deduce that he is over-pumping the basin and, in fact, robbing the bank.

The Hon. C. D. Hutchens: I think that the point that the honourable member is making has been concerning the department for some time.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I know that the Minister agrees with me. For example, some basins in the State are obviously being over-pumped. I believe the Salisbury—Virginia—Two Walls Basin is one that is being drawn upon by local users of water to an extent it probably cannot sustain. The intake of the basin has been reduced by damming the South Para and there are other proposals for building dams in the area. This will further cut off delivery to the basin around Virginia which will accentuate this problem. I believe the member for Gouger will bear me out when I say that residents have to get down lower with their wells and pumps in order to get supplies, and they are commencing to rely more and more on reticulated water for a source of supply for gardening operations. This is a problem that I know every honourable member appreciates.

Similarly there is the Uley-Wanilla Basin. This was another particularly bright idea of the previous Premier's who, facing up to the water requirements of Eyre Peninsula and realizing that the Tod River reservoir was completely inadequate for the requirements there, decided (and I think this was contrary to the report of the Public Works Standing Committee of the day which rather damned the idea with faint praise) to go ahead with the Uley-Wanilla Basin and east coast trunk main. This has proved to be an outstanding success and an enormous contribution to the development of Eyre Peninsula generally. It has affected not only the area served directly by the main but has provided additional supplies

from the Tod catchment area, and has enabled further developments to other trunk mains to take place as well. Over the years the water requirements of Eyre Peninsula began to out-strip even the combined capacities of the Uley-Wanilla Basin and the Tod River, and we found that the level of aquifer in the Uley Basin was gradually going down. I believe that over a period of years it went down some 14ft. so that urgent action was taken again to explore and develop other basins. The Lincoln Basin to the south of Port Lincoln and the head waters of Sleaford Bay were developed and the supply to the township of Port Lincoln was eventually drawn from that source. This has enabled us to give the Uley Basin a spell and allow it to recover. It is a very slow-moving aquifer, and as it takes some years for the water level to fall, so it takes a similar period for the water level to recover. I believe it is beginning to recover, and that perhaps in the next five or six years with careful handling it will come back to its original level. The further basin to the south-west of the Uley Basin is one which has not yet been developed, although it has been drilled and tested and we know pretty accurately what its capacity is.

These were matters which were referred to by the Minister in the recent statement. I point out in all fairness that they were not new discoveries: they were matters which were well-known to the previous Administration. It was always my policy to husband the resources of our underground supplies, because they will certainly be necessary in years to come. In that respect I am a little concerned that the proposed expenditure on drilling and testing in the Polda Basin this year has been reduced. The figure shown on the Budget papers is £10,000. I believe I am correct in saying that the operation of the formula for financial assistance to the States for testing of underground water, set up under the aegis of the Australian Water Resources Council, will enable South Australia to derive some benefit this year, as some of that matching grant at any rate will be utilized to put alongside the £10,000 which is proposed for Polda and will be utilized for further exploratory and testing work there.

I have said that I believe the Treasurer has rather overloaded the expenditure side of his Budget this year in order to give him room to operate during the next couple of years. The Treasurer did say that the departmental proposals included considerable increases in

various provisions. He uses the term "considerable increases" for social services, for public undertakings, and for the development and maintenance of State resources. The increases are about 11 per cent for the mental health services and about 7½ per cent for all other hospitals. He mentions subsidies to hospitals. This point has been dealt with by the Leader, and I do not propose to enlarge upon it. It is rather unfortunate that at a time when country Government subsidized hospitals are battling, I think, for the maintenance of their position in the community, for the most part the grants to them this year have remained static. That is not true in every case, because there have been some increases. However, for the most part they have remained fairly static. The Treasurer mentions an increase of £958,000 or about 23 per cent but this certainly has not gone to country subsidized hospitals in the general sense but to other hospitals. There is also, of course, added to this the increased revenue which hospitals derive from increased fees and increased recoups from the Commonwealth which the Treasurer has mentioned.

On the expenditure side also the Treasurer proposes to make some provision for the purchase of areas suitable for national parks and wild life reserves. This exceeds last year's payments by £12,000, which is not a very great amount, although the previous Treasurer stepped up in recent years quite substantially the activity in this direction. My colleagues, the previous Minister of Lands and the previous Minister of Agriculture, were insistent always upon the desirability and necessity to purchase more land for open spaces. Their representations were successful and considerable areas have been purchased. The Treasurer states:

The Town Planning Report recommended an annual provision of £250,000 towards such acquisitions in the metropolitan area, £125,000 to be provided by the Government and £125,000 by councils.

The Attorney-General has announced that he proposes to press on with this proposal and I am sure that the Committee and the people as a whole await with some interest the result of his representations to the councils in this matter. This is fairly big money for councils to be expected to find. The resources of local government are not inexhaustible, nor, for that matter, are the resources of the Government, but metropolitan councils are involved in heavy expenditure in one way and another these days for expensive street and drainage works, which of course are essential and for which the people

are clamouring, and rightly so. Nevertheless, they do add substantially to the outgoings of councils. There is a limit to what even local government can provide in this regard. I for one look forward with some interest to what eventuates from the discussions that the Attorney-General will have with the metropolitan councils in this regard.

I turn now to the additional taxation that the Treasurer proposes to impose upon the State this year. His proposals range widely across the general field of taxation still available to the States. This field is, of course, somewhat limited by the operations of the overall taxing authority, the Commonwealth, but there is a wide range of charges and, as the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) told us earlier this evening, they all add up to a level about which every householder in the metropolitan and country areas is becoming seriously concerned. Also, the taxes upon the rural communities are reaching a dangerous level. We must be reminded that, desirable though it may be to have all sorts of amenities and benefits (and I am not confining my thoughts now to social service benefits; I have in mind the things that affect our living conditions generally), whatever we call upon the State to provide or assist in providing in these directions, we have of course to pay for. In this regard, no Government is in any different position from that of the ordinary householder: it must earn enough to pay for the things it desires to have. There is no escape from this simple situation.

Action is proposed by the Minister of Marine to review charges by the Harbors Board, as those have not been altered for about 9 years. I know that the board has desired to increase its charges, but this proposal was not accepted by the previous Government. As the Leader said, the Harbors Board is a service department and should so regard itself. In spite of repeated representations over the years by the board and the General Manager, we would not agree to the charges being increased. These charges affect the movement of goods throughout the State, and are borne by the primary industries of the State. Those industries carry the freight charges both ways. We pay freight on our goods to market, and we pay freight from the manufacturer to the farmer on what is required to produce our products. The cost of the movement of goods is borne almost entirely by the rural community of the State.

Some parts of the State have no escape from these charges, for instance, Kangaroo Island and

Port Lincoln, although the latter has an alternative of a 400-mile road journey which is not cheap. The previous Government, by hook or by crook, has always kept transport charges down. It was always a salient point in the previous Treasurer's consideration that the cost of the necessities of life, the cost of electricity to the manufacturer, the cost of essential clothing to the worker, and the cost of children's clothing to the housewife, were all kept as low as possible. Year after year we took strenuous action to do this so that we could produce at the lowest possible cost, and so that people could live at the lowest possible cost of living while maintaining the highest possible standard. These things were paramount in our considerations. However, there is to be a change from that attitude, because of the general increase in charges for the movement of goods. The increased Harbors Board charges will result in an increased revenue of £300,000 this year, and £400,000 to £450,000 in a full year's operation. When we realize that the Harbors Board revenues are expected, with the increase of £300,000 this year, to return about £3,500,000, one sees that the £300,000 represents over 8 per cent of the board's total revenue, and in a full year the £450,000 represents a much higher percentage, so that Harbors Board rates are increasing at not less than 12 per cent of the revenue. This is a serious matter and not justified, as it is loading this department with charges that affects every phase of our economy. It affects the movement of our goods in every way through the State and to export markets, whether in other States or overseas. At a time when our industries are battling to compete with industries in other States and endeavouring to get a foothold in oversea markets, this step should not be taken. At any rate, if something had to be done, it should not have been such a big step, but rather something that would have operated with much less severity.

I desire to comment further on the increase in water and sewer rates. Here the increase applies to the whole State and with particular severity to the metropolitan area and country towns. The costs of providing water are far greater than the amount paid for the service but, here again, in spite of recommendations by the Engineer-in-Chief over many years, the previous Administration was able to maintain the charges for water at a fairly constant level. It is necessary to replace mains that have been written off as virtually valueless with new and bigger mains that cost much

money. We have about 11,000 miles of mains in this State and every foot that is 6in. or 8in. in diameter costs at least 30s., while the larger mains cost anything from £18,000 to £25,000 a mile to lay.

There may be some justification for a small increase in these charges, but I consider that the proposed increases are unnecessarily severe. We are reaching a point where the householder's budget, attacked as it is from every side, is becoming such that only people on the higher salaries can live reasonably, whereas, those in the lower income brackets are having real difficulty in meeting all the charges. Not only do increased water rating assessments result in increased cost to the householder for water, but also, because local government authorities usually adopt the water assessment for their scales of rating, the increased assessments by the Engineering and Water Supply Department result in increased council rates for the householder as well.

When we add land tax and other expenses, we see what is the total effect. We have not yet had information from the Treasurer as to what the new land tax assessments will be. In fact, as far as I know, the Commissioner of Land Tax has not yet mailed these new assessments. However, the Treasurer made this interesting comment:

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 excess of £5,000. An adjustment to bring these up to the general level is proposed, which should increase revenue by some £425,000 this year.

That is a curious statement, because one cannot arrive at a general level of effective rates throughout Australia. I do not know how one can determine the Australian average for unimproved values. Why should it apply only to land valued over £5,000? That is a peculiar form of reasoning. If a parcel of land is valued by the Commissioner at less than it would be valued in another State (assuming one can find a similar parcel of equivalent real value) why does the variation occur only in the higher levels? If valuations in this State are below those in another State, it seems obvious that this must apply over the whole range. I think this is a specious argument put in for effect, and I do not think it will bear analysis.

I said earlier that I had forecast that land tax would increase. I said this because it is a matter of history that when a Labor Government takes office it immediately latches on to land as being an inexhaustible source of

revenue. Land seems to have a fatal fascination for Labor Treasurers, and inevitably taxes on land appeal to them. The individual who is fortunate (or perhaps unfortunate) enough to be the owner of land has no escape; he pays up and looks as cheerful as he can. It is impossible for him to pass on the charges or to relinquish the land because, if he sells, it is to someone who knows he has to pay, so the value is depreciated. Whether the land will economically bear all the charges placed on it does not come up for real consideration; the fact of owning the land means that a person is ultimately liable for land tax. Whatever Parliament says, it will endorse the increase, so the landowner has no escape. The Treasurer said:

The legislation I have foreshadowed will be introduced as quickly as possible to amend the present rates of tax designed to yield additional revenue of £425,000 a year. This will be fully effective in 1965-66.

I believe the Treasurer is getting himself into a fairly high gear with this tax to provide him with some room for manoeuvring in years to come. The other item that I forecast would be increased is succession duties, and it has been increased. Admittedly, the Government proposes to increase the exemption for widows from £4,500 to £6,000, and for other relationships from £2,000 to £3,000. We do not know what was in the Treasurer's mind when he said:

They will make provision to close gaps in the present legislation whereby succession dues are greatly reduced or avoided by special dispositions of estates, and will also provide for increases in rates on higher successions in line with effective rates levied in other States and elsewhere.

I do not know what he means by bringing it into line with the higher rates in other States. The Committee is well aware that succession duties in South Australia are based differently from those in other States. We do not levy on an estate duty here, but on a succession duty, which is applied to the person in respect of the benefaction he receives from a deceased person. I do not know how we should calculate equality with other States in this matter.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: It is possible to do it.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am not a mathematician.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Mathematicians were engaged in making calculations.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have no doubt about that, but their determinations are sufficiently vague, so that I cannot say whether they are good or bad calculations. Here again,

it seems to me that anybody who is worth 2s. is fair game for the Treasurer. This is the Socialist pattern of administration wherever it occurs, and those of us who have been opposed to Socialism over the years have repeatedly told our audiences, when we have been discussing this matter, that Socialism is a process of levelling down, and not one of levelling up. We have said that Socialism tends to destroy the rights of the individual; tends to discourage thriftiness, and to play down the virtues of independence. The State will begin to learn the truth of some of the statements we have been making, in the course of the next few years.

One man, who is not a political supporter of mine, has said to me, "What does this programme outlined in the Budget add up to?" I said, "You can draw your own conclusions about that," and he replied, "This is the beginning of stagnation in South Australia." I said, "They are strong words, you know," to which he replied, "Admittedly, the portents are not very clear at present, but the moment you begin to hit hard, those people with sufficient spirit and independence to make a niche for themselves in life will be hit. This means that we are getting a slowing-down process, and the beginnings of the effect of a Socialist policy in South Australia that will lead, if it goes on long enough, to disenchantment, disillusionment and despair, on the part of people who are saddled with this heavy and still heavier taxation." That was the comment of an observer, who, I think, will be a follower of mine from now on. I think he has become fed up pretty quickly, and I think many more people in this State will be of the same opinion, if this policy continues.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: You could use a few of them in your district.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Minister is wrong. I am not hoping for this; I can get by with the support I now receive from my district. To say that I am hoping for a disaster to overtake the State so that my district can be made safer for me is not a compliment, and I do not accept it as such. I am prepared to battle on in my political career in the normal way. I do not want a disaster to overtake the State just to see the present Government discredited. I want to see the State go ahead, and I will take the political consequences, whatever they may be. Stamp duties are increasing and so is the payment on cheques.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: But betting tickets are coming down!

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am interested in the increase in stamp duties, because in the last issue of the official organ of the Royal Automobile Association I noticed an interesting article. I also saw on television the Secretary of the Royal Automobile Association being interviewed by a charming lady who asked him about the stamp duties on the purchase of motor vehicles. The Committee will recall that prior to the last election an editorial in the Royal Automobile Association paper was not complimentary to the Government of the day. As a matter of fact, I think the article did much damage to the prospects of the previous Government at the election, and I think it was calculated to do just that. Nevertheless, the Secretary of the association freely admitted to his interviewer on television that he felt sure the present Labor Government, on assuming office, would have abolished this iniquitous charge on the papers necessary to effect the transfer of a motor vehicle. She asked him whether he was disappointed, and he said something to this effect: "Disappointed! The higher you build up your hopes the harder you fall."

I well remember that on a previous occasion when this matter was being debated in this place the present Attorney-General and other members of the then Opposition expressed themselves very definitely on this point. The Attorney-General, even for him, waxed eloquent on this matter. He said that this was a tax that would hit hardest those who were least able to pay it, that it was iniquitous and that it would be fair game for every Treasurer who wanted a few extra shillings. In this Budget an opportunity was presented to do two things to relieve the people for whom the Attorney was so solicitous on this previous occasion, when he virtually gave an undertaking to the motorists of South Australia. Neither of these things appears likely to happen. I know why it is, because I know the present Treasurer, as Treasurer, has a very different view on taxation from what he had when he was Leader of the Opposition. He has decided that what he has he will hold.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: And get as much more as he can.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes. He is going to collect a fair bit, too. I wish to refer to a matter mentioned by the member for Gouger earlier, and that is the question of road policy. Farmers, business men and other people have been anxiously awaiting the Government's firm proposals on road transport, but so far we have not heard what they

are to be. Only this morning, when I was in the aeroplane coming from Port Lincoln, I talked to two gentlemen well known to me. Both of them are engaged in the road transport business and they were in a state of suspended expectation wondering what the Government's proposals on road transport are really going to be. Whatever they are, these people do not look forward to them with any very great hope. It appears to me that the Treasurer is expecting substantial increases in his revenue from the movement of goods. As I have said, the cost of the movement of goods around the State is borne almost exclusively by the primary industries; they pay the freight to and they pay the freight from. People in country towns who are not directly engaged in the rural industries also pay for it, because their cost of living is affected by the cost of transporting goods to them. The Treasurer, when speaking of the road users, said:

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.

Then he went on to say that this will be secured by diverting traffic to rail and allowing the Railways Commissioner to abandon a number of the special rates which unrestrained competition has forced on him. In his policy speech and his statements since the election the Treasurer has said that he does not propose to increase rail freights. He said he proposes to increase railway revenues, but he has not said that he proposes to increase freight rates. He is proposing that the Railways Commissioner shall remove the concessions on the carriage of goods. It does not make the slightest difference to any user of freight services whether there is a straightout increase in freights or whether a freight concession is removed: the effect is precisely the same. I do not know what is proposed under this scheme, nor does anybody on this side of the House know, but if it is proposed to charge on the railway the same rate for carting superphosphate as is at present charged for the carriage of wheat the people in my district will pay another £1 a ton at least for their superphosphate. If that is not putting up freights, I do not know what putting up freights means. I think this is a subterfuge, and I do not think the Treasurer will get many marks around the countryside for resorting to it.

I point out that our sealed roads and our other better class roads around the State have been paid for by the people who use those

roads.—They are our roads in precisely the same sense as the railways are our railways, and we must not forget that. There is much talk current in Government circles that the railways are a State instrumentality, that they are owned by the people, and they ought to be used by the people. It is true that they are owned by the people, but in precisely the same way (and without incurring a huge deficit or an annual loss) the people who use the roads have provided the finance to build them and are providing the finance to maintain and develop the system that we have.

Mr. Hall: And the roads have a higher investment in them than the railways have.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have not worked it out, but I accept the honourable member's assurance that that is so. I point out that there is much loose thinking about this matter. People say that because the railways are owned by the State and run by the State we should support them, even to our financial detriment. I emphasize that the roads are just as much a State instrumentality as are the railways. The people who use the roads have provided the funds for them and are providing the money to maintain them and to add to the road network. Just as we should not have the railways running at a loss, so we are not entitled to charge people at such a rate as will force them off the roads that they themselves have provided without any assistance from the general taxpayer. The Treasurer proposes to charge us such a price for using the roads that the money of every motorist, every carrier and every transporter of goods throughout the State has provided. It is not proper that the Treasurer should set out by imposing such heavy taxation upon the road users as to force them on to the railways, to the partial exclusion of the road services. The transport industry anxiously awaits the Government's final determination on road policy because, however bad it is, it wants to know. I hope that before long the Minister of Transport will summon up his courage to bring down his proposals so that we can look at them.

I could refer to other matters in the detailed lines, but I do not think it is a good plan to set out every year to cover everything in this debate. However, I do not want the Committee to think that, when I say that, I disapprove of the action taken by the member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell), both now and on previous occasions, in the exhaustive analysis he has made of the Budget. I commend him for it. It is a most useful exercise, but it is not

necessary for every honourable member to undertake it on each occasion. Again, I compliment the Treasurer on introducing his first Budget. It is a matter of considerable moment to any Treasurer, particularly when the Budget has reached its present proportions. Whatever he may say publicly, I know that the Treasurer and members of his Cabinet will agree with me that the growth in the State's Budget from about £54,000,000 (as it was in the first year when I was in Cabinet) to now well over the £100,000,000 mark is a reflection of the growth and prosperity of this State, which is able to sustain an expenditure and revenue of this order. Everybody recognizes that this is a result of the outstanding capacity of the previous Treasurer and his management of our economic affairs. I pay a tribute to him on behalf of the people of this State for that effort.

But it does not mean that I am not aware of the responsibility resting on the present Treasurer. I am not proposing to be one who will be a carping critic of his proposals, but I do believe that on this occasion he is taxing the State more heavily than is justified and he is biting off more than is necessary. For that reason, I have criticized his proposals. Nevertheless, I support the first line.

Mrs. STEELE (Burnside): In supporting the first line, I shall speak on one or two subjects in particular, and the first, Meals on Wheels, was referred to briefly by one or two members. This is an organization for which I have the greatest respect, which respect is shared by most of the general public. In an age where increasing attention is devoted to the care of the aged and infirm, the work done by this organization deserves our highest regard. I have inquired of this organization, because some information was given in answer to a question by the Leader this afternoon. Following that, I spoke to the Secretary of the organization to ascertain more facts about it, because I considered the Committee should know what lay behind this considerably reduced grant to the organization. It has enjoyed the confidence of past Governments, and deserved better attention than has been given to it in this Budget.

The organization asked the Government for the same amount as had been granted in previous years, namely, £17,500. In 1964-65, the Government commenced making separate grants for maintenance and capital expenditure for this line, although previously the grant had been an overall one. The principle of subsidizing building costs on new kitchens on a

£2 for £1 basis was established by the previous Government. The sum of £7,467 shown under the "Capital Expenditure" in last year's Estimates was for kitchens at Port Pirie and Renmark, and this amount was fully spent. In fact, £600 was paid in this financial year to finalize the payments on one of these kitchens. The £8,500, which was asked for and given this year, is to provide two kitchens—one for the hills area to serve Bridgewater, Aldgate, Stirling, and Crafers, and the other at Millicent, where the local hospital is having difficulty in caring for aged and infirm pensioners in that area. The building of a kitchen there had a specific purpose. The £8,500 was divided between the two kitchens, but contingent upon this allocation, the organization had to raise the balance of the money required to build the two kitchens.

The executive committee, consisting of reputable citizens in the community, is naturally disappointed that the grant has been drastically reduced, as it considered it was a victim of its own concern to keep a tight rein on finances and on spending. By effecting savings the committee thought it would have been commended by the Government rather than, as it were, to have it used as evidence against it. The greatest proportion of the money, which bettered the financial position last year and which was set out in figures provided this afternoon, came from bequests and legacies of about £6,000. That approximately made up the difference that has resulted in the figures in their lines. The committee considered (and I think rightly) that such bequests should not be spent in maintenance but, rather, should be used in a capital programme, and with that in mind, it purchased a property on Dequetteville Terrace in Kent Town for use as a hostel for aged and infirm people from the country who had to come to the city for hospital and associated treatment.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: But that was after their original submissions to the Government, was it not? Have you checked with the organization on whether, in fact, in its submissions to the Government it set aside that money for a building fund?

Mrs. STEELE: When they found that they had this money from bequests and donations and moneys that came in last year, they considered that they should not fritter it away on general maintenance but should use it for this explicit purpose.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Yes, but their figures as supplied to the Auditor-General did

not show this as a fund for a separate purpose.

Mrs. STEELE: I do not know whether they made that clear to the Auditor-General.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Unfortunately not.

Mrs. STEELE: When speaking to the General Secretary of the organization this afternoon, I did not ascertain that specific fact but considered the sort of thing that most organizations working on a similar basis would do with any large donation they received.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Unfortunately, it was not funded. That is why the Treasurer has said that a further submission from Meals on Wheels is being considered.

Mrs. STEELE: I am grateful for that information, because I was going to say that I hoped that any representation made to the Government later would be sympathetically considered in the light of the particulars I have received. I am grateful and pleased (as I am sure the organization will be) to know that the submission will be regarded in this light. Many people, if they knew that a grant of this nature had been cut, would be sorry, because I think most members of the public agree that the organization is doing a fine job for aged people and it would be a pity if it were penalized for thrift or doing something that it did not intend to do. I think the organization omitted to state this fact when representatives saw the Auditor-General.

On that basis, I now appreciate why the Auditor-General advised the Government as he did. The public has generously contributed to the funds of Meals on Wheels and I think the community also takes great interest in its welfare. Hundreds of voluntary workers give both time and effort to the organization and, in fact, many make available their cars to enable the provision of the Meals on Wheels service. Without this help, an organization of this kind could not function. Apart from taking meals to old people, they also take a little sunshine and a little light into the lives of people who in many instances are confined to their own homes. Like many others engaged in voluntary effort of this kind, they do not give all the time; they gain something themselves, because it would be a very poor type of person who would not get something out of selfless service to others. I am more than grateful that further representations may receive sympathetic consideration.

The other matter on which I wanted to speak concerns the Police Force and I desire



to say at the outset that I have the greatest regard for the officers of the force and for the service being rendered at all times to the public in a multiplicity of ways. It is very nice to read in the papers from time to time tributes to the service given by officers of the Police Force. I saw something in this Chamber the other night that I had never seen before. I don't know if other members have ever noticed this, but it is a tribute to the training of members of the force. The young officer on duty in the gallery turned and bowed to the Speaker before he left the gallery. I have been here for six years or more, but this is the first time I have ever seen an officer on duty pay this respect to the Chair. I think it is indicative of the type of training in decorum that young police officers are being given these days.

Recently I was a guest at a dinner at which the Commissioner of Police was a fellow guest. I was actually the guest speaker, and I was happy to make this comment about the young officer in his presence and to congratulate him on the way in which officers of the force act at all times. The other day I read with great interest an item in the paper—other members may have read it too—that said a quiet revolution in the history of law enforcement in South Australia was taking place. This article referred to the application of scientific detection to everyday cases with outstanding success, and it went on to say:

With the completion of the new police building, a new scientific room has become a scientific bureau, with laboratories and equipment as modern as any other, and a step ahead of most, in the Commonwealth.

A sub-leader appeared in the paper several months ago following representations made, I think, by a progress association in the Gouger District. The Para Hills Progress Association had written to the Commissioner of Police complaining about the behaviour of some larrikins in that area and about how youths were disturbing the peace of the neighbourhood. The association asked if some action should be taken. Following a series of letters to the press, some from residents and others from the secretary of this organization, a sub-leader appeared in the daily press about the way in which the police enforced law and order. I should like to read a little of this, as it precedes the point I want to make. It said:

Larrikinism is not confined to Para Hills. It is often disturbing to see "Saturday night cowboys" lounging and slouching even in the centre of the city, especially along Rundle

Street. The secretary of the Para Hills progress association said, "A boy in the district is said to have been terrorized by a gang of youths on Saturday night, young people to be afraid to venture out after dark, other people to be disturbed by noisy vehicles, and residents to be appalled by property damage caused by hooligans."

The article continued:

But these are problems which must on occasions be duplicated at various localities in a large city. The Police Force, with the responsibility of trying to curb unruly and sometimes vicious elements, must deploy its necessarily limited manpower to the best possible advantage. The progress association called for a police station in Para Hills, and this would undoubtedly be desirable—and not only for Para Hills—if enough men and resources were available. But police numbers tend to be spread thinly in a fast-growing community, and the South Australian Police Force has tackled the duty of protecting the law-abiding majority increasingly by extending the use of highly mobile radio cars. Larrikin control, of course, is made more difficult these days, because the modern species is usually highly mobile.

That could well be the crux of the problem. One only has to travel down Rundle Street, particularly on a Saturday night, to see the extent to which young louts (and that is the only way to describe them) drive along at a crawling pace in motor cars, often without silencers, calling out to people, being a general nuisance, and disturbing the peace of the city. In the Estimates this year the vote for the Police Department is down by £94,672. Whereas in 1964-65, £328,672 was provided, the provision this year is £234,000. In 1964 there was an increase of 122 officers in the force, and in 1965 it was only 113. Meanwhile, there has been an increase of 35 cadets last year, and only 25 this year—this at a time when the population of South Australia is increasing, and when there is a high incidence of juvenile crime alone. The 29th Annual Report of the Adelaide Juvenile Court, under "General Comments", states:

The number of juveniles charged with criminal offences in the Adelaide Juvenile Court increased this year by 189, from 956 to 1,145, compared to last year's increase of 105, from 851 to 956. The total number of cases dealt with by the court increased by 548, from 2,916 to 3,464, and illegal interference and illegal use of motor vehicles increased from 195 to 276.

If evidence is needed, those latter remarks indicate that the conversion of the Police Force to a highly mobilized one is most desirable. It appears that the strength of the force is decreasing, and this has been highlighted in replies to two questions that I have asked

recently. The first related to driving instruction and, in the reply that he gave on August 31, the Minister of Education said:

We are greatly indebted to the Commissioner of Police and his officers for this work, as in so many other ways, but it is not possible at present to extend the arrangements because more trained instructors cannot be provided.

Last week, in reply to my second question, which concerned the stationing of a police officer at the intersection of Greenhill and Fullarton Roads, the Minister said:

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.

Those two replies bear out my contentions, namely, that our Police Force is under-staffed. This fact is borne out also by the drop in the number of additions to the Police Force in the last year, as well as by the drop in the intake of cadets into the police training college. I believe the Attorney-General will agree that the police are being used in many aspects of the prevention of juvenile crime, where if they were available, it would be much more desirable to have social workers engaged in that field. I recall that when I made my first speech in this place in 1959 I referred to the great need for in-service training for trained social workers in South Australia. I believe that probably trained police officers are being used in social situations when they could be much better employed on other duties associated with police work.

At the end of the year the University of Adelaide will cease to provide a course in social studies and it is expected that the Institute of Technology will be conducting this and other under-graduate courses. In view of the Attorney-General's concern in this matter I hope that he will persuade his colleagues in Cabinet to see that adequate provision is made for this course at the institute.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: We have been pressing for it.

Mrs. STEELE: Yes, I know that. A communication came from the Minister of Education to council in that regard. However, at present the institute is pressed to the utmost to make provision for the courses being undertaken there, and if it were to undertake further courses, such as a course in social studies, it would need more consideration by Cabinet

when next year's Budget is before the Committee. As all honourable members know, police are used for many different duties, and for this reason alone it appears most desirable that more police officers should be attracted and appointed to the force. When special supplements are provided in the daily press offering careers to young men and women who are in their school leaving year, an excellent outline of a career in the Police Force is provided by the Police Department to encourage young men and women to enter the force. I understand from my reading of the Attorney-General's Report that much of the increase in the force this year has been because of the higher intake of women into the auxiliary services. When I read the supplement in the paper it always appears to me that this is a most attractive career because of the range of subjects and salaries it offers. I should not think much more is needed to attract the right kind of young men to the Police Force.

The police carry out so many duties that everything possible should be done to attract more men into the force. With the increasing road toll every policeman who can be spared should be on the road to safeguard those using it, to detect speedsters and to make sure people are not causing a danger to others by using unroadworthy vehicles. Recently there has been a spate of breakages into properties and many safes have been removed and robbed. Only this afternoon I listened to a reply to a question asked by the honourable member for Frome about infringements of the law concerning firearms in the Flinders Ranges area. It was pointed out that this had been going on for many years, that it was not only, of course, common to the Flinders Ranges area. Again, it highlighted the fact that we really are suffering from a shortage of men in our police services. I am not certain of this—and perhaps the Attorney-General could inform me—but I imagine that perhaps police officers are being used now in conducting this survey to ascertain whether or not there are sufficient justices of the peace.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Yes, they have been.

Mrs. STEELE: This again is something that is extraneous to their ordinary duties, I suggest, and it has probably had the effect of keeping some of them away from what are normally their routine duties. I thought I should draw attention to the fact that the papers we are presented with when the Estimates are introduced bear out both financially

and in respect of the numbers of the people engaged in the force that it is a decreasing amount and a decreasing number.

Finally I refer to one small item in the Estimates which my colleague, the honourable member for Torrens, alluded to briefly this evening, namely, the South Australian Oral School with which I am still, after many years, quite actively associated. The Government has seen fit to increase the amount this year by about £2,400, which brings us up now to somewhere approximating £12,000. The original grant of £1,500 was made in, I think, 1948 by the Minister of Health as the Government's initial contribution to the working of the South Australian Oral School. This grant now will almost pay for the salaries of teachers engaged at the school. Like many others similar organizations, we find it very difficult to keep up with our running and maintenance costs mainly because of the steep increases and the constant increases that are being made or have been made in recent years in teachers' salaries. A special school for exceptional or handicapped children demands a teacher or teachers perhaps with a higher degree of teaching skills and abilities than are required by those teaching normal children, because the demands made are very much greater and before they become teachers of handicapped children they have to be trained to teach normal children at our ordinary schools. Most schools of this nature are involved in higher expense because they try to meet the special loading that is paid by the Education Department. As we try to approximate as closely as possible the salaries paid by the Education Department, we also like to meet this special loading for extra skill. Therefore, this small though most welcome addition to our annual grant is much appreciated by the executive of the Oral School, and I think I would be most remiss if I did not say publicly how grateful we are to the Government for considering our request for extra funds in a favourable light. With those few remarks, I support the first line.

Mr. McANANEY (Stirling): My colleague the member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell) and the Leader of the Opposition have thoroughly analyzed the Budget, almost section by section, so I do not intend to deal with the individual lines in much detail. When speaking to the Loan Estimates, I criticized the way in which they were set out and the lack of information. Now that we have the Auditor-General's Report, we can understand those Loan Estimates when,

at the time they were introduced, we could not. The Budget, a document full of information, with the Auditor-General's Report is a combination that gives much information. On the other hand, when one has not had much experience of a Budget, it is difficult to find out the precise information required and how particular departments are functioning. When we try to follow the book-keeping procedures, there seems to be a different method in each department and a difference in the way in which the Redemption Fund is written off. It is difficult to get a true picture of the progress, or lack of progress, of this State.

First, I refer to the Treasurer's trying to make out a case that he began this year in a bad position through lack of anticipation by the previous Government; but I differ from him on that. We had a period of good years in which there was prosperity and full employment in South Australia, and the previous Treasurer accumulated a sum of nearly £2,000,000. Then followed a year in which the Commonwealth Government cut the unemployment relief grant because there was full employment and but little increase in the taxation disbursements account. At the same time South Australia has to bear an additional cost of £2,250,000 increase in the basic wage and another £250,000 increase in margins. Through the foresight of our former Treasurer, he was in a position to meet that situation without increasing taxation greatly. In my opinion, it was right for him then to budget for a deficit, because it was obvious that, with a prosperous year, particularly for the primary producers when wool and sugar prices were high and the export value reached a record level, the reimbursement from the Commonwealth Government this year would be higher than previously.

Now we have a Government budgeting for a deficit, in different circumstances. Undoubtedly, it has a margin in hand but, although it has increased taxation considerably, it is still budgeting for a deficit when it is not obvious that the reimbursements for next year will be so great in spite of an increased taxation rate by the Commonwealth Government. The value of primary products on the world markets has fallen, and wool prices have dropped by 10 to 20 per cent. When they fall to that extent, the margin of profit to the woolgrowers goes, and he is not such a big taxpayer in the following year. There will not be that increase in reimbursement by the Commonwealth Government next

year and it is unwise to budget for a deficit at present when there is full employment.

The increase in water charges will be a burden on many people. A rise of about 16 per cent in land tax cannot be warranted. Perhaps it could be justified if the value of land was increased by community effort. The community is entitled to something from that increase in value, and the unimproved value improves without anyone doing anything for it. There are difficulties in the country where the unimproved value is sometimes £15 to £20 an acre. The real value of the land in the country is what the individual puts into it—the fencing, the super, etc.—and it is this effort that determines the value of land. The amount of land tax collected has increased greatly in the last 10 years, and no doubt much of that has been collected from people living in Adelaide.

Most business concerns are paying an average of 9 per cent in the city. This tax is reflected in the cost of goods, and this produces inflation, so that ultimately the rise goes back to the primary producer. Land tax is not a good tax. The increase in the value of land because of the growth of the city and of the people living in a certain area is going to the speculators and not to the community.

The increase to 6d. for stamp duty on cheques is too large an increase, as it will cost a total of 1s. 2d. to draw a cheque and pay an account. I cannot agree with the proposed increase in Harbors Board fees, as the board is already making a profit. As the member for Flinders said, the board provides a service to the community, but these increased charges will add to the cost of everything passing through the Harbors Board's facilities. Of about £19,000,000 direct taxation collected by the State, about £6,000,000 is from motor vehicles taxation, which is used to provide and repair roads. We find that half of the income from direct taxation is offset by the losses incurred by the various Government undertakings. The Railways Department makes the biggest loss, and it has been stated tonight that as much money is invested in the roads as in the railways.

In order to be successful, one must follow the business principle of cutting one's losses and, in conducting a business, it is necessary to analyse each part and see whether it is making a gain or sustaining a loss. That was illustrated by Lightburn, a company which was successful in some things but which got into difficulties when it decided to make Zeta

motor cars. The company would have gone bankrupt if it had continued with the project. It decided to cut its losses and go back to something that had been proving of value. Whether a Government or an individual is concerned, we must look to see whether we can cut our losses.

Experience overseas has shown that railways do provide a service and, if they are efficient and carry out a proper delivery service, they can be profitable on long distance lines. However, on the short haul they cannot make a profit. I consider that the whole railway system is in need of a thorough overhaul. If the parts that are not paying their way were cut out, the railways would be providing a useful service and not running at a loss that amounts to £4 a head of population. Much of the freight traffic is in minerals and, as the mining companies are making big profits, I cannot see why the charges cannot be increased in order to make the railways more economic.

In that way, it would not be necessary to flog the landholders by an imposition of an increase of £2,000,000 in 10 years for land tax. In many cases, these charges cannot be met on annual return. I am afraid that we are giving the Treasurer's policy speech a hiding, but we cannot forget that he has said that it is the policy of the Labor Party to have a reserve in case it runs into difficult times. The Government is budgeting for a deficit and I think that that is an unwise policy to adopt in the present circumstances. It was estimated in the policy speech that £60,000,000 would be available to be spent in the next three years.

It was stated that wage adjustments and expanded services will absorb a certain amount but a conservative estimate shows that £51,000,000 will be available towards improving educational and health services and social services. The position is different when one looks through the Budget to see how these services will be improved. There is a natural increase in revenue. The Education Department estimates an increased expenditure of, I think, £2,333,500. From this amount must be deducted £409,500, which is a refund of part of this expenditure from the Commonwealth Government. The expenditure of the Education Department will be increased by the 1½ per cent margins payment and by extra payments to student teachers. As a result, the total expenditure by the department will not be any greater this year than could be expected from the percentage increase in the number of students.

I cannot see how £51,000,000 will be spent on improved services. This sum will be spent merely to keep up services to the same extent as in the past; the extra taxation will be taken up by meeting service payments and things of that nature. Although it has been claimed that there will be improved social services, if these improvements are balanced against the matters in which the payments are not as good as they were previously it will be seen that this is a false claim.

The Auditor-General has emphasized that we are getting too many debt charges for things for which there is no return. At present service charges are £25,450,000 and the recoveries amount to £11,900,000, so there is a dead loss of well over £10,000,000 that the Budget has to stand. The margin is not as big as that, however, as there is a surplus from the Engineering and Water Supply Department that provides interest on a certain amount of the capital; it is not as bad as appears in the Budget. One of the problems is that taxation has been increased to serve this loss. In the coming year there is an increase of £2,350,000 on debt charges.

The increase in land tax has been mentioned. Land tax is an inequitable tax, and it is difficult to get a correct valuation. I know of one case where a farmer pays in council rates 10 times what he pays in land tax. In another case, just north of Gawler, a man pays more in land tax than he pays in council rates. So, this system is difficult to follow. Land is valued by so-called experts. If lucerne is grown on poor land and is irrigated, it may be valued at £60 an acre, but where it is grown on good land and less water is required for irrigation the value is often the same. A tax that is based on guesswork is always bad tax, whereas income tax is at least more equitable, in that it is levied according to a person's ability to pay. In his policy speech the Treasurer claimed that hospital charges would be remitted to a certain extent, but I notice that, according to the Budget, the collection of hospital fees would be greater, so I cannot see how the Government has honoured that election promise.

I think the Government intended also to implement an insurance scheme but apparently when it inquired into the matter it found that insurance companies would abandon comprehensive insurance if that happened. I notice, too, that, although the State insurance organization made a profit last year, it has paid out about £20,000 more in compensation this year than it has collected. One indica-

tion of a Government's effectiveness is the rate of a State's population increase. Last year the Victorian increase was 2.64 per cent; South Australia 2.4 per cent, and Western Australia about 2 per cent. Of course those States were under Liberal Governments, and we trust that with the advent of a Labor Government in this State that rate will be maintained.

Mr. Jennings: Don't bring the sectarian issue into it!

Mr. McANANEY: New South Wales with a Labor Government until recently had an increase of 1.8 per cent, and Queensland was down to 1.5 per cent. Anybody going to Queensland, however, could see that its progress was retarded by the leasehold tenure of country lands, which do not develop to the same extent as lands held on freehold tenure, when more pride is taken and when there is, of course, security of tenure. Queensland is now issuing freehold tenure of certain land, and much development will take place there in future. Of course, Tasmania, a Labor State, is just maintaining its population, and that is all. The South Australian Government will be successful to an extent if it can maintain the unemployment rate in this State which has been so low over the past decade.

South Australia has been either first or second in this regard, and also with our rate of increase in population, and that will be the barometer by which the present Government will be judged. Taxation will be increased more than it has been in the past. I was disappointed in the Budget's provision for the tourist trade. In his policy speech the now Leader of the Opposition said that owing to the rapid development of the State from a rural economy to an industrial State all funds had, of necessity, been used for the development of the State and that we had reached a stage where more money could be spent on tourist facilities. He said that his Party, if elected, would grant increased subsidies for this purpose. The member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell) said today that grants for the construction of swimming pools were much less this year than they had been previously, and that grants to local government bodies were more, so we can see that that has been balanced out evenly.

Mr. Jennings: I think he demonstrated that very well.

Mr. McANANEY: There is much room for development, particularly in areas such as the South Coast, and if they could be made more attractive for interstate visitors,

it would be of tremendous value to the State. I believe more money should be made available for tourism.

I was pleased to see in the Estimates that £11,500 had been provided for the South Coast Hospital at Victor Harbour, which will partly pay for the nurses' quarters. A sum of £25,000 is provided for the Strathalbyn Hospital for capital expenditure on the provision of an area for elderly people which will be apart from the general workings of the hospital. The Stirling district will now be well catered for with hospitals, and this is the result of a joint effort by the Government of the day and the people of the district. This makes for the cheapest hospital charges. Some large hospitals in Adelaide cost perhaps £10 a day a patient whereas equally good accommodation and attention is provided at a country hospital at a much cheaper rate. The women's auxiliaries at Strathalbyn and Victor Harbour raise about £1,000 a year which goes to the hospitals. They feel a part of the hospital organization, and this is what makes country hospitals successful.

Further criticism has been made of local government and the way accounts are kept. I referred to this two years ago when I first spoke in Parliament. There has been tremendous growth since I first entered the Strathalbyn council 15 years ago. Then I had £100 to spend out of £200 collected for my ward. The funds handled by this council have increased in those 15 years perhaps ten times. I believe it will be necessary to raise the standard of education for local government officers. They are now quite well paid and this is a responsible position in a district. The present requirements for these officers are far too low, and many people 18 or 19 years of age have passed the examinations held. They have to wait a few years before they can be appointed even as assistant clerks, and I believe the requirements must be raised. The registration of accountants is also essential. Much as I dislike registration and the regimentation of people I think it is essential that a standard be set, and that people without much training be prohibited from holding themselves out as accountants. Also some standard should be set for company secretaries. At present

one or two people can get together and call themselves a company, and this is despite the alterations made to the Companies Act to tighten up the loopholes. This is one of the biggest loopholes at present.

I have many other remarks to make but I shall reserve them until another occasion. In conclusion, it appears to me that much of the £4,000,000 raised has come from the Commonwealth Government, while some of it has come from increased charges. When we go through the payments side and include the increases in service pay and other things, we see very little increase, if any, in service to the community as a whole. Our national growth rate in Australia varies from about 4 per cent to 8 per cent, and when we increase our budget by perhaps 20 per cent in the Commonwealth sphere because of defence payments and payments to the State, and then there is a 10 per cent increase in taxation in the State, it means that gradually the Government has taken control of a greater percentage of the national income. I do not think that is any good for the community, because in effect we take that increased taxation from those who are willing to hop in and produce more. Of course, I realize that we must look after the sick and the aged to the best of our resources, but when money is handed back to able-bodied people it is not a good thing for the community as a whole. I think that as a State we are getting closer and closer to that stage, and that is something that the people, in their own interests, must guard against, otherwise we will find more and more Government control of an even greater share of the income each individual produces.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS (Minister of Works): In moving that progress be reported, I ask honourable members to assist in enabling us to get through to the lines tomorrow night. I do not wish to restrict the debate, at all, but I warn that the sitting tomorrow night may be a late one.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 10.18 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, September 22, at 2 p.m.