

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, September 23, 1965.

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

ASSENT TO BILLS.

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

Local Government (District Council of East Torrens),
Public Purposes Loan,
Supreme Court Act Amendment.

QUESTIONS

SUPREME COURT JUDGE.

Mrs. STEELE: I am delighted to know, as are many other people, that South Australia's (and Australia's) first woman Queen's Counsel has become Australia's first woman judge. I congratulate the Government on elevating Miss Roma Mitchell, Q.C., to the bench of the Supreme Court of South Australia, and congratulate her on her outstanding appointment. She will bring great dignity to the office into which she has been sworn, and the bench will be graced by her presence. Because this is the first appointment of a woman to such an office, will the Attorney-General say by what title Miss Mitchell will be known? Will she be addressed as "His Honour Mr. Justice Mitchell"; will she be addressed as "His Honour" or as "Her Honour"?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am sure the honourable member will realize with what pleasure the Government made the recommendation for the appointment of Miss Mitchell. She has had a very distinguished career at the bar; she is known not only in South Australia but in the other States and overseas, as a woman who has given outstanding service to the law. Indeed, she brings great knowledge and ability to the post to which she has now been appointed. To answer the honourable member's question, this matter has yet to be determined by the bench. It is not for the Government to say what title shall be used in addressing the new judge in the court.

I understand that some discussions on this subject will take place between Miss Mitchell and her brother judges, and I imagine that an announcement on this score will be made in due course. Personally, I hope that any

title given her does not perpetuate any tradition of masculinity, but that is not for the Government to say.

G.M.H. DISMISSALS.

Mr. RYAN: In today's *News* appears the heading "G.M.H. sack 490", which, of course, relates to employees. All honourable members would agree that even in times of full employment such an action must rank as an industrial catastrophe. The article continues:

General Motors-Holden's Ltd. announced today 490 men would be sacked from its Woodville and Elizabeth plants tomorrow—

and this is even more important—

More workers will be involved in further retrenchments later, but details will not be known until next week.

In view of this industrial calamity, will the Premier ensure that the Government treats this matter as extremely urgent, and will he consider entering into immediate discussions with the officials of the company with a view to overcoming this difficult position, even at this late stage?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Although General Motors-Holdens is not, of course, a Government organization, this matter is serious from the point of view of the State's economy. I intend, as soon as possible, to ascertain from the Minister of Labour and Industry whether we can, by means of a conference, prevail on the company to refrain from taking this action, if not *in toto*, then at least in part. Not only is the State in general affected by this action but I point out that Elizabeth largely depends on this company's activities in that city. The Government is also concerned about the short notice which the employees concerned have received.

MOTOR VEHICLE INDUSTRY.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Can the Premier comment on the implications arising from the merger announced only in the last few hours between Chrysler Australia Limited and Rootes (Australia) Limited. As all honourable members know, hitherto the manufacturing activity of the Chrysler organization has been confined to South Australia. However, with the merger of the two companies, a plant will also become available in Victoria. I hope that the merger will be extremely beneficial to South Australia, and bring more business here. Can the Premier say whether the merger will lead to an increase in activity here or whether it may ultimately have the opposite effect?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I have had no opportunity to discuss this matter with executives of Chrysler Australia Limited, but I will certainly do so. Although I am not aware of all the facts, I fear that some attempt may be made to transfer to Victoria some of the activities (particularly in relation to the Dodge Phoenix), but I hope that this will not happen under any circumstances. I will certainly endeavour to arrange a discussion with the top executives of the Chrysler organization in South Australia as soon as practicable.

UNIVERSITY EXPLOSION.

Mr. LANGLEY: It has been reported in both newspapers that yesterday morning an explosion occurred at the University of Adelaide when a transformer blew up and caused a fire. As two workmen were injured and an investigation has commenced, can the Minister of Works give the reasons for this mishap?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I should say at the outset that the Electricity Trust deeply regrets the accident and the injuries suffered by two of its employees. I understand that both employees are progressing satisfactorily. The cause of the accident is being investigated and until the investigation is completed no-one can say what caused the accident.

GLADSTONE RAIL SERVICE.

Mr. HEASLIP: Has the Premier a reply to my question of August 26 regarding the Gladstone rail service?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Minister of Transport reports:

It has been ascertained that it will now be possible to accept "less than truck-load lots" loading to stations from Brinkworth to Gladstone three times each week, and arrangements are being made accordingly.

ARTERIOSCLEROSIS.

Mr. LAWN: Early this year Professor Jepson left Adelaide on a world tour, and he promised the Government and me that, whilst abroad, he would study the oxygen-therapy method of treating arteriosclerosis. Has the Attorney-General a report for the House on this matter?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I think it will give very great pleasure to the member for Adelaide and, I am sure, to many other people in the State that the honourable member's efforts over a long period have been so successful. Following the receipt of a report from Professor Jepson, the Minister of Health has given approval to the board of management

of the Royal Adelaide Hospital for an investigational project to proceed to re-assess intra-arterial oxygen at a clinical level by scientific methods now available. Accommodation for such an investigation will be made available in the new teaching block at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Professor Whelan will be freely available for physiological advice, and Professor Jepson will attend to the clinical side.

FLATS.

Mr. COUNBE: Has the Premier seen a press report that the Victorian Housing Commission intends to proceed with a large block of high-density living accommodation in the inner suburbs of Melbourne? Will he and officers of the Housing Trust investigate this report to see whether it can apply in the Adelaide inner suburbs, in accordance with ideas I have promoted in this House and also with those expressed by town planning authorities who, in recent months, have suggested that high-density living has a beneficial effect on public transport?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I have not seen the article referred to by the honourable member, but I shall ascertain whether the Housing Trust has a report on the matter. I reiterate that the Government still intends to introduce legislation to enable the Adelaide City Council and any other council to erect flats so long as they retain the ownership of them, whether they be high-density flat accommodation or something else.

ADVERTISING.

Mr. HUDSON: On August 31 I gave certain information regarding misleading advertising and over-charging by the Cologne Trading Company, which was selling watches in Hindley Street, and I asked the Attorney-General whether any action could be taken against this company. Has he any information on the matter?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: A complaint has been laid at the court for alleged breaches of the Prices Act, the Trading Stamps Act and the Registration of Business Names Act in relation to the matter the honourable member raised.

SCHOOL FIRE.

Mr. HALL: It is some time now since a fire destroyed one classroom and damaged an adjoining one at the Para Hills school. Possibly the Education Department has had time to consider the suitability of oil heaters in wooden classrooms. Several parents have

asked me whether a certain type of fire drill could be introduced in schools so that children would be prepared in the event of a flash fire caused through oil installations. Has the Minister of Education information on the departmental thinking regarding oil heaters, and will he comment on the advisability of some type of fire drill being instituted?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: A thorough investigation has been made of the cause of the fire the honourable member referred to and of any dangers associated with the construction of the heater in question, but so far without any conclusive result. The Public Buildings Department seems to be satisfied that the heater is satisfactory with normal use, and the Education Department has taken steps to ensure that the heaters are not lit before children enter the classrooms. The department's experience is that while there are children with the teacher in the room these things do not occur, and all the evidence supports that contention. Although I think our precautions, such as escape hatches and the presence of the teacher with the class in the room, are sufficient, I will examine the matter of fire drill.

RAIL STANDARDIZATION.

Mr. McKEE: In a statement in the *Recorder*, the Commonwealth Railways Commissioner, Mr. K. A. Smith, said that his department had begun assessing the requirements for the possible standardization of the rail link between Adelaide and Port Pirie. Can the Premier say whether he has been informed of this investigation, and if he has, what stage has the investigation reached?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I have not been informed of any investigation, but will inquire and inform the honourable member.

ELECTRICITY ACCOUNTS.

Mr. McANANEY: It is possible to pay Electricity Trust accounts through some banks, but trading bank agencies in many towns are open for only a short period each week, and it is difficult for people to remember on which day this occurs. Will the Premier ascertain whether these accounts could be paid through Savings Bank agencies, which are open for longer periods during the week?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: As this matter comes within the jurisdiction of the Treasury, I will ask for a report from the trust to ascertain whether this facility could be extended.

WATER RESOURCES.

Mr. CASEY: This year, when touring the United States, I learned from the Department of Water Resources in Washington that there would be a week's international symposium on water resources in Washington in October this year. Because of the necessity of the water resources of this State to be studied, can the Minister of Works say whether his department will have a representative at this symposium?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Government has appointed Mr. D. T. Penglase of the Engineering and Water Supply Department to represent this State at the symposium. Representatives from the Commonwealth will be Dr. D. Weiss and Mr. L. S. Herbert of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization. I believe that important results will be achieved at this symposium, and I am pleased that South Australia is to be represented. No doubt Mr. Penglase will bring back a report and, if possible, I shall make it available.

TEACHER TRANSFERS.

Mr. CURREN: Recently I received a letter from the Secretary of the Renmark North Primary School Committee about the transfer of a teacher from that school. Can the Minister of Education give the reasons for the transfer of this teacher, and of other teachers from schools in Upper Murray towns?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The position is that at the end of the second term teachers were transferred from Baramera, Berri, Renmark and Renmark North to fill vacancies caused by resignations in other parts of the State. In each of these cases the school concerned had been generously staffed since the beginning of the year. At present the number of teachers on the staff of each of the four schools mentioned above is in conformity with the approved departmental scale of staffing for primary schools.

DOCTOR'S DISMISSAL.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have received two further statements from Dr. Gillis, and probably other honourable members have had further correspondence from him in connection with his dismissal. There is probably one matter that could be cleared up if the Premier would consider it. In his recent statement regarding the questions leading up to the doctor's dismissal, the Premier said:

The matter was later in the day brought to the attention of the Minister of Health and at 2.45 p.m. on June 15 Dr. Gillis was instructed by the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Public Health that Mrs. X must be

released and that she must be provided with a taxi service order to enable her to travel to any destination she desired. In fact, it is understood that Mrs. X had missed a train connection to a country town as a result of her wrongful arrest and detention, and it was necessary for the Government to endeavour to do all that it could to rectify any damage or inconvenience caused to her. Dr. Gillis demanded written confirmation of the telephoned instruction, which was not given, but the Secretary of the Hospitals Department drew his attention to the advice of the Crown Solicitor which had been communicated to him on two occasions as to the time at which the effect of the magistrate's order expired. Dr. Gillis subsequently telephoned the Police Department and endeavoured to obtain action by the police to carry out what he alleged to be the effect of the warrant. The telephone call was carefully recorded by Sgt. Daws and the effect of it was, in fact, confirmed in a subsequent letter addressed to the Commissioner of Police by Dr. Gillis repeating statements in his telephone conversation. In his letter to the police Dr. Gillis alleged:

Neither has the Local Court changed, either by telephone or letter their statement to me over the telephone that of course the police and I must complete our legal obligation by detaining her up to July 26, 1965.

Honourable members, as well as I, appreciate the Premier's explicit statement on this matter. However, will the Premier say, first, what status is held by the officer referred to in his statement as "Assistant Secretary of the Department of Public Health"?

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: We can identify him.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I assume from the statement that he was an officer very junior to Dr. Gillis. Secondly, can the Premier satisfy himself that the telephone discussion referred to in his statement actually took place? I point out that Dr. Gillis states that he asked for written confirmation, which he did not receive. I think the Attorney-General would agree that, in a matter where the release or detention of a person is involved, it should depend not merely on a telephone conversation but on confirmatory documents.

Mr. Lawn: He had two previous notifications in writing.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: If the Premier will look at this statement he will see that what was sent by the Crown Solicitor to the doctor was described by the Premier as "advice". Will the Premier satisfy himself that Doctor Gillis received a definite and lawful instruction? I believe this matter depends on whether such an instruction had been given to Dr. Gillis by a senior officer, and whether he had disregarded it.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: He had already seen the letter that I, as Minister, wrote to the woman.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: There is no reference to the Attorney-General in this statement.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: It is in the previous column.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have looked at this matter carefully. I think every honourable member realizes that, where a person is summarily dismissed, it is our duty to see that he is dismissed only if a case against him is proved. In raising this matter, I do not desire to be difficult, but, rather the opposite: I desire to establish the fact that not only has justice been done but that it has been seen to be done.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Government was fair in every way.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: I am not questioning that.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I am prepared to ascertain whether the points raised by the Leader of the Opposition need clarifying, and, if they do, it may be necessary to permit the Leader to peruse the file relating to this matter, so that he can satisfy his own mind. I know that the Leader will appreciate that this could take place only under certain conditions, and that it would be for his information only. I shall try to answer the Leader's questions by next week.

SAMCON SCHOOLS.

Mr. CLARK: I listened to and watched with much interest the Premier's telecast last night concerning the modular construction type of school known as "Samecon". As a member of the Public Works Committee, I have seen this construction and know something about it. I understand that one school in respect of which this method has been used is almost completed at Mount Barker, in the District of Onkaparinga, and that others are being built at Saddleworth, Sandy Creek, Elizabeth, Kalangadoo, and Wallaroo Mines. As this type of construction has created some interest in other parts of Australia, and as I am sure all honourable members would appreciate seeing it for themselves, will the Premier confer with the Minister of Education with a view to arranging for members of this place to examine the Mount Barker school which I have mentioned?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I shall be pleased to confer with my colleague on this matter, as I also believe that this type of

construction would be of much interest to members. I will try to arrange an examination of the school at Mount Barker as soon as possible.

PORT PIRIE WHARVES.

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Marine a reply to the question I recently asked regarding lighting on the Port Pirie wharves, during shunting operations?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I regret that I do not have a reply. Although I have referred the honourable member's question to the Harbors Board, asking that an early reply be given, the General Manager of the board is at present enjoying leave, and that may be why a reply is not yet forthcoming. As he has referred to the matter again I will treat it as a matter of urgency and I hope to have a reply for him by Tuesday next.

PORT PIRIE SCHOOLS.

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding an inspection of schools at Port Pirie?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I visited Port Pirie with the Director of Education and subsequently the Assistant Superintendent of Primary Schools, accompanied by Mr. Sandiman, a Design Architect of the Public Buildings Department, visited the schools on August 12, 1965, and suggested the means whereby necessary improvements in accommodation might be effected. With regard to the Risdon Park Primary School, a dual unit has been included on the 32nd priority list of timber classrooms and these rooms are expected to be ready for occupation before the end of October, 1965. It is considered that the school is adequately housed and the position will be reviewed when the new Airdale school is occupied in June, 1966. At that time consideration will be given to the need for planning a new infants school in permanent construction.

With regard to the Port Pirie Primary School and the condition of buildings there, although salt damp is evident in the lower walls of the permanent building, particularly in the passages of the eastern section of the primary building and the senior girls' classrooms, the walls were found to be sound and accommodation needs elsewhere would not permit the replacement of the buildings at this juncture. The need for arresting deterioration caused by salt damp has been emphasized to the Public Buildings Department in a request for the painting of the building. The resurfacing of some of the older classroom floors, and

improved artificial lighting and heating are warranted. The enclosing of the verandah at the entrance to the headmaster's office (louvres above 5ft.) would be advantageous and will be considered. The permanent infants building has enclosed verandahs on its northern side. These enclosures detract from the general appearance of the building. The exposed timber is rough and splintered. The Public Buildings Department has already been asked to undertake work in connection with painting and providing improved lighting and heating at the school, and has now been requested to give consideration to effecting improvements in regard to the above items.

With regard to the Solomontown Primary School, consideration is being given to the following matters: the enclosing of the verandah of the primary building; the improved heating and lighting; and the erection on the northern side of the primary building of a building in Samecon to provide four classrooms, staff room and staff toilets. When this building is taken into use four timber classrooms will be able to be removed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: TEA TREE GULLY LAND.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS (Minister of Works): I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: When answering a question asked by the member for Barossa (Mrs. Byrne) last Tuesday I gave the impression that the Engineering and Water Supply Department was spending hundreds of thousands of pounds in purchasing land adjacent to the Hope Valley reservoir. I regret that I gave that impression, because the department is, in fact, taking steps to secure land at Happy Valley, and not Hope Valley. I noticed a statement this morning to the effect that the land involved was at Hope Valley, and I trust that the press will be generous enough to correct that, so that people in the area will not be disturbed by the wrong impression that I gave.

LAND SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT.

The SPEAKER laid on the table the report by the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement on South-Eastern Drainage and Development (Eastern Division).

Ordered that report be printed.

MUNICIPAL TRAMWAYS TRUST ACT
AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

BUILDING ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

THE ESTIMATES.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from September 22. Page 1713.)

THE LEGISLATURE.

House of Assembly, £24,281.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: As the Speaker's electoral district extends beyond 200 miles from the Adelaide G.P.O., and as the electoral district of the Chairman of Committees does not extend beyond 50 miles from the G.P.O., are the amounts shown as allowances for these honourable members correct?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH (Premier and Treasurer): I regret that a clerical error has been made in respect of this line, and the necessary adjustment will be made.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Provision has been made for special 1½ per cent adjustments totalling £685,000. I earlier pointed out that my calculation of the total salaries and wages was about £50,000,000, and 1½ per cent of that was more than £685,000. However, in adding up the lines I found an additional discrepancy. The total of the lines as shown alongside the figures debited or credited, as the case might be, and subject to the 1½ per cent adjustment, was £942,221. Can the Treasurer explain these discrepancies?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: No, but I will obtain an explanation.

Line passed.

Parliamentary Library, £9,768; Joint House Committee, £14,868—passed.

Electoral Department, £83,116.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): It is somewhat difficult to follow this line, because fees for elections and referenda are lumped together. The £35,140 for this line is more than £4,000 above what was spent on the last elections for the House of Assembly and Legislative Council. Why is such a big amount provided?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Provision is made for £5,000, being balance of cost of the general elections not brought to debit on June 30, 1965, and for printing forms, etc. Provision is made for the referendum that we expect

to hold. Beyond that, I doubt whether there is anything further I can add at this stage.

Line passed.

Government Reporting Department, £62,584; Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, £4,367; Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement, £2,345; Miscellaneous, £65,270—passed.

CHIEF SECRETARY AND MINISTER OF HEALTH.

State Governor's Establishment, £11,655.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: There appears to be an alteration in procedure. Last year, on this line, £567 was provided as the payment of monetary equivalent of long service leave. I do not query the fact that nothing is provided this year, but nothing appears under this line for any of the departments that have been dealt with so far, whereas in previous years substantial amounts were provided.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: These amounts are provided where appropriate.

Line passed.

Chief Secretary's Department, £21,176; Statistical Department, £36,456; Audit Department, £117,782; Printing and Stationery Department, £408,434—passed.

Police Department, £3,720,190.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I assume that no more police cadets are to be enrolled this year. Is my assumption correct? What was the cadet enrolment last year?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The current strength of cadets is 344, of whom 38 were enlisted on May 31, 1965. There are 32 probationary constables in training.

Line passed.

Prisons Department, £685,551—passed.

Hospitals Department, £9,149,044.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The increase in salaries for professional and staff officers is nearly 10 per cent, whereas the increase is only about 4 per cent for the nursing staff at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. This feature also appears in other Government hospitals. I understand that these servants of the Crown have not received service payments. Why is the increase to professional and staff officers so high compared with the small increase to the nursing staff?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The provision of £426,000 relates to additional staff, including an Assistant Director, a cardiopulmonary unit, two supernumerary trainee radiographers, Senior Registrar Eye Department, additional specialist sessions, three technical assistants, one pharmacy assistant, and two physiotherapy aides. I point out, too, that the

next sum (£42,629) arises because of a shortage of staff. The proposed £813,000 is also for additional staff, including 10 dental nurses, 24 trainee dental nurses, 20 sisters, 42 staff nurses, 55 trainee nurses, and 54 nurse attendants. I have before me an industrial agreement, made pursuant to Part II of the Industrial Code, between the Minister of Labour and Industry and the Public Service Association, in respect of female nursing staff employed in Government hospitals, other than mental hospitals, administered by the Director-General of Medical Services. Clauses 3, 4 and 5 of the agreement were to come into force at the beginning of the first pay period, which commenced in April, 1964, and the remaining clauses were to come into force on July 1, 1964, and to continue in force for two years. We were not a party to that agreement, and I do not think the Leader of the Opposition would expect the Government to interfere with the working of the Nurses Registration Board. If the board wishes to lodge any complaints, the Government will, of course, be willing to receive such complaints.

Mrs. STEELE: For the first time in years, to my knowledge, no specific reference appears in the Estimates for the provision of occupational therapists, although other paramedical services are mentioned. Occupational therapists are badly needed in South Australia, and, owing almost entirely to the fact that this is the only State that does not provide for their training, those occupational therapists employed in our hospitals have to be trained in the other States. As I know that occupational therapists are employed in some of our public hospitals, can the Treasurer say what is the establishment for each of the hospitals, such as the Queen Elizabeth, Royal Adelaide, Morris, Parkside, and Northfield Mental Hospitals? In addition, I would make the plea that the Government support a case currently being prepared by a competent committee to be presented to one of the tertiary educational bodies in this State, in an attempt to initiate an occupational therapy training school in South Australia, so that this shortage can be overcome.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I assure the honourable member that this matter will be considered, I hope with a favourable result. I shall ask my colleague the Minister of Health to obtain the necessary information.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Reference is made, on page 19 of the Estimates, not only to laundry supervisors but also to a

group laundry, which apparently is undertaking work for the Hospitals Department. If this laundry work is being undertaken by the group laundry attached to the Hospitals Department, will the Treasurer explain the purpose of having laundry supervisors in the Royal Adelaide Hospital? What are the details of the £170,000 provided for the group laundry?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The provision for a special adjustment is in respect of additional staff, including nine food supervisors, 26 pantry-maids, and one porter. It also provides for service pay and allowances in respect of reduction in the transfer of laundry staff to a group laundry. I believe that the new laundry is proceeding on the basis of trial and error. A considerable sum was provided in the Loan Estimates for the construction of the laundry. It is a new laundry and it is difficult to segregate charging at this time. However, I have no doubt that when this item is next considered a full allocation of individual amounts will be made. As soon as the other hospital linen is being laundered at the new laundry and provision has been made for service payments and so on, a more detailed accounting can be given. I am sure that the Leader understands that new materials have to be purchased, as the laundry could not run without them.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: In connection with the group laundry, no sum for contingency expenses appears in the Estimates. I realize that linen will initially have to be purchased and charged to Loan and, as it is worn out, it will be depreciated and a recoup made to Loan. However, sums for power, electricity, water and other items should be included. A small sum was spent last year on group laundry expenses. An amount is provided this year for labour, but nothing else in the way of running expenses is provided anywhere, as far as I can see. Has the Treasurer any information on this?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The committee of management set up to control the operation of the group laundry considered that its finances should be conducted along lines comparable with those of a business undertaking, with appropriate charges being made for services rather than as part of a social service department of the Hospitals Department. After discussion between the committee, the Under Treasurer and the Auditor-General, it was agreed that a working account similar to those already operated by other large departments would be appropriate. I therefore approved the setting up of such an account, subject to the detailed accounting arrangements being

acceptable to the Auditor-General, and in the Loan Estimates I arranged for an appropriation of £230,000 for the purchase of stock and the provision of working capital.

Salaries and wages, the purchase of soaps and detergents, and other expenses will be met from the working account, and an appropriate charge per pound of clean linen will be made to the hospitals and institutions using the service. This charge, when met by the hospitals, will recoup the working account and thus keep the laundry in funds to meet further expenditures. The appropriations to enable various hospitals to meet the charge for laundry services are included in the Estimates of Expenditure as a part of expenses incurred in normal operation and maintenance for Government hospitals, or as a part of the grant to non-Government hospitals. The provisions so included this year for Government hospitals are: Royal Adelaide Hospital £154,000; the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, £101,000; the Mental Health Services, £30,000; and other hospitals, £6,000. The financial operations of the group laundry will be subject to the normal thorough examination of the Auditor-General, and he will report to Parliament in the normal way in his annual statement.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I do not object to the procedure as outlined, except for one thing. The £154,000 for the Royal Adelaide Hospital is not a small amount to be pushed in with petty expenses: it is a large amount. I ask that when the Estimates are prepared next year each hospital shows what amount is proposed regarding this activity. It should be in a separate line, and not grouped in with petty expenses. This should be done so that the committee can make a proper assessment of whether the undertaking is working effectively. I do not think any logical objection can be raised to having a working account of the type the Treasurer has approved, and I accept that as being a good administrative provision, provided that we then have a properly audited and set out account of the group laundry. It is so easy for a hospital to be excessive in its demands for laundry services if it does not have to account for expenditure. I ask that, in future, the group laundry expenditure appears as a separate line under each of the hospitals. At present we certainly know that the activity of this laundry will be on a fairly large scale, because £170,000 is provided for wages. It should be possible in time for us to be able to compare this cost with the costs that existed before the group laundry was established.

Mr. QUIRKE: In Victoria, all the linen is owned by the laundry which receives the orders from the hospitals and charges out the linen at 1s. a pound. I know that some time ago sufficient money was available for the replacement of the plant in Melbourne without the necessity of calling on the Government for anything. As the linen became worn it was replaced by the laundry.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: No doubt next year the group laundry accounts will be segregated. The Auditor-General is associated with the setting up of this laundry, and will consider whether it is an economical proposition. I have no doubt that this department will earn enough to maintain itself. It will not be under the social service control of the Hospitals Department.

Mr. McANANEY: I have had complaints about St. Margaret's Convalescent Hospital, which is controlled by the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and of the treatment of patients and the general conditions existing. Cracked crockery and soiled linen were the subject of two complaints, and a patient in the men's section said that the toilet did not work for the three weeks he was there. Apparently this hospital is not up to the usual standard.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: If this Government has inherited legacies it must try to do something about them. The honourable member would not expect the Government in six months to clean up certain conditions that have existed for many years.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: It seems that the purchase of motor vehicles in this and other departments has been reduced much more than is necessary. Will it be necessary next year to purchase an increased number of vehicles?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: All the information that I have on this matter is that no immediate requirements exist. As soon as a new Government Garage is erected there will be a complete supervision of all departmental cars. I may say that more motor cars have to be purchased, because of a new method of treatment in mental hospitals. It is recognized that a Holden car, used for Government purposes, registers an average of 25,000 miles in two years, although some officers' cars are registering only 5,000 or 6,000 miles in that period, and such vehicles need not be replaced.

A pool is required, and it would, of course, be to the Government's advantage to ensure that sufficient work was provided for the drivers concerned. The question of limiting the use of cars is not involved: it is a question of

using them more economically with a view to curtailing capital expenditure. I have recommended to the Supply and Tender Board that, in respect of motor vehicles, rather than enter into contracts that may not be economical, it first approach the manager of the Government Garage. It is recognized that certain officers who have to travel over rugged country will require heavier cars, but that will be left to the discretion of the Government Garage.

Line passed.

Department of Public Health, £432,679.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Some years ago the Government started a valuable dental service, particularly for the benefit of country children. This service involves sending a caravan to parts of the State which do not have a resident dentist, and in which no other dental service can be provided. I believe that three caravan units are being used at present. One of the difficulties in expanding the service results from the shortage of dentists to staff the units, but as more dentists are becoming available, I should have thought it would be advisable to expand the service.

Will the Treasurer say why no provision is made on the Estimates this year for another unit? Further, will the Treasurer consider making provision for an additional unit this year, even though the Estimates do not provide for that? Recently a survey, conducted on the teeth of South Australian schoolchildren, showed that this State was far behind in the provision of dental care.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: With regard to the line dealing with the reimbursement of travelling expenses, etc., under "Public Health", the lower expenditure on travelling costs is because of vacancies on the medical staff. This was the main cause of the reduced expenditure in 1964-65. An increase in these costs in 1965-66 is expected because of a "false" staff provision. Provision has also been made for expenses for the full year for increased dental staff, for the purchase of essential new dental equipment, and for the replacement of dental equipment. I said recently in this place that the Government intended to establish a dental service similar to that existing in New Zealand. The Under Treasurer has estimated that this service could be expensive. However, outback children particularly will receive great benefit from it. The type of equipment needed will be examined. We will also consider whether any harm would result from the provision of another conveyance

being delayed for 12 months, if such a conveyance is considered necessary. All these matters will be fully examined.

Line passed.

Public Service Commissioner's Department, £155,089.

Mr. COUMBE: I thoroughly agree with the allocation for the automatic data processing controlling authority. A sum of £362,000 was provided in the Loan Fund for the capital costs, and in the Loan Estimates a sum of about £70,000 is referred to for last year and this year. This year about £55,000 is being provided towards the operating costs, and £12,000 is shown as a recoup. Does the Government intend that eventually the accounts in respect of the machine will be in balance regarding recoups and expenditure or will it always run at a considerable loss although providing a substantial service?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The sum provided includes provision for the salaries of 26 officers. Operating expenses of the new A.D.P. installation and recharging to departments is expected to return £12,000.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Treasurer said there would be a charge to departments of £12,000, and I can see that amount on the Revenue Estimates. However, I cannot trace it any further. When this machine was contemplated the idea was first, that it would undertake primarily the duty of preparing accounts for the Engineering and Water Supply Department; secondly, that it would undertake work for the Agriculture Department, particularly in connection with herd testing; and, thirdly, that it would be able to prepare accounts for the Motor Vehicles Department. However, I cannot find any mention of the item in these accounts.

Unless this matter is rectified, this machine will be working for all and sundry without proper accounting methods being adopted. The original proposal was that it would work under the Public Service Commissioner's Department, and I notice that that line still includes the item. The lines of other departments should show where the recoup is being made to the Public Service Commissioner's Department for the services provided. I point out that even under the most favourable conditions it is more costly to have the work performed by this machine than it would be to have it performed manually. The main idea was to get the work done more quickly. Can the Treasurer assure me that in next year's Estimates the amounts that are paid by the various departments for the services of this

machine will be shown in a departmental account? Will he see that the account for this department is identified in the Auditor-General's Report so that we can see just what is happening in respect of this activity?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: This baby has developed into an adult overnight, and it is an expensive installation. Although this Government did not order this baby, it must pay for it. I assume that this machine's value would have been fully investigated by the previous Government. I have no doubt, from the information I have received, that this type of equipment will be extremely valuable, and I believe the Government, when it ordered the machine, was mindful that it would be very useful. When the machine becomes fully operative we shall be able to provide full information about it.

Mr. RYAN: The sum of £7,530 was provided last year under the line "Assistant Public Service Commissioners", and the actual payment for the year was £7,075. Why is there a decrease of £1,595 in this year's provision?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: During the year there were changes in the department. The Public Service Commissioner, Mr. Clem Pounsett, retired, and some time elapsed before Mr. Max Dennis, the present Public Service Commissioner, and Mr. A. C. Tillett, Assistant Public Service Commissioner, were appointed.

Line passed.

Chief Secretary, Miscellaneous, £5,077,065.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: I express appreciation to the Government for providing £3,100 for the South Australian Band Association. In 1952 I advocated that provision be made for the Tanunda band competitions. From 1953 to 1956 the Government made available £500 for the Tanunda band competitions. Prior to 1953, the competitions were financed entirely by residents of Tanunda and district. In the 1957-58 Estimates £2,000 was made available for the Australian Brass Band Championships at Tanunda. Since 1958-59, the Government made available £1,000 annually until 1963-64. Last year an amount of £3,100 was made available to the South Australian Band Association. At present at least 31 senior bands are registered with that association of which 16 are in the country and 15 in the metropolitan area, and eight junior bands the members of which are mostly scholars of schools in various parts of the State. There are over 1,200 bandsmen who are members of these bands.

Tanunda has conducted the State Band Competition since 1920, and is still conducting competitions, recognized as the State championships, on the first Saturday in November each year. In addition to these competitions, the South Australian Band Association is interested in other competitions, namely, the Northern Brass Bands Carnival, the Murray Valley Band Contest, the South-East Band Contest and the Hindmarsh Junior Band Carnival. Bands found it difficult to carry on these competitions effectively without financial assistance being made available. Since 1953 money has been made available by the Government, mainly for the purpose of paying appearance money to bands competing at the Tanunda Competition. Not only do bands from this State compete there: there are bands from other States, chiefly Victoria and New South Wales, but occasionally from Queensland. The presence of these bands helps raise the standard of banding in South Australia. The cheapest cornet costs about £50, and a large instrument at least £400. In addition, members have to provide and pay for their uniforms and music. The South Australian Band Association is to be commended for its efforts in promoting seminars for junior bandsmen. In various parts of the State, including the metropolitan area, 13 seminars have been conducted, one being in Tanunda late last year. I understand that the average attendance at these junior seminars is 55 which is, indeed, commendable. We owe a debt of gratitude to the senior bandsmen who are taking such a great interest in the tutoring of juniors. Finally, I point out that the South Australian Band Association has played an important part in the cultural activities of the State.

The individual bands to which I have referred have provided music in many parts of South Australia, and they have performed at civic functions, at the Royal Festival of Music and John Martins pageants. They have often entertained patients and inmates of our various homes and institutions. I trust that the Government will again give favourable consideration to the South Australian Band Association next year. Indeed, in view of the excellent work it is performing in promoting band music in this State, I suggest that the Government consider increasing this line next year.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I appreciate the work being performed by the South Australian Band Association. Indeed, if I am not mistaken, it will be represented in the Labor Day procession. More interest is being taken in

band music nowadays and, if it is possible to increase this provision next year, it will undoubtedly be increased.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am disappointed that country subsidized hospitals, again, have not received adequate subsidies to enable them satisfactorily to carry on their work. Last year £5,500 was provided for maintenance work in respect of the Renmark Hospital, and the same sum is provided this year. However, for wages and salaries alone at the neighbouring Barmera Hospital, the sum required is over £38,000, making a total grant of £55,000. This is not justified. In many instances no increased grants for maintenance are made to subsidized hospitals this year. Government hospitals do not receive money raised from the public; their grants all come out of Loan funds. A report on this subject by a qualified man who has conducted a survey states:

The figures indicate that the daily average cost of treatment in a subsidized hospital must surely be one of if not the lowest of any group of public hospitals in the Commonwealth. They also show that the average daily cost of treating each patient in subsidized hospitals has increased from £3 3s. 6d. in 1955-56 to £4 7s. in 1963-64, an increase of £1 3s. 6d. or about 38 per cent compared with an increase in country Government hospitals from £4 15s. 9d. in 1955-56 to £9 16s. in 1963-64, an increase of £5 0s. 3d. or over double the figure of nine years earlier. Similarly it can be seen that the subsidy which is really the net cost to the Government has risen from only 12s. 5d. per patient in 1955-56 to 14s. 3d. per patient in 1963-64. This is equivalent to an increase of about 15 per cent over the period of nine years. It is really quite infinitesimal when compared with the increase in net cost of the Government in its country hospitals. Here the increase was from £3 9s. per day per patient in 1955-56 to £6 3s., which represents an increase of over 80 per cent.

Those figures speak for themselves. The disparity in costs has been further increased by the Budget. The costs I have given do not take into account teaching hospitals where teaching costs are involved. I criticize not the sum spent on country Government hospitals but the sums provided for maintenance for subsidized hospitals. Local people do not have to provide for capital expenditure in Government hospitals but local people have to provide one-third (probably more when furnishings are taken into account) in subsidized hospitals. We cannot justify our niggardly attitude over the years (I am not confining my criticism to this Budget) towards subsidized hospitals. This year the provision for Government hospitals has increased by 10 per cent, although

the provision for maintenance for subsidized hospitals has increased by only about 5 per cent.

In my policy speech I made a definite proposal about pensioner patients. The major burden on subsidized hospitals is not patients who can pay but those that they have to accept without payment because of the Commonwealth medical scheme. The recent slight adjustment of 6s. a day is completely inadequate to meet the costs. Every year Governments have been lavish in providing capital payments. In his policy speech the Treasurer said that he hoped the amounts available for capital payments this year would be used, and that he would try to see that they were used. I agree with that. However, the Estimates show that last year many hospitals that had been promised capital payments were not able to raise the one-third payment necessary to avail themselves of the Government's offer. Hospital auxiliaries do their best to raise money but they only have left what is not spent on maintenance costs. Eventually we may find that people will lose interest in running subsidized hospitals and will invite the Government to take over. I suspect that this has happened in Millicent. Last year the Naracoorte committee said that unless more money was made available to it it would give the whole thing away, or words to that effect. I am sure that is the position at Millicent, and that the special grant was to enable Millicent to carry on. These hospitals are important to the health of the community, and they provide a very good service. The Hospitals Department has no complaint at all about how those hospitals look after their patients or about the co-operation it gets from those hospitals.

Will the Treasurer arrange for the Minister of Health to bring down a report on the policy regarding future assistance to our subsidized hospitals? At present we have only a catch-as-catch-can policy, and we should have something better. At present, if a hospital management works hard it is provided with less, for the committee adjusts the amount of maintenance more or less on a basis of how little it can provide to a hospital and still keep it operating.

Mr. McKee: You are obviously criticizing your own policy!

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I hope I am big enough to do that. I have never avoided criticism. I point out that in my last policy speech I set out a programme that would have met this position, and I commend that

programme to the Government. I said we would meet the cost involved with pensioner patients. I know the Government has this year increased the amount for this purpose to £80,000, which amounts to about 6s. a day, but that is only 6s. out of about 36s., and the hospital patients in the country are paying not only their own fees but also an extra amount to cover these other people. We should not call on one sick person to pay for another sick person, which in effect is what happens. In my opinion, the amounts provided here are inadequate. I do not believe we have faced up in the past to the problem of financing country subsidized hospitals. The position is becoming difficult as these hospitals are not able to pay the same salary scales as are paid in our Government hospitals, and therefore they have difficulty in retaining staff. The Committee should consider this matter urgently.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I appreciate the efforts of all people concerned with maintaining good standards of health. I personally inspected the hospital at Barmera, where it was necessary for an officer of the Public Buildings Department to be stationed for weeks on end because of infestation by white ants. I would favour demolishing that building at some time in the future and re-siting it. I notice, on page 33, that provision was made last year for £2,593,000, but that apparently about £302,000 was not used. This year an increase of £677,600 is provided. Other problems have arisen recently, and we have to make a complete review of entitlements before next year, including those of pensioners. Another problem is that some honoraries attending the Royal Adelaide Hospital may ask for honoraria. We have done the best we can in this Budget to help everyone. The efforts of auxiliary committees attached to hospitals are remarkable, and I pay tribute to them, but there are many calls on their services. We have tried to improve the position by providing an additional £677,626, but many things are beyond our control. If the Commonwealth Government increases benefits it means further impositions on the taxpayers of this State to maintain the present standards in hospitals.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: What will be the obligation of a country subsidized hospital? Will it be involved the same as Government hospitals?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Yes. Apparently the Commonwealth Government will make itself a good fellow at the expense of the States, but I shall try to get some assistance from the Commonwealth to assist us in helping

hospital patients. The Leader has said that he could not do things occasionally because he did not have the money, and that is the position we face. We must try to improve the position, and I hope we shall be supported by members opposite in our efforts to obtain assistance from the Commonwealth Government. I assure the Leader that I shall seek further assistance to enable us to relieve the present unsatisfactory position.

Mr. SHANNON: The committees that raise funds for subsidized hospitals take some of the burden from the State, and that is wrong in principle. The amount provided by the State has to be augmented. Country subsidized hospitals are struggling to make ends meet, and are faced with the difficulty of retaining staff, because they cannot pay adequate salaries. Indeed, the matron often becomes the chief cook and bottle washer. Such hospitals often encourage non-paying patients to go to Government hospitals, and I am sure that the Mount Gambier Hospital is receiving many such patients from Penola and Millicent. Most of the country subsidized hospitals have all the necessary equipment and can perform normal operations that may be required by pensioner patients.

If the Government were prepared to pay the hospital fees for people qualifying for Commonwealth aid, it would be to its advantage. It is recognized that the nearer a patient is to his relatives the more likely he is to be visited but, without that advantage, the patient's recovery is often retarded. The Government would save money if it carried the burden of fees for the indigent patient in a subsidized hospital.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I fully endorse the Treasurer's remarks concerning sacrificial services rendered by hospital boards and auxiliaries throughout the State, and I also accept the statements he made about the charitable instincts of South Australians generally. However, I suggest to the Treasurer that the grants to Government hospitals this year should be pruned, and that the country subsidized hospitals could thereby benefit. In respect of increases in salaries, etc., the country subsidized hospitals, for the most part, will not be able to meet their obligations if they are to pay salaries equivalent to those paid in Government hospitals. When speaking about the Commonwealth plan for wider entitlement for pensioner patients, the Treasurer did not reply to my interjection, but I assume the country subsidized hospitals will be obliged to accept the new category of patient so entitled.

Therefore, whichever way this problem is examined, both the Government and subsidized hospitals are equivalent. We are complaining that Government hospitals have been provided for and subsidized hospitals have not. I suggest that a slight adjustment of accounts to provide a fair and equitable apportionment of the funds the Government has available for this purpose for this year could be made without involving the Government in the provision of additional money. This could be done administratively. I do not wish to reflect on the management of Government hospitals which I believe for the most part is efficient, but perhaps a closer watch could be kept on accounting. By virtue of more strict accounting or by the issue of an instruction a saving on the provision for Government hospitals could be applied to assist subsidized hospitals, which will run into difficulties as time passes.

Mr. COUMBE: I refer to the Freedom from Hunger campaign. This matter was raised with me by the promoters of the campaign. They gained the impression that the Government had undertaken to donate money towards this campaign. Can the Treasurer say whether this donation is to be made, and, if it is, when it will be made and what the amount will be?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: When the Estimates were being printed this matter was still under discussion by Cabinet. Cabinet has now approved a grant of £2,500, which will be paid under appropriation given by excess warrant.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I refer to Kalyra Sanatorium in my district. I notice that the proposed figure for maintenance is £75,000. Last year £81,850 was voted and the actual payment was about £90,000. Therefore, the amount provided this year is a decrease of £15,000. Nothing is provided in this year's Estimates for capital expenditure although last year £4,721 was provided. This is a tuberculosis sanatorium and perhaps the decrease in the incidence of this disease is the reason why it is not necessary to include so much in the Estimates this year. Will the Treasurer give a reason for the substantial decrease in the amount provided?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: To cover maintenance costs for the year, expenditure on this line is recoverable from the Commonwealth Government under an arrangement in respect of tuberculosis.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Last year the actual payment towards the Adelaide Benevolent and Strangers' Friend Society was £800. This year

nothing is provided. This is an old society that has been operating in Adelaide for over 100 years, during which time it has done good work. Can the Treasurer say why it has been omitted?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Because of the sound financial position of this society no financial assistance is being provided. Apparently the organization is not expanding further, and this money has been allocated elsewhere.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Representations have been made to me by the Secretary of the National Safety Council (Mr. Robert Wilson) concerning the omission of the grant of £4,500, which was paid last year.

Mr. Clark: The Secretary knows why.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: He did not know why when he came to see me. This is a crippling blow to the council. Its estimated budget of expenditure for the year ending June 30, 1966, shows a total income of £6,570, of which £4,500 was hoped for from a State grant. I know certain moneys come from the Commonwealth Government to the National Safety Council, but a condition of that grant is that it shall not be used for administrative expenses and, therefore, none of it can be touched for the administrative affairs of the council. I do not suggest that everything the council does is effective, but it is working in a field where it is extremely difficult to know what methods to adopt to be most effective. I was given a letter written by the Treasurer, when Leader of the Opposition, to the State General Secretary of the council on August 21, 1964, which stated:

Dear Mr. Wilson,

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date and I regret that there should be any strained relationship between the National Safety Council of South Australia and the Industrial Safety Council, as mentioned in your letter.

The Treasurer is aware, as I am, of the difficulties that have arisen between those two bodies. The next paragraph, which is the significant one, states:

I have always endorsed the efforts of your council, and I have considered that both yourself and your predecessor in the late Mr. Howard have done and are doing a very good job, and I see no reason why this good work should not continue. It is unfortunate that there should be any cross purposes in your work and the mentions made by the Hon. C. D. Rowe. Personally, I recommend that you continue the work in the interests of the National Safety Council and the Road Safety Division in this State.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Frank Walsh, Leader of the Opposition.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: When I wrote that letter I meant every word of it but, unfortunately, we have had to catch up with the administration of the National Safety Council. I have here a report from my colleague, the Minister of Roads, dated September 14, 1965. The recommendations therein, approved at a Cabinet meeting on September 13, 1965, are as follows:

(1) The setting up of a new body to be known as the South Australian Road Safety Council.

(2) The allocation of State and Commonwealth funds to the new council.

(3) The payment of a sum to the present National Safety Council of South Australia to enable that body to handle current financial commitments.

The reasons for the recommendations to set up a new body are stated to be:

(1) For many years there have been recurring difficulties between the National Safety Council and the Department of Shipping and Transport (which department controls the Commonwealth grant) and also the Auditor-General relating to the proper accounting for Commonwealth funds. For the last three years the Auditor-General has had cause to withhold his certificate that Commonwealth funds have been spent as laid down by the Commonwealth. In December last the Commonwealth hinted at the possibility of withholding its grant.

(2) In the past four years, of £23,556 received from State grants, subscriptions, etc., the National Safety Council has spent more than £20,000 on administrative expenses.

(3) Although the annual report of the National Safety Council lists many committees, some of these have not functioned for some time:

(a) Industrial Safety Sub-Committee, still defunct. Industrial safety is now being handled by the Industrial Accident Prevention Society of S.A. Inc., established in 1963, which has received State assistance of £5,000 per annum for the last three years.

(b) The Road Safety and Traffic Sub-Committee has not met since February 20, 1964. Apparently in the view of the council there has been no justification in the road safety field to rejuvenate this subcommittee. The Commonwealth grant of £6,250 per annum is made specifically for road safety.

(c) The Youth Safety Sub-Committee has not met in the past year. Its activities have been absorbed by the Child Safety Sub-Committee, which is reasonably enthusiastic but meets irregularly.

(4) Nearly all work referred to in the 34th annual report of the council (1963-64) was carried out by the Police Department. For the 1964-65 year the Police Department withheld its figures for later publication in the Commissioner's annual report, and as a result the 35th annual report of the council is lacking in statistics and generalizes on its activities.

(5) The new body will be closely associated with the Road Traffic Board, which, under its

Act, can handle matters coming within the ambit of the Commonwealth grant.

(6) Administrative costs will be reduced, thus permitting more effective use of State funds.

(7) Better co-operation between the Police Department, Road Traffic Board, other Government agencies and the new council will achieve better results than under the present organization.

(8) The increasing road toll is causing great concern and emphasizes the need for every effort to make the best use of Commonwealth and State grants, which are made available specifically for this purpose—a field in which the National Safety Council has not been effective, co-operative or particularly active.

As far as financial provision is concerned, the question of road safety was under consideration at the time the Budget was being framed and therefore no amount was provided specifically. Now that a decision has been reached, payment to the National Safety Council to enable it to meet current commitments and money for the new Road Safety Council will be made available by excess warrant.

Another matter that may be of interest is the following:

For the purpose of more effectively promoting road safety in South Australia and for the proper control of funds made available by the Commonwealth for this purpose, the setting up of a new council to be named the South Australian Road Safety Council and comprising the following members is recommended:

Chairman—(independent) to be selected.

Members—One each from the following: Road Traffic Board, Police Department, Education Department, Royal Automobile Association, Local Government Association, and Municipal Association.

The allocation of both Commonwealth and State funds to the new council is also recommended. The present annual amounts made available are £6,250 (Commonwealth) and £4,500 from the State. In the interim period the payment of a sum to be assessed by the Auditor-General to the present National Safety Council of South Australia is recommended to enable that body to handle current commitments. It is further recommended that the payment to the council be made out of State funds so that there will be no further problems in the proper accounting for money granted by the Commonwealth. It is suggested that the total sum to be allocated during this financial year under these recommendations should not exceed the total of £10,750 referred to above.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I thank the Treasurer for that comprehensive reply. I cannot argue about the details, but I agree that road safety is an urgent matter of great magnitude and that everything should be done to try to reduce the road toll. I am surprised to hear the views of the Government that the National Safety Council now has no role in this matter, and I suggest that it was, to say the least, cavalier not to inform it that its grant would

be cut out. I understand that it was not until the question was asked of the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) when he visited its headquarters that it knew of this, and it came as a complete bombshell. This was rather unfair. I do not want to be taken as agreeing with all the views put forward by the Treasurer, but I have not the details at present to debate the matter. I hope that the new South Australian Road Safety Council will be an effective body.

Provision is made for a payment to the Salvation Army towards prison gate and night shelter work. I notice that the same sum is provided for the Salvation Army this year as was provided last year. I do not criticize the Government on this. It is the same amount as last year but in the last few months I have had rather closer contact with the work of the Salvation Army in this State than previously. I am sure my experience is similar to that of other honourable members and of every member of the community who has had contact with the Salvation Army. My feeling for it is one of great admiration for the social work it does in this State. I understand (and this has been passed on to me in no spirit of complaint) that there is much less Government assistance to the Salvation Army in South Australia than there is in most other States. Because of the great work it does (and no-one would deny that or begrudge it every possible assistance financial and otherwise), I hope that in future the Government will consider increasing the grant to the Salvation Army. It is a small amount this year in view of the tremendous work that it does at great cost and self-sacrifice on the part of its officers.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The grant to the South Australian Institution for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb has been reduced from £18,000 to £10,000, whereas the Royal Institution for the Blind is receiving this year the same grant as last year—£30,000. Is any

policy decision involved in this or is it merely that the South Australian Institution for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb has sufficient funds to enable it to carry on without a grant?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Money is provided for the South Australian Institution for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb to assist it in educating defective children. I do not know whether the decrease is because extra money is going to the Education Department for that purpose instead of the institution having the money. However, I will undertake to get the information for the Leader.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I notice that "Children's Institutions Subsidies—Central Mission Homes for Children, 'Leatara'; Church of England Boys' Home, Kennion House; Salvation Army, Mount Barker Boys' Home", grouped under "Social Assistance (I)", and "Boy Scouts Association" and "Girl Guides Association" under "Social Assistance (II)" have been transferred to the Minister of Social Welfare. Why are not more of these lines transferred? It appears that many lines under "Social Assistance (I)" could be transferred. Is this the first step in such a transfer? Is it proposed to transfer more of these lines in due course?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: After certain legislation has been considered, a further indication may be given on this matter. When discussion on the Budget has been completed, the Maintenance Act Amendment Bill, which is a comprehensive Bill, will be discussed. After this has been passed by Parliament, any matters that have to be transferred to the Minister of Social Welfare's Department will be transferred.

Line passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.48 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, September 28, at 2 p.m.