

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, September 28, 1965.

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

QUESTIONS

PAPER PULP INDUSTRY.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: It was announced over the weekend that the Tasmanian pulp and paper industry (which, I think, is associated with the newsprint industry) would be developed considerably. Will the Premier say whether this development will prejudice South Australia's chance of establishing a similar industry in the South-East, or, conversely, will it stimulate the establishment of a pulp and paper plant there?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I regret that I did not notice the announcement, but I assure the Leader that I will inquire and give him the necessary information as soon as possible.

G.M.H. DISMISSALS.

Mr. RYAN: Can the Premier now announce to the House the result of his discussions with

Sir James Holden in respect of the industrial catastrophe caused by last week's dismissals from General Motors-Holden's?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: In accordance with the undertaking I gave to the House on Thursday last, the Minister of Labour and Industry and I held a lengthy conference with the Resident Director of General Motors-Holden's in South Australia, Sir James Holden. My colleague and I expressed to Sir James the Government's grave concern at the economic difficulties which would arise if a large reduction in the work force of the company in South Australia took place. Sir James outlined to us the problems which were confronting the company and which had resulted in the decision to make the retrenchment of employees which was announced last week. One important factor in the problem is the considerable decline in the overall sale of passenger vehicles during recent weeks. Figures which I have received from the Registrar of Motor Vehicles concerning the registration of new vehicles in South Australia clearly illustrate this point, and are as follows:

	July.	August.	September 1-16.
New cars and station sedans registered . .	3,454	3,043	1,119
Holden cars and station sedans registered	1,290	1,013	380

No one specific reason can be given for the sudden decline in sales of passenger vehicles but I believe that I can fairly state that certain factors which are beyond the immediate control of either the South Australian Government or the company have had a decided influence in the sharp reduction in sales. For instance, I believe that the heavy increases in rates for motor car insurances recently put into operation, and additional duty on petrol and the resulting increase in costs to motorists announced in the Commonwealth Treasurer's Budget have had a marked effect on the sale of new cars.

Another contributing factor in the large number of retrenchments in South Australia arises from the high content of South Australian manufacture in all Holden models as compared with products which contain solely or largely imported components. The high content of South Australian manufacture in Holden models provides a high degree of employment in the State on a basis of normal production and sales. In the present state of a sharp decline in sales, it has meant that the number of retrenchments is greater than would be the case in other circumstances. I

am pleased to say that the company has had considerable success in the export field. In 1965 it expects to export no less than 19,000 vehicles, which will be an increase of 6,000 on the number exported during last year. This has had some impact in cushioning the effect of the sudden drop in local sales. The company is also selling its 1965 Standard Holden car at the price of £885 which is a reduction of £53 on the price of the same model sold in 1952 at £940. Sir James Holden informed me and my colleague that because of all the factors involved in the present circumstances, he very much regretted that some further retrenchments would be inevitable. However, I sought from him and received an assurance that the company would take all possible steps to minimize any further reductions in the work force and that everything possible would be done to keep retrenchments to an absolute minimum. I have a rather lengthy list of figures of new registrations in South Australia covering July, August, and up to September 16, 1965. As it is too lengthy to read in full, I ask leave to have it inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

NEW REGISTRATIONS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
(1965).

August	Cars.		Station Waggon.		August		Cars.		Station Waggon.		
	Metro-politan.	Country.	Metro-politan.	Country.	25	26	Metro-politan.	Country.	Metro-politan.	Country.	
2	76	59	15	20	25	26	46	23	6	3	
3	59	41	9	12	26	27	42	31	6	6	
4	76	47	12	19	27	30	64	24	9	6	
5	89	54	14	6	30	31	50	36	6	4	
6	106	51	12	10	31		40	40	11	5	
9	59	61	15	9							
10	74	37	4	14	September						
11	72	47	16	18	1	2	3	36	24	17	5
12	76	56	19	13	2	3	6	33	20	12	5
13	111	51	45	11	3	4	7	66	38	12	4
16	127	70	16	17	6	7	8	40	37	7	9
17	152	100	20	15	7	8	9	35	27	8	5
18	36	69	16	11	8	9	10	40	23	14	4
19	33	67	6	14	9	10	11	37	31	13	3
20	48	19	11	4	10	11	12	69	31	8	7
23	27	22	6	5	13	14	13	53	37	13	11
24	26	31	7	6	14	15	14	46	25	5	6
					15	16	15	52	28	6	4
					16		16	60	34	13	6
								1,489	1,036	281	228

NEW VEHICLES.

	July.		August.		September 1 to 16.	
	Private.	Station Waggon.	Private	Station Waggon.	Private.	Station Waggon.
Austin	6	2	7	—	4	—
Cadillac	1	—	—	—	—	—
Chevrolet	39	—	21	—	5	—
Chrysler	325	74	292	77	108	29
Citroen	—	—	—	1	—	—
Commer	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diamond T	—	—	—	—	—	—
Datsun	11	2	15	5	8	2
Dodge	13	—	6	—	7	—
Diahatsu	6	1	3	1	1	—
Fiat	16	—	18	—	3	—
Ford	544	73	528	120	166	29
Honda	—	—	—	—	1	—
Humber	30	—	26	—	7	—
Hillman	48	5	52	5	22	1
Holden	926	364	733	280	256	124
International	—	—	—	—	—	—
Isuzu	57	—	36	—	5	—
Jaguar	3	—	6	—	3	—
Lancia	—	—	1	—	1	—
Land Rover	—	—	—	1	—	—
Lightburn	—	—	1	—	—	—
Lotus	—	—	—	—	1	—
Mercedes	7	—	12	—	1	—
M.G.	9	—	9	—	5	—
Morris	355	—	358	—	160	—
Mitsubishi	14	—	5	—	6	—
Nissan	4	2	2	1	—	—
Peugeot	8	2	7	—	2	2
Pontiac	5	—	12	—	7	—
Prince	25	2	19	2	3	—
Rambler	17	2	15	—	6	—
Renault	9	1	9	1	4	—
Rover	2	—	4	—	—	—
Simca	—	3	1	1	1	1
Studebaker	1	—	4	—	1	—
Toyota	76	7	55	5	19	1
Triumph	14	—	4	—	3	—
Vauxhall	125	2	84	—	44	—
Volkswagen	180	16	164	9	56	8
Vandenplas	—	—	1	—	—	—
Wolseley	17	—	18	—	5	—
Zeta	2	—	6	—	—	—
Porsche	—	—	—	—	1	—
	2,895	559	2,534	509	922	197

BARLEY.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my question of September 15 regarding the marketing, grading and receiving of barley in bulk this year in South Australia?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Regarding the classification of barley from the coming harvest, the same procedure will apply at all receiptal centres in respect of bagged or bulk barley as for last season, 1964-65; that is, agents are to collect samples from growers' paddocks as usual and submit same to the board in Adelaide for classification. No change in the nomination of delivery centre is necessary, but where growers elect to deliver their barley in bulk the agent collecting the sample will, in addition to forwarding a sample to head office, forward portion of the sample to the silo nominated for comparison with the deliveries made. With the exception of Karoonda, where an on-the-spot classification system is being introduced, deliveries of barley are not to be made by growers until official notice of classification has been received from head office.

At Karoonda, growers can commence delivery of their barley immediately it is harvested and the agent at Karoonda has the authority to classify the loads of barley for direct receipt into the silo but will issue a qualified receipt to the grower stipulating that payment will be made on the head office or official classification. At other silo centres where classification offices are installed the agents will again carry out a check or trial classification under the same arrangements which applied last season. All agents from barley silo centres attended a refresher classification training course this season in order to further their knowledge in the classification of barley. The board earlier announced by press statement that it would receive barley in bulk up to a maximum of 13 per cent moisture content as ascertained by the ground-grain method, using the Marconi moisture meter; there is a variation between the moisture content ascertained by the ground-grain method as compared with the whole-grain method, but the ground-grain method is considered by the board as the most accurate means of determining the moisture content.

ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL.

Mr. LAWN: Last week I received a reply from the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Health, concerning the new teaching block at present under construction at

the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Can the Minister of Works say when that building is expected to be completed?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I will get the detailed information for the honourable member as soon as possible. On the general question of progress at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the Director of the Public Buildings Department states that the current scheduling for redevelopment provides for the completion of the main buildings in 1968. Conversions of certain existing buildings and site-works which will finalize the redevelopment are due for completion in 1969. These anticipated completion dates will depend on the availability of funds in the intervening years.

COUNTRY RACING.

Mr. QUIRKE: Recently I asked the Premier a question concerning the control of country race meetings, with particular reference to Jamestown. Has the Premier a reply?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: A letter from the Secretary of the South Australian Jockey Club states:

In the first instance I assure you that a date was never "arbitrarily" taken from the Jamestown Racing Club. In considering the allocation of racing dates for 1965 the committee received a report from the stipendiary stewards on the track and amenities at Jamestown; they received strong approaches from the owners and trainers and studied schedules of prize money and investment on the Jamestown meeting as against a comparative Strathalbyn meeting. In view of the evidence tendered the committee altered the Jamestown date, but after conferring with Jamestown officials agreed to permit both Jamestown and Strathalbyn to race on the same day. The meetings in question eventuated Thursday last September 24, and I have no doubt that on reading the reports you will agree that the action of this committee has been vindicated.

Except for a small minority of people in the Jamestown area, the granting of the date to the Strathalbyn Racing Club has been hailed as a sound and progressive decision and one which is certainly in the best interest of racing. The vast distance between the two clubs means that owners, trainers and racegoers in both areas are well provided for. I would point out that applications for racing dates are submitted to the committee by the S.A. Country Racing Clubs' Association (Jamestown Racing Club is a member of the association), and in the majority of cases the committee adheres to the requests of the association. For 1965 about 226 racing days were allotted in what could justifiably be called a fair and equal distribution of dates. It must be realized that my committee is charged with the responsibility of racing throughout South Australia, and it endeavours to administer in such a way as to lift the sport to the highest possible plane.

CADELL IRRIGATION AREA.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Has the Minister of Irrigation a further report on the Cadell irrigation area?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I am pleased to inform the honourable member that a tender was let yesterday for the rehabilitation of the Cadell irrigation area drainage system.

METROPOLITAN DRAINAGE.

Mr. LANGLEY: In the Loan Estimates, provision was made for drainage. As this matter has often been referred to in this House by the member for Norwood and me and as it greatly affects our districts, will the Minister of Education ask the Minister of Local Government whether the appointment of a drainage advisory committee or board has been finalized and, if it has been, whether the districts of Unley and Norwood will receive financial assistance in common with other councils?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I am unable to give the honourable member a full reply now, but I will obtain one for him.

FLATS.

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Premier a reply to my question of September 23 about the erection of flats?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Chairman of the Housing Trust reports:

It is generally conceded that, in order to bring about high population density, flats of many storeys (usually called high-rise flats) are the principal means of achieving this objective. The flats being built in Melbourne are high-rise flats. However, high-rise flats, which will accommodate a given number of people, cost very much more than cottages providing equal accommodation, and this is so even taking into account the costs of providing new roads and services to the cottages. High-rise flat costs are such that, as is the case both in Melbourne and elsewhere, substantial subsidies are necessary to bring the rents down to the amount the ordinary working man can afford to pay. These subsidies usually involve a subsidy towards capital costs and a continuing rental subsidy. If the Housing Trust were to embark on a flat programme of the kind suggested for letting to the ordinary workers, then unless additional Loan funds were made available, it would have to reduce its cottage programme accordingly. It is the experience of the trust that families with children prefer to live in cottages. A flat programme of the kind suggested would require some people to live in flats although their preference is for cottages, and to pay a very high rent unless the rent was subsidized, as the trust could not afford to let the flats at less than economic rents. The trust has found, however, that a modest programme of two or three-storey flats for those without small children

fills a real need in an overall housing programme and does something to build up density in the inner areas.

DARLINGTON SCHOOL.

Mr. HUDSON: Can the Minister of Education say whether tenders have been called for the new infants school at Darlington and if they have when they will close?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I believe that tenders closed today but I will make sure for the honourable member.

PARA HILLS BUS SERVICE.

Mr. HALL: Has the Premier a reply to the question I recently asked concerning transport at Para Hills under the control of the Municipal Tramways Trust?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The trust has not at any time put pressure on Lewis Bros. Coach Services, or in any way suggested that this firm should increase fares on its Para Hills bus service. In view of the proposed extension of the trust's area to include Salisbury and Elizabeth, as from October 1, 1965, the trust recently invited Lewis Bros. to apply for a trust licence and to submit details of routes, time tables, sections and fares. The fare scale submitted by Lewis Bros., which has been approved by the trust, is the one currently in force.

SOLDIER SETTLERS.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: Recently, when visiting the Loxton area, I was approached by soldier settlers regarding their living allowance, which they considered to be totally inadequate. I understand that, since 1964, this allowance was increased from £715 to £800 a year. I also understand that soldier settlers receive a Commonwealth grant of £477, and that if they are able to meet their commitments this grant is withdrawn, and this, of course, can affect their annual commitments. Will the Minister of Repatriation investigate this matter, and ascertain whether it is possible to approach the Commonwealth Government for an increased living allowance for the soldier settlers concerned?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Yes, I shall take this matter up for the honourable member.

SITTINGS.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Will the Premier say what this week's programme of sittings will be? Further, I noticed with some concern that last week a senior Minister predicted that the Opposition would be made to walk the election plank in the near future,

which could mean that this Parliament would therefore be confronted with a further election. Will the Premier inform the House of the election programme decided by his Government, so that we can at least find some candidates to contest a further election? Will he indicate the ultimate fate of this Parliament?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Considering the legislation still to be introduced, the Government intends to ask honourable members to continue sitting on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, as well as, of course, on the three usual afternoons. I expect that Parliament will sit until December 2 at the latest. In the event of the legislative programme's not being finalized by that date (and I shall not complain if it is not finalized) the Government will expect to resume the session on about January 25, 1966, and to continue until February. An adjournment would then take place for the Festival of Arts and, after that, Parliament would resume to consider further legislation, including an appropriation measure, before June, 1966. The Government would expect to continue sitting through 1966 until not later than December 1 of that year. It would then meet for the final session in May, 1967. I expect that, under normal circumstances, we should then be able to inform Opposition members of an election to take place some time in 1968.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: Could it be speeded up?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I am in no way reflecting on my colleague the Attorney-General when I point out that we are not always correctly reported. The first two paragraphs of the *Advertiser's* report contained more or less the information I have given today. Any speeding up is entirely in the hands of honourable members. I never want to be charged again with trying to curtail free speech in this place. I have given honourable members a reasonable time table as to the expected sittings of the House. It is up to honourable members to decide how long they wish to speak.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: The speeding up to which I referred concerned speeding up in respect of an election.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: So that there will be no misunderstanding I shall use the phrase that the Attorney-General is alleged to have used: I intend to ask this Parliament to walk the plank in the first quarter of 1968.

STRATHALBYN ROAD.

Mr. McANANEY: Over the last two years repeated requests have been made for the re-forming of East Terrace, near the local schools in Strathalbyn. Last year it was decided to go ahead with this scheme, but the plans prepared were unsatisfactory, and fresh plans were to be prepared for this year. Will the Minister of Education ask the Minister of Roads whether those plans are available? People are concerned that the work may not be done this year, either.

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

MENTAL HOSPITALS.

Mrs. STEELE: Has the Premier a reply to my question regarding staff at mental hospitals?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I understand that the honourable member requests that consideration be given to the appointment of maintenance supervisors at Parkside and Hillcrest hospitals. The maintenance and servicing of Government hospitals and institutions throughout the State is a responsibility of the Public Buildings Department works division, and the reorganization of the department does involve extensive decentralization of the maintenance function. Maintenance superintendents have been established at Royal Adelaide Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Mount Gambier Hospital since 1961. The present position regarding other hospitals and institutions is as follows:

1. Cabinet approval was given on September 13, 1965, for the creation of the new offices of Maintenance Superintendent at Northfield area (for the servicing of Hillcrest Hospital; Morris Hospital, Enfield Receiving House and Yatala Labour Prison); Parkside area (for the servicing of Parkside Hospital, Magill Wards, Home and Reformatory); group laundry; and Port Pirie Hospital.

2. Staff requirements at each maintenance unit to be established under a Maintenance Superintendent have been submitted to the Public Service Board for consideration.

3. Maintenance Superintendents, when established at the above locations, will be responsible to a Supervising Maintenance Superintendent located at the headquarters of the works division at Plympton North, for the following activities:

- (a) Day to day and preventative maintenance to prescribed standards.
- (b) The provision of continuous required services; for example, steam, treated water, and, within defined limits, furniture, furnishings and equipment.

(c) Minor works; that is, the extension, renovation or additions to assets where such works are within the capacity of the maintenance unit.

Action is proceeding on the establishment of these maintenance units in accordance with the planned programme of reorganization, and, subject to the availability of suitably qualified personnel, it is anticipated that proposals can be implemented soon.

PORT PIRIE WHARVES.

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Marine a reply to my recent question regarding lighting provisions on the Port Pirie wharves?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Deputy General Manager of the Harbors Board has advised me that the whole question of rail traffic on the wharves at Port Pirie is under review. The board's Ports and Traffic Manager proposes to discuss the matter with the Harbourmaster and the Railways Traffic Control Officer during a visit to Port Pirie next month, following which a report will be submitted on the request for floodlighting of the wharves during shunting operations.

WANILLA WATER SUPPLY.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: During the weekend I travelled around the Wanilla area in my district, and I was concerned to notice that some dams, normally filled by natural catchment, were either only partly filled or, worse still, abandoned because of salinity, which has made the water in the dams unfit for stock. The Minister of Works knows that consideration has been and is being given to a water supply for this area but, from replies to previous questions, I know that the Minister has no finance available to undertake any scheme soon. As this matter will undoubtedly require investigation by the Public Works Committee, does the Minister know whether the department has yet decided what scheme will be used and, if he does, will he give the details of the scheme? If no decision has been reached, will he obtain a report from the Director and Engineer-in-Chief and inform me in the fullest possible detail?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I cannot give details. I know, as I am sure the honourable member knows, that the department has been working on the nature of this scheme but, as yet, I have no details of the proposal. However, because of the honourable member's request I shall ask for an early report and inform the honourable member as soon as it is to hand. The position is rather serious at present because conditions

similar to those referred to by the honourable member are being experienced in many parts of the State. Even our metropolitan reservoirs are not holding as much water as they held last year, and this gives reason for concern. However, it is too early yet to say what will be the outcome for the year. We are still hoping for general rain, which would solve many problems.

CADELL TRAINING CENTRE.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: My question concerns the public relations work being done by the Cadell Training Centre, which recently entered several exhibits in the Eudunda Agricultural Show. I am pleased to say that the centre was a most successful exhibitor. One of the exhibits comprised a fine display of all the agricultural produce produced at the training centre, and was one of the finest exhibits I have ever seen at a show anywhere. Many favourable comments on the entries were passed by members of the public as well as by members of the show committee. In view of the good image being created in the district by the training centre, will the Premier take up with the Chief Secretary the question of whether this exhibiting work cannot be increased and expanded in the future?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I shall be pleased to take up the matter with my colleague. It is indeed refreshing to have such a good report in this matter. I compliment the honourable member on his interest, and I appreciate very much the fact that favourable comments were passed.

NARACOORTE SUBSTATION.

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Works a reply to a question I asked last week concerning the Naracoorte substation?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Following the honourable member's question, I took the matter up with the General Manager of the Electricity Trust, who reports that plans and specifications are being prepared for the Naracoorte substation. Tenders are expected to be called in November for both earthworks and building for equipment. The main equipment will be installed by the trust, and the new substation is planned to be completed by June, 1966.

TEACHING.

Mrs. STEELE: Like other members, I have received a booklet entitled *Teaching in South Australia* which, like its predecessors, is most interesting and informative. I regret, however, that in a preface to the publication the Minister of Education states:

Rapid changes are also taking place within the teaching service itself and there are new opportunities and new changes for the best men and minds to be used to capacity.

The previous Minister of Education was a great champion of the right of women members of the teaching profession, and others, to seek appointment to positions of authority where they had qualifications comparable with, if not superior to, those of male applicants for a specific position, and he often referred to the contribution which women were making to the teaching profession. As I feel that it may have been an oversight that women were not mentioned in the same context as men in the preface to this publication, I ask the Minister whether he would be prepared to comment and thus take the opportunity to correct what I am sure is an unintentional affront to the women in the teaching profession?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: If any affront was thought to be there, I assure the honourable member that no affront was intended. However, I will look into the matter.

LEAF ANALYSIS.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: Some of the Loxton soldier settlers have approached me about an officer who is assisting in the area in a leaf analysis. They have informed me that this officer has insufficient equipment to undertake his work properly. Will the Minister of Agriculture consider supplying this officer with the proper equipment to enable him to carry out this necessary work?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: This officer, who is highly skilled in leaf analysis, was brought here from South Africa, and we consider that he will be a terrific asset not only to the soldier settlers but to citrus growers generally throughout South Australia. Unfortunately, the equipment he required was not available when he arrived. However, the matter is now well under control. Some equipment has been sent to him, and the other equipment, which is under order, should reach him soon.

FESTIVAL HALL.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: Today's *Advertiser* reports that at a meeting of the Adelaide City Council one councillor said that the costs of the festival hall were increasing. Has the Premier had a further request from the City Council to increase the Government allowance for the purchase of the hall, or has he any knowledge of the increased cost to the City Council in respect of this project?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: No representation has been made to the Government about this matter. If and when an approach is made to the Government, I shall be able to obtain further information for the honourable member.

GAS.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: It was recently reported in the press that the drilling plant of Delhi-Santos, which had been operating just over the Queensland border, was now drilling in South Australia. It was further reported yesterday that the drill had reached a permeable section and a small occurrence of gas had been encountered. Will the Minister of Agriculture, representing the Minister of Mines, obtain a report from the Director of Mines about this hole, which is of considerable importance to the ultimate drilling programme in that part of the State?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I will refer the question to my colleague.

LOXTON HIGH SCHOOL.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: The Minister of Education visited the Loxton High School during the weekend to inspect cracks and other damage at that school. Can he say when repairs will be carried out?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I visited the school at the request of the honourable member and of the Chairman of the Loxton High School Council. I was surprised to see the extent of the cracking at this school, which, I believe, was first occupied in 1959 and at which the cracks appeared in 1962. Having called for a full report, I intend to ensure that repairs will be made at the earliest opportunity. Also, I wish to reassure myself that the building is in a safe condition. I was disagreeably surprised to find the cracks as bad as they were.

TIMBER FOR CASES.

Mr. RODDA: During the weekend I saw representatives of Donnelly Timber Industries who were concerned about the supply of timber for fruit cases. This undertaking at Penola, which employs 48 men, has an annual wage bill of between £45,000 and £50,000 and an annual output of about 750,000 bushel cases. This company is under the impression that the Government mills will be interested only in first-grade boxes. This company, working under a salvage licence, is worried because a large portion of its output comprises second-grade cases. Its officers understand that packing sheds are to use cartons for local and interstate trade, and want to be reassured

about the disposal of their quota of 250,000 second-grade cases. If this company cannot dispose of these cases, it will be in dire straits. Can the Minister of Forests say whether these fears are well founded, and has he any information on the matter?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I assure the honourable member that this company has no reason to fear. There is a keen demand for cases for tomatoes, cucumbers and citrus fruits, and there will always be a keen demand for timber for cases. The matter of cartons has been raised mainly because in some instances there has been a shortage of cases. However, some people do not like using cartons because of the higher cost compared with cases, and this discourages the use of cartons. Other matters have caused concern in respect of the use of cartons. This company can be assured that there is a keen demand for timber cases; the publicity given to cartons has created unnecessary concern in the minds of these people.

LOANS TO COUNCILS.

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

1. How many local government bodies have applied for interest-free loans for the purchase of plant during the current financial year?

2. What is the total amount of these applications?

3. How many applications have been approved either wholly or in part and what is the total amount involved in these approvals?

4. How many applications have been refused?

5. How many of these applications were refused on the grounds that the plant proposed to be purchased was unsuitable or unnecessary?

6. What is the intention of the Government in regard to future applications by councils for interest-free loans?

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

1. Seventeen local government bodies applied for interest-free loans.

2. After deducting the estimated value of trade-in where councils indicated that machines would be sold, the applications totalled £176,000.

3. The Commissioner of Highways has indicated that he is prepared to recommend applications from 11 councils involving £100,000.

4. Six councils' applications have been refused because of limited finance.

5. No applications have been refused on the grounds that the plant intended to be purchased was unsuitable or unnecessary, but purely on the grounds of limited finance. There are no projects which could reasonably be deferred to provide additional funds for interest-free machinery loans to councils.

6. On September 1, 1965, the Highways and Local Government Department circularized councils requesting councils to indicate, on an accompanying form, plant which is in urgent need of replacement during 1965-66 and 1966-67. The intention of the survey is to assess the urgent needs of councils to replace existing plant, to enable the department to determine the total amount of finance involved so that consideration can be given to the provision of assistance to more councils. It is intended, in due course, to make a recommendation to the Minister in this respect.

EYRE PENINSULA RAIL SERVICES.

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

1. What was the total tonnage of grain hauled by rail on Eyre Peninsula last financial year?

2. How many ton-miles were travelled in hauling this grain?

3. What was the total tonnage of superphosphate hauled on Eyre Peninsula last financial year?

4. How many ton-miles were travelled in hauling this superphosphate?

5. How many diesel and steam locomotives, respectively, were in service on this division at June 30, 1965?

6. How many waggons of 16 tons or more capacity, were in service on June 30, 1965?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Railways Commissioner reports:

1. 322,586 tons.
2. 32,631,340 net ton-miles.
3. 66,557 tons.
4. 9,319,695 net ton-miles.
5. 6 diesel-electric, 13 steam.
6. 706.

DROUGHT RELIEF.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (on notice):

1. From how many drought-affected pastoral properties in this State have all stock been removed?

2. What is the total annual rental payable by the lessees of these properties?

3. Will these rents be completely remitted?

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

1. At least three (3) leases.
2. At least £514 4s. 6d.
3. The lessees will be invited to write in and apply for concessions, and, if the Pastoral Board is satisfied, total remissions will be made.

AGED AND INFIRM PERSONS' PROPERTY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Aged and Infirm Persons' Property Act, 1940-1950. Read a first time.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Compulsory Acquisition of Land Act, 1925-1959. Read a first time.

THE ESTIMATES.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from September 23. Page 1749.)

ATTORNEY-GENERAL, MINISTER OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE.

Attorney-General's Department, £84,777.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): The position of Draftsman in Charge of Consolidations has apparently been changed. Previously, that office was held by Mr. Cartledge (Chairman of the Housing Trust) and a considerable part of his salary was attached to the Attorney-General's Department. I notice that that position is now entirely eliminated from the Estimates. Will the Attorney-General say whether Mr. Cartledge is no longer associated with his department? Is he wholly in charge of the Housing Trust and altogether separated from the Attorney-General's Department?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Attorney-General): The Draftsman in Charge of Consolidations reached the retiring age in the Public Service in June of this year. He therefore retired from that position, and a new appointment was not made. However, the same

sum will, in fact, be spent in the Parliamentary Draftsman's Department, in that we took the opportunity of using the money to acquire another draftsman, whom we urgently needed. Mr. Daniel has already been working here. The Draftsman in Charge of Consolidations is now on superannuation, as far as the Public Service is concerned. He has, of course, his remuneration as Chairman of the Housing Trust, and he is also associated with certain Government boards. Further, a contract has now been entered into with the Law Book Company for the consolidation of the South Australian Statutes. In that matter it has been agreed with the Government that Mr. Cartledge should be employed by the company to undertake the work of consolidation. The Government is not directly concerned with the arrangement between Mr. Cartledge and the Law Book Company; it has simply made the financial arrangements between itself and the company.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: One of the Government's most controversial actions in the first days of its coming into office was the appointment of a Public Relations Officer. I notice that that officer is mentioned in the line, "Public Relations Officer, Senior Clerk, Clerks, Short-hand Typist, temporary assistance". Part of the controversy concerned the appointment of Mr. David Combe, who had been during the election campaign a most active supporter and organizer for the Australian Labor Party. I notice that the sum for this line has increased by a little over £3,400. First, I am surprised to see the provision under this department, because I recollect that the Attorney-General, when questioned on this matter (and he will correct me if I am wrong), has repeatedly said that Mr. Combe is the Public Relations Officer for the Aborigines Department, and yet—

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: No, I haven't said that: it was for all departments.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I cannot argue with the Attorney-General, because I cannot give chapter and verse, but my strong recollection was that his duties were connected with publicising the activities of the Aborigines Department and, perhaps, the general social welfare activities of the Government. It is rather surprising, therefore, to see provision made for him in the office of the Minister under the Attorney-General's Department. I should like some clarification on that point. Not only is

there now a Public Relations Officer but there is also an Assistant Public Relations Officer, who was, I believe, a book porter in the Lands Titles Office, transferred to the Tourist Bureau as a clerk, and subsequently appointed to this position. I understand that he, too, has been an active worker for the Australian Labor Party. Can the Attorney-General say whether, in fact, there are any other officers in this department?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The reason why the line appears under the office of the Minister is that the Public Relations Officer is appointed first to all the portfolios the Attorney-General holds at the moment. Therefore, it was simplest to accommodate it under the office of the Minister. The Public Relations Officer is also directly under the Minister's direction in providing public relations activities for all other departments of the Government at the request of the appropriate Ministers. As they must get my consent for the officer's work for their departments so that his time can be duly allotted, he is under the office of the Minister, and it was thought appropriate by the Public Service Commissioner that that should be the way in which he was appointed at that stage. Some consultation took place whether there should be a general Public Relations Department for the Government. The Public Service Commissioner thought that this might be appropriate in due course. However, the Government felt that this move in respect of the Social Welfare Department was an experiment which it should judge before it moved for a general Public Relations Department. The Public Relations Officer's work has already proved invaluable to the Aborigines Department and, in fact, the Ministers in charge of Aboriginal affairs in other States urged the appointment of Public Relations Officers to Aborigines departments specifically after seeing the work that our officer had been able to do for these departments here.

The honourable member has referred to Mr. Combe's political background. I believe I should inform honourable members that the Public Service Commissioner said that he considered the Public Service extraordinarily fortunate to have been able to obtain the services of this young man at the salary offering.

Mr. Millhouse: Is that because of his political background?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No; the reason why I think he was prepared to take the post for which the salary and conditions were

much less than he could have commanded elsewhere was that he was imbued with the importance of the work that he considered was being done in the social service sphere, and he wanted to be part of it. We were fortunate to get his services and the Public Service Board gave a certificate that he was clearly superior in application and aptitude to every other applicant. The member for Mitcham referred to the appointment of an Assistant Public Relations Officer but there has been no such appointment. A clerk has been appointed who works in that office under the same salary and conditions under which he previously worked in the Tourist Bureau. He was brought into this department because of his knowledge of the facilities available in Government for publicity work. He had been engaged in work of this kind in the Tourist Bureau. He has also been quite invaluable in the work currently being undertaken in the Children's Welfare Department. He has been responsible for the organization of the current campaign in pilot projects with the Council of Social Services on youth projects for the Social Welfare Department. Therefore, those two officers do not account for the whole increase shown on the line. An additional officer has been appointed who is currently involved in the work of a justices survey, and that officer is not related to the Public Relations Officer's section at all.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I believe the work of the Aborigines Department should not be considered in the public mind as part of the functions of a social services department. It has been the object of work in recent years in the Aborigines Department to extricate it from that kind of public thinking. I make this point because, if various departmental officers as well as the Minister are to be combined as the heads of these two departments, some confusion may arise in the public mind. I believe that the Attorney agrees that it is essential that the Aborigines Department should not be regarded as a social services department in the sense that social services are particular in any form to the Aborigines Department. Of course, I do not object to Aborigines participating in social service benefits or in the work of the department as ordinary citizens but they should not have a special role as Aborigines. Will the Attorney-General assure the public on this point?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Government is careful, as far as it can be, to ensure that confusion does not arise. The work of the Public Relations Officer for the Aborigines

Department has been concerned not only with getting across the message of what we are trying to do (a part which I think the honourable member will agree that the Public Relations Officer has done effectively) but it has also provided much publicity about what we are trying to achieve in our policies for Aborigines in South Australia, and it has given publicity to our actual achievements. In fact, one of the activities of the Public Relations Officer was to arrange further avenues for publicizing the products of Aborigines which are sold through the shop that was established when the honourable member was in charge of the department. The exhibition at Arndale and the publicity in connection with it and publicity for the coming exhibition at Elizabeth: all this was the work of the Public Relations Officer, and the department has found him extraordinarily useful in this way. We are careful to keep this work apart from the work of the Social Welfare Department.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: What the Attorney-General has said raises one or two important questions of policy. Some years ago, the Government of the day found that all departments were spending freely particularly in advertising and publicity, and that much of this was duplicated expenditure, which was badly set out. As a consequence a direction was given (and I think it is probably still in operation) that all advertising and publicity should be arranged and paid for by the Tourist Bureau of the State. If each department advertised under its own heading the advertising would be not nearly so effective. I have some reservations about this appointment, but, of course, it is a matter for the Government to determine. I pay a tribute to Mr. Pollnitz, who is doing a remarkably good job with the money available to him. I ask the Attorney-General to ensure that care is taken to see that there is no overlapping with the Tourist Bureau Department. I suggest that the Attorney-General give an instruction that the public relations material that is prepared be provided to honourable members, so that they can be kept informed of what is going on.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We have already taken care to see that the office does not overlap with the Tourist Bureau. This department is not involved in letting advertisements and the like. As the Leader has said, that is the work of the publicity department. The work of this officer and his clerk consists of seeing that they are able to convey to organizations interested in South

Australia information about what we are doing. Mr. Combe has addressed an enormous number of meetings in the last few months of organizations which are interested in doing something to co-operate voluntarily with the work of the Aborigines and Social Welfare Departments. In connection with this, a certain amount of roneoed material for release has been prepared at small cost. This will certainly be made available to members. For the rest the work is concerned with using publicity media which do not cost us anything, by seeing to it that we get television and press coverage of what the department is trying to achieve. In this, too, the officers' work has been very effective. At the shopping centres this has been at practically no cost to the department, but other people have spent the money to assist in publicizing what we are trying to achieve. The Leader will see that in these circumstances few publications are coming out. The work of the officer is of another kind. I will see to it that members have any publications that are prepared.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The Attorney-General said that the services of the Public Relations Officer were at the call of other Ministers. Can he say whether other Ministers have availed themselves of this and, if they have, what proportion of his time the Public Relations Officer spends on departments other than those under the Attorney-General's care and what proportion he spends on publicizing the activities of departments under other Ministers?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I cannot give the honourable member an exact figure off-hand, but I would say that about half a day a week is spent on other departments and the rest of the time on the departments which are under my care.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I notice that £2,000 is provided for temporary magisterial assistance, which suggests that the Government intends to seek some substantial assistance. Nothing was voted for this purpose last year. I refer briefly to the resignation of Mr. Nelligan as an acting special magistrate in the Police Court, and say that I believe this resignation to be most unfortunate, because I had been impressed indeed when appearing before him with the way in which he handled cases that came before him. I have been told by the staff at the court that he made a tremendous difference to the backlog of work, especially maintenance cases. What plans has the Government to replace him, and, on a broader reference, what additional temporary magisterial assistance is intended for this year?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am as regretful as the honourable member that Mr. Nelligan saw fit to take the course he did in resigning his position. This had been a temporary arrangement but had continued for some time, and I was as grateful as was the head of the department for the work that Mr. Nelligan had been doing. The other assistance sought is that of some retired magistrates who have been assisting the department, and without whom we cannot carry on at present. I have made every endeavour to obtain the appointment of more magistrates, and applications have been called and are currently being considered by the Public Service Commissioner. I hope I shall be able to announce some appointments next week.

Line passed.

Crown Solicitor's Department, £77,763—passed.

Parliamentary Draftsman's Department, £16,489.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I agree with the appointment of additional assistants to the Parliamentary Draftsman. Is there any difficulty in the Parliamentary Draftsman's giving the same assistance as has been given for many years on the wording of a clause or on information about a complementary section? Only two honourable members are qualified lawyers, and this assistance is needed when Bills are being considered.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Parliamentary Draftsman can explain to members the meaning of a section or why words have been omitted. There is no reason why members should not ask the Parliamentary Draftsman for an explanation of these things, or why they should not get it. The only limitation placed on the Parliamentary Draftsman is the one which, I believe, has been traditional in British Parliaments; that is, that members cannot expect to obtain information from the Parliamentary Draftsman about a Bill's legal efficacy, and quote that in Parliament. It cannot be expected that the Parliamentary Draftsman should be put in a position of giving a public opinion on the efficacy of a Bill on which his Minister is expected to advise the Government. Apart from this, there is no difficulty in members approaching the Parliamentary Draftsman, and I should want his facilities to be as available to members as is physically possible. However, members should understand that at present the Parliamentary Draftsman and his staff are severely overworked. When Parliament is not sitting, members should not demand that

the Draftsman come here to do work for them. When Parliament is sitting, we will endeavour to provide a draftsman in each Chamber when a Bill is reaching the Committee stage, so that members can have assistance in preparing amendments. It is not possible at present to provide drafting assistance for sizeable private members' legislation. The Parliamentary Draftsman can vet a draft that has been prepared, and that assistance was previously given to the Opposition when my Party was in Opposition. If any major work of this kind is involved, I am forced to ask private members to take that course, because I have not as much drafting assistance as is needed at the moment for the current programme.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: It would not be convenient for members to have to consider amendments that had been drafted point blank, and it is not fair for the Parliamentary Draftsman himself to have to wait until a Bill is actually being considered in Parliament before an amendment is drafted. It would be more advantageous for these matters to be considered before they reach the attention of honourable members in the Committee stage.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Is the Government at present considering the appointment of another Assistant Parliamentary Draftsman to relieve the strain on the present officers?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: A submission has been made to the Public Service Commissioner for the agreement of the board to appointing an additional draftsman. So far, I have not received a recommendation from the board to go to Executive Council on this matter. Of course, if approval is obtained, we would still have to find somebody to fill the position. With the assistance of the Public Service Commissioner we were able to offer Mr. Daniel an attractive position at the moment that he wanted it, and rather more quickly than the others were filled.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: When I attended the 10th Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Jamaica in November last year I met the Attorney-General of Uganda, whose name, I think, was Mr. Binaisi, Q.C. I believe that gentleman also attended the recent legal convention in Sydney. He expressed great admiration for the legal work, *The Australian Constitution*, written some years ago by Mr. Anstey Wynes, as he then was. When I informed him that Dr. Wynes was now the Parliamentary Draftsman in South Australia, Mr. Binaisi said his Government would be

most appreciative if one or two Parliamentary draftsmen could be trained by Dr. Wynes as draftsmen in Uganda. Can the Attorney-General say whether any representations on these lines have been made by the Uganda Government?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: From memory, we have not had an approach from the Uganda Government. We did receive an approach by an African State for the training of two draftsmen, but I do not think it was by Uganda. The people concerned were informed that, provided they were able to make the necessary financial arrangements for their draftsmen to come here and to be maintained, we would certainly undertake their training in the department without charge. We suggested either that they let us know what arrangements they had made in respect of the two trainees, or that, alternatively, they might approach the Commonwealth Government to see whether assistance could be given under the Colombo Plan, and that might have relieved the African State's budgetary position slightly. I think that was about three months ago, and I have not heard further at this stage.

Line passed.

Public Trustee's Department, £138,374—passed.

Supreme Court Department, £120,577.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The new line of "Sheriff" appears here. Will the Attorney-General explain the significance of this provision?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: On the recommendation of all officers concerned, and of the Public Service Commissioner, the office of Sheriff and Comptroller of Gaols and Prisons was divided. The Sheriff is now entirely an officer of the Supreme Court Department, coming under the Attorney-General, and the Comptroller of Gaols and Prisons is, of course, in charge of gaols and prisons, and under the Chief Secretary. We expect that the Sheriff's Department will expand to provide court attendants for all courts in South Australia, eventually. The Sheriff, of course, retains his functions as the head bailiff and chief executive officer at the execution level of the court's processes, under the Supreme Court. The post has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Collins, the former Clerk of Arraigns, as the first Sheriff in the new office. He has also been given the necessary assistance in his office.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Mr. Collins is an extremely good officer, and was always most helpful as Senior Reporter in the Adelaide

Local Court and latterly as Clerk of Arraigns. I am delighted that he has received further preferment, and is to be Sheriff. I naturally defer to your ruling, Mr. Chairman, as to whether this is the appropriate place to say this, but during a debate the other day on an amendment to the Supreme Court Act, which provided for a seventh judge, I raised the matter of courts of intermediate jurisdiction, and an alteration in our whole system. I should like to raise that matter again now and, as this is the first line dealing with courts, I take it that this is the appropriate time to do so.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member will notice that there is no provision in the Estimates for the judges. They are covered by special Acts.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Would you prefer me to wait until we deal with the Adelaide Local Court Department?

The CHAIRMAN: I am not sure that it would be correct procedure then.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Surely we cannot be prevented from discussing this.

The CHAIRMAN: I am afraid that members will be prevented until a Bill on this subject is before Parliament.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I want to discuss this matter now.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think that would be in order. The present provision is in the Acts and not in the Estimates.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Surely we are now debating the payment of various officers under the lines.

The CHAIRMAN: There is no line for judges.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I have asked whether I should raise this matter on the next line, which allows for a salary for the Local Court Judge.

The CHAIRMAN: I will not rule on that matter now; I will look at it when it arises. At present the honourable member is out of order as no line is specified for judges. In fact, attention is drawn to the fact that judges are dealt with in special Acts.

Mr. Shannon: Does the honourable member wish to discuss judges, though?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: No.

The CHAIRMAN: I thought the honourable member was referring to the appointment of a seventh judge.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I was not talking about that.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Will there be a clear distinction between the duties of the Sheriff and of the Comptroller of Prisons?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: There is a clear separation of the positions. The Sheriff is little concerned with prisoners except when they are within the precincts of the court.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: What about the carrying out of sentences?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As soon as a prisoner is sentenced to a term of imprisonment, he will be handed to the Comptroller and will be in his hands from then on. The Sheriff will be in charge of the court attendants, the carrying out of directions of the court and the execution of court processes.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: Supposing capital punishment were not abolished; who would be responsible for carrying that out?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I imagine that the Comptroller would still be involved in this as it is carried out in his institution but it will probably be necessary for the Sheriff to be present. Normally speaking, the Sheriff's duty will be to see that writs of the court are properly executed. The Sheriff's Office is responsible for the payment and control of process servers and the like. In fact, the office of Sheriff and Comptroller of Prisons was by no means always held by one and the same person. Only comparatively recently these two offices were combined. It was found that the work was more than could reasonably be carried out by one man, and that there was such a clear division of duties that they could be properly separated. The Sheriff will also now have the duties in the long-term programme, which the Government has accepted, of providing attendants for other courts than the Supreme Court itself.

Mr. HUDSON: I refer to the delay in proceedings which must be caused as a result of evidence being taken on the typewriter instead of by shorthand writers. Has the Attorney-General considered the employment of shorthand writers in the courts instead of the use of the current system, which involves considerable delay and must cause annoyance to both counsel and judge?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Consideration has been given to this matter. A committee headed by Mr. Johnston, S.M., with representation from all court departments and the Government Reporting Department, has been set up to consider the most convenient form of court reporting, the provision of a court reporters' pool for certain courts in South

Australia, and the training of an adequate court reporting staff. That committee is currently sitting and I expect to have its recommendation shortly. Advantages are to be gained by having a team of shorthand reporters but the honourable member will see that this is a fairly expensive procedure if the service now given to the bar is to be maintained. If evidence is taken down directly on a typewriter, one has a transcript at a stage when one needs to cross-examine the witness. This is an important facility to the parties in any trial. If we have a team of shorthand writers they must be able to leave the courtroom and dictate their material to typistes and have that transcript ready fairly quickly so that the bar will be able to use it at the trial. This is a complicated business to arrange when a number of courts are sitting and a much bigger team is needed than that provided at the moment. However, this matter is being investigated and I hope to be able to make an announcement of the findings of the committee before the end of the year.

Mr. CUMBE: Will the Minister explain the unclaimed moneys which are specified to come into revenue this year and which show an increase of £18,643 over the amount of last year?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will get the information later for the honourable member.

Mr. SHANNON: Will the Comptroller recommend that a prisoner be released on parole, and will the Sheriff then confirm that recommendation?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Comptroller is the one who makes the recommendation: the Sheriff does not come into this. It will be necessary, following on the division of some of the Chief Secretary's functions (and the fact that the Minister of Social Welfare now has some of these) to make some amendments in due course to the Offenders Probation Act, because that also provides for juvenile probation which at the moment necessarily comes under the Minister of Social Welfare, although the Act is administered by the Chief Secretary necessarily because it also deals with adult probation. There has to be some review of the administrative functions.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The member for Glenelg referred to the recording of proceedings in courts. Last week I was engaged in No. 3 Police Court, which has been fitted up with microphones and tape recorders. If everything is taken down on a tape recorder proceedings move much faster, and for people who are fairly slow thinkers, like me, that is not an advantage.

If things are taken down deliberately, questions and answers are phrased deliberately by those who are making them and then taken down on the typewriter. Even though that seems slower, in fact the result is probably in the end not much slower, if at all slower, because everything is taken deliberately and surplusage is cut out. I know that that is the view of His Honour the Chief Justice. I visited America where tape recorders are habitually used, and when I was in one of the western States I had the honour of appearing in one of the American courts where this system was adopted; and on my return (I was young and enthusiastic in those days) I spoke to His Honour about it and he made that comment. I think it is something that is worth bearing in mind. One of the comments made last week was that if a system of tape recording were used it would probably need three typists outside to transcribe what is taken down by only one now. I know that difficulty is experienced, and this is a practical difficulty in the Adelaide Police Court as sometimes the courts cannot sit because there are too few court reporters. There is the difficulty of getting people to do the work, and while I welcome the news that an inquiry is being made into court reporting as a whole, I think there are a number of very great disadvantages in adopting the system suggested by the member for Glenelg.

Mr. HUDSON: A further point has been raised concerning whether or not some modification of the current procedures in court reporting would speed up proceedings or slow them down, and I hope that the committee will take up that matter. My opinion is that the suggested procedures could well speed up the proceedings considerably; and this could be an advantage to the people who have to pay for the services of counsel. Can the Attorney-General say whether or not consideration will be given to this matter from the point of view of reducing the parties' costs in court cases?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It is certainly the case that the committee is charged with the job of getting the business through as quickly and as expeditiously as possible, always remembering that one must see to it that the people have the best opportunities for conducting their cases effectively to get at the truth. There is no limitation on the inquiry. The committee will go into the whole matter and come up with what it considers to be the most up-to-date and effective system.

Line passed.

Adelaide Local Court, £78,483.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: During a recent debate I referred to the reorganization of our court system into what is known as a three-tier system. Since then, a well-known practitioner has sent me a copy of a memorandum that he dispatched to the Attorney-General and to other members, making sweeping suggestions for this reorganization. One suggestion was to increase the amount of the jurisdiction of the Adelaide Local Court full jurisdiction from £1,250 to £5,000. Secondly, it is suggested that the Government appoint Supreme Court judges to work in the jurisdiction in which they are practised.

The CHAIRMAN: I have been patient, but I think the honourable member is out of order. He can use references as an illustration, but he cannot debate the matter. It is a well-known and well-established practice that during discussion on the first line the scope is wide, but after the first line is passed members must speak to the line under discussion. I dislike having to rule the honourable member out of order but I think he appreciates my point of view, that the discussion must be on the line before the Committee.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: This is on the line.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, is discussion not permitted on a department that has been called?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. However, the discussion is limited to the line before the Committee. That has been the ruling for many years.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: You announced the item "Adelaide Local Court Department", so surely a discussion may take place on that item.

The CHAIRMAN: It can, but not on the principle of intermediate courts. They are established by Acts, not by this line. I think that is clear and that the honourable member will agree with it.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The honourable member does not agree, but he will not take it any further.

The CHAIRMAN: I was referring not to the honourable member for Mitcham, but to the Leader of the Opposition, who raised the point of order.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Because these lines are separated into Adelaide Local Court, Police Court and Country and Suburban Courts, we cannot discuss something which, if these lines were together, we could.

The CHAIRMAN:—The honourable member cannot discuss the principle of the establishment of courts.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I cannot believe that is so, but I do not want to have a row about it, so will not go on with it.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, can we discuss matters that can be dealt with by the Adelaide Local Court?

The CHAIRMAN: I did not suggest that that could not be discussed.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I was reading the suggestion that the jurisdiction of the Adelaide Local Court should be raised from £1,250 to £5,000.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member may have been, but it was not that point on which I ruled.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Perhaps I have said enough to direct the mind of the Attorney-General to the memorandum. I now refer to the Auditor-General's Report, under the heading of Administration of Justice, Law Offices, etc. I do not raise this matter as a criticism of the present Government, as the previous Government was just as much in default, if the Government is in default at all. The Auditor-General's Report states:

During 1962 a report on the clerical methods employed at the Court was made by the Public Service Commissioner and certain changes were recommended. The proposed methods involved the use of a cash register which was purchased in April, 1964, at a cost of £2,043. This machine has not been used as the changes have not yet been introduced. This seems to be a fairly serious matter, and and I wonder whether the Attorney-General can explain the delay of over 12 months, after the purchase of the machine (after it had been approved by the previous Government) in bringing in changes that were recommended?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I know of the submissions to which the honourable member referred. I have had a report from the Local Court Judge, further submissions from the Law Society and from the magistrates. This matter is currently being examined, and I hope that an announcement will be made shortly as to the programme which lies ahead. To a certain extent it involves building plans, and these are currently being considered. As to the latter question, I was not aware of this until I read the report. I have asked for an explanation, and it may well be that it relates to the fact that new court fees for the Local Court were in the process of being examined prior to my becoming

Attorney-General, and since that time they have been agreed and were recently gazetted.

Line passed.

Adelaide Police Court Department, £68,154.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I understand that the Attorney-General has said that the Police Department would be separated from the Police Court so that the term "Police" would not be attached to the name of the court, and that the Police Magistrate would not be known by that title. I understand that another suggestion was made that the police should not prosecute in the courts.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: I never said that!

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Does the Attorney-General intend this court to become the Attorney-General's Court?

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Oh, no!

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Will the change involve an Act of Parliament? Further, what will be the magistrate's title? Will he be known as the Attorney-General's Magistrate? Finally, when will the change take place?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I think the Leader has got my remarks on the subject of the Police Magistrate somewhat garbled, if I may say so. I said that it was undesirable that the Magistrate in Charge of the Adelaide Court of Summary Jurisdiction (because that is what it is) should be called the Police Magistrate. He is not an officer or an adjunct of the Police Force, and it is generally considered by the profession, the police judges, and magistrates that it is not desirable that there should seem to be some close connection between the prosecution and the judiciary. The court should seem to be entirely independent of those who are bringing charges against accused persons—not that the magistrates are not independent: they are, indeed, independent. However, if we use the term "Police Magistrate", and if all the attendants in the courts are police officers, it may well seem to the public that a different situation obtains. This change has been made in some other places, and is strongly advocated here.

I think the announcement I made was welcomed by the judges, the magistrates, and the profession. The difficulty arose in obtaining an alternative title for the Magistrate in Charge of the Adelaide Court of Summary Jurisdiction because, here, certain matters of precedence and seniority amongst magistrates necessarily arose. If he were given a title that seemed to make him senior to magistrates who were exercising jurisdiction in the same area, but

who were senior to him in appointment, then difficulties could arise. Therefore, certain suggestions were made by the Local Court Judge as to the way around this difficulty. I was prepared to accede to those suggestions, as was Mr. Wilson, who has been extremely helpful in this matter.

However, the Public Service Commissioner obtained a report from the Crown Solicitor, which disagreed with the course recommended by the Local Court Judge and, in consequence, the Public Service Commissioner was not prepared to agree to the course that I intended to take under the Local Courts Act. If we could have done that, it would have cleared the way for the particular proposal on which there was general agreement. Unfortunately, this matter must remain as it is until a decision is taken concerning the intermediate court, when the position of other magistrates involved can be resolved. Then the way may be open to changing the title of the Magistrate in Charge of the Adelaide Court of Summary Jurisdiction.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I am interested to hear the hint in the Attorney-General's answer that we are to have intermediate courts.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Don't jump to any more conclusions!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: We shall await with interest the details of his plan. I am sure the Attorney-General will be able to settle this sticky problem of precedence in some way or other. I now refer to page 130 of the Auditor-General's Report, at which we see the staggering number of 4,100 convictions for offences against by-laws of the Corporation of the City of Adelaide, most of which, I surmise, relate to convictions for parking offences. I notice that the court collected £23,700, including about £8,200 in reimbursement of court fees.

Does the Attorney-General intend to recommend some separate traffic court, or some separate body that can deal with these matters, so as not to clutter up the time of courts of summary jurisdiction with matters that need not necessarily be dealt with in those courts?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not intend to do that, because, after all, these matters must be dealt with judicially. There is no other way of protecting the public if they are not guilty of a breach of the by-law. Some form of hearing must be provided, and to provide another court would not resolve this difficulty. In fact, the honourable member probably knows that at the Adelaide Police Court it is usual that these cases be heard in No. 4 courtroom, and that justices of the peace deal with these cases fairly regularly.

I do not think there is any more economical provision that would enable us to make it in any other way. Some better provision in the court building will be able to be made in due course when the plans that the Public Buildings Department has for the taking over of the whole of that building and the provision of additional courtrooms have been completed.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Will the total for the department be altered in this year's Estimates? Does the amount for which we are now voting for the Adelaide Police Court Department cover some other court that may be created in lieu of the Adelaide Police Court?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The alteration of the name of the court is purely an administrative act through the Public Service Commissioner's Department. It does not alter the fact that we have voted money to an identifiable department, and there is no difficulty on this score at all.

Line passed.

Country and Suburban Courts Department, £151,741.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Will no officer of this department be retiring or resigning this year, with consequent long service leave payments?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In some departments an amount has been provided in these Estimates for payments to dependants and officers retiring or resigning. Such an item was provided this year for the Adelaide Police Court Department. However, in this case it is not expected that any officers will retire or resign this year. The reason for the large sum last year was that there was the payment on the retirement of Mr. Hunkin, S.M., and a payment on the death of Mr. McCarthy, S.M., which payments required a much larger sum than that originally anticipated. I certainly trust and pray that no such difficulties will face us during the coming year. The loss of both those officers was tragic to the State.

Mr. Shannon: If the need for payments does arise, the Government will find the money.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Naturally.

Line passed.

Coroner's Department, £10,606.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I should like the Attorney-General to examine the salary now paid to the Coroner. As far as I know, it has lagged behind in past years, while the work of the department has increased with more and more inquiries being held. I know that the Coroner would be the last to

raise the question of his salary, and he would certainly not make an appeal about it. I believe that it is appropriate that his salary should be reviewed.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will certainly do that.

Line passed.

Registrar-General of Deeds Department, £238,399.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: For a number of years local government has requested that the Town Planning Department should come under the administration of the Highways Department. I understand that the Municipal Association of South Australia carried a resolution to that effect the other day. Over some years the previous Government had many requests for this matter to be considered, and we had virtually come to the conclusion that it was a matter requiring attention. The former Minister of Roads strongly advocated it for a long time, and the Attorney-General of the day did not object to it. It came down to a question of how to work it in without upsetting the Public Service Commissioner and others who are interested in these matters. The Municipal Association is also pressing for a similar amendment to the administration of town planning in South Australia. Town planning is largely a matter for local government. Although I recognize the right of the Government to implement what is considered to be the best practice in this matter, I can say that the Opposition would strongly support a move to place town planning closer to the Local Government Department.

I notice that there is an increased amount for clerical assistance in this department of £6,000, and I hope that the additional provision will lead to a more prompt consideration of applications, particularly for country subdivisions. We frequently have instances of farmers wishing to set aside a small part of their land to build a house for a son or daughter and to get a separate title for that land. Invariably it is necessary to get a loan for building purposes, and a separate title must be held. Frequently I have had complaints at the delays that occur. I hope that the attitude of the department will be that its duty is to facilitate applications if they are known to be not against the public interest. I hope the attitude will be that applications will be considered to be in order unless something is shown to be wrong with them. I believe such an attitude would gain the department much support. I can say quite

frankly that the department is not well considered in the country, chiefly because of the delays that have taken place, in some instances unnecessarily. In the cases to which I have referred the purpose of the subdivision has been to enable the working of the property to be maintained in the future. There is no reason why an acre of land should not be subdivided from a farm and a separate title acquired for the purpose of obtaining a loan.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: This question of an administrative change has been examined by the Government, but that change is not proposed to be made. While certain local government bodies consider that this would be an appropriate administrative change, some town planners do not, and in fact much work in the surveys necessary for effective town planning relates very closely to the surveys being conducted and to be conducted by the Department of Social Welfare. There are overlappings and difficulties of division in many Government departments, but may I say that local government bodies have freely acknowledged that there has never been previously the co-operation between Government and local government in town planning that there is right at this moment. I have gone out of my way, with the assistance of the Minister of Local Government, to approach local government organizations to have them involved in town planning work and to obtain their co-operation.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: They carried their resolution only last week.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I appreciate that, but I do not think the contrary point of view about administration has clearly been put to them, and at any rate it is not intended that that alteration be made. Regarding the second matter, certainly we will see whether it is possible to speed up the handling of applications. We expect that during this session a complete rewriting of the town planning provisions will come before Parliament, and I hope the new administrative provisions will enable the State Planning Office (as it will be called) to deal very much more expeditiously with applications.

Mr. COUMBE: Why is the Town Planner's Department to have a different title?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It will be known as the South Australian State Planning Office, and the change has been made as a result of considerable confusion caused because of the offices of the City of Adelaide and the Town Planner. The Town Planner will plan for the whole of the State, and his services will be available to country councils. The

title has been approved by the Public Service Commissioner, and will take effect in a week or so.

Line passed.

Department of Aboriginal Affairs, £726,474.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am concerned about the steep increase in the salaries of the head office staff. I do not know whether the office of Assistant Director has been filled, and this may have some effect on the increase.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Minister of Aboriginal Affairs): Just after my taking office, the Director of Aboriginal Affairs, at the request of the Public Service Commissioner, provided a lengthy and comprehensive review of the expected staff requirements for the department for a period of years. It was then agreed that certain changes were necessary, because there was a breakdown in servicing the work of the field staff. An Assistant Director was to be appointed; although this appointment had been approved by the previous Government, no appointment had been made. It is intended to proceed with that appointment; it is currently before the Public Service Board, and I expect an announcement shortly. It was also agreed that we would provide two research officers, in accordance with the requirements of the Act. Much of our work with people in the northern part of the State will depend on answers we get to effective research in the process of social change of the Aboriginal people. It was essential that adequate research staff be acquired immediately, and we have sought to fill the positions.

It has been difficult to obtain adequate staff, but this morning I signed a recommendation for the appointment of one research officer, and it is hoped to fill the second position shortly. The appointment of these three officers provide a substantial part of the increase. We also expect some increase in clerical and accounting staff and, if we take over Yalata in the foreseeable future, as we hope to do, we will need a staff to service the field operations. At present there are few members of the staff who do not work much overtime, and they remain in the department because of their enormous dedication. We had to provide a special building maintenance staff, otherwise we would have had enormous expense. An allowance had to be provided for medical and dental officers to attend to the welfare of Aborigines throughout the State, and provisions for payments to students while attending in service training courses, which were set up with the Children's

Welfare Department. It is necessary for these payments to be made to ensure that we will obtain qualified officers in the department.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I realize the work load, particularly for senior officers, has been heavy. The Director visited the United States of America, but I do not consider that the information he gathered there would help us in considering the problems here. The Director is able and enthusiastic, but I think the Minister will agree that there is a tendency for more rapid development to take place than is completely justified.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: The original Estimates have been considerably curtailed.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I do not wish to be critical of him, but the Director is perhaps trying to do too much too quickly, and he is perhaps finding that his staff requirements are falling far short of what he requires. The Minister referred to the accounting staff and to the department's responsibility for keeping trust accounts. I suggest that the proper thing to do would be to abolish these trust accounts. Indeed, I issued that instruction to the department two years ago. The Aboriginal people have always complained that we are keeping their accounts and holding their money when they should be handling this themselves. I agree with that, and I think that much work has been undertaken in the department in keeping trust accounts for individual people, which ought not to have been undertaken. If this practice stopped it would make more of the accounting staff available for the department's routine duties.

In respect of salaries and wages, I notice a net increase of £54,410. Will the Minister say what is represented by the increases in salaries in respect of Point McLeay, Gerard, Koonibba and Davenport Reserves?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The increase in wages is partly due to the fact that, of course, the sums shown include wages of Aborigines on reserves. They are not just staff payments.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Is this being offset by their payments for goods, etc.?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. The honourable member will remember that the sum fixed for the unskilled worker's wage on the reserve was about £2 below the basic wage, when it was fixed. The department's policy, as I then understood it, was that there should be some slight pressure to have people move off the reserves. I found, during the Ministers'

conference, that this was the generally accepted view in every other State, but it is not the view taken by this Government.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Why not?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We believe that if Aboriginal people wish to remain on the reserves they should be provided with the same conditions as are provided for people off reserves. In the long term they will be clearly told that their training must lead to economic employment, if they are to remain on the reserves, but during the training period we shall endeavour to provide them with conditions similar to those applying to people living off reserves. I discussed this matter with Aborigines' councils, and they agreed that any wage increases should be made in stages. Therefore, all the sums include an increase of £1 a year on the base rate wage for Aborigines on reserves. It is the department's policy to insist on employment of Aborigines on reserves, and they must have paid employment on or off reserves.

We have had some difficulties with people who wish to enter a reserve, simply because if we have more and more people on reserves it costs us so much more a year for every breadwinner that we take on to a reserve. The councils have been told that, as soon as they are prepared to make provisions by which they will control entry into the reserves in their own interests, we shall make the regulations to give them the power to enter reserves, and we shall take that power from the superintendents who do not want it. The provision for Point Pearce relates to salaries of reserve staff, wages of Aborigines, and a subsidy towards the salary of a kindergarten teacher. The sum charged to other accounts relates to a storekeeper, the store in that case having been taken over by the co-operative.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Has the store been enlarged?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Government store has been taken over, and it is being rented from us at a peppercorn rental. The butcher shop has not been taken over, but the honourable member will agree that this is a considerable step forward. The provision for Point McLeay relates to salaries of reserve staff and wages of Aborigines. During the year we may make some saving on this line, for we hope to declare Point McLeay an open village. The pressure on Point McLeay is less than it is on any other reserve. I hope that, with the creation of the land trust and with the developments at Port McLeay, including improvements in housing, we shall be able to

provide in the foreseeable future that it will be an open village, and the only responsibility of the department then will be to provide welfare staff. There could then be some saving on this line during the year but at this stage we cannot make the decision finally, or guarantee that this provision will be made this financial year. At Coober Pedy an additional patrol officer has been provided for. At Gerard provision is made for salaries of reserve staff and wages of Aborigines. The staff there has been slightly under strength previously. I believe these positions have now all been filled.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: They would be junior staff.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. At Koonibba there is again provision for salaries of reserve staff and wages of Aborigines. We are endeavouring to provide a welfare officer, but, unfortunately, the staff is rather down on its proper strength. Provision is made for salaries of reserve staff and wages of Aborigines at Davenport Reserve, which has had a considerable increase in staff. Under the previous Minister, a staff of five was proposed at Davenport. We are providing for not only the superintendent and his wife (whose work on the reserve is most valuable) and the storekeeper, but also the matron and assistant at the people's welfare centre there, in addition to the employment of Aborigines on the reserve. We have had to have much building work done at Davenport. Considerable improvements have taken place, and we have had to second building staff from other departments. Payments to Umeewarra, Yalata and Ernabella and other bodies refer to grants to special projects and not to grants for salaries. The payments do not cover all employees on these stations. The provision for general staff at the three non-Government reserves and for a children's home at Davenport is under the head office provision. I believe Ernabella Mission receives about £5,500 towards its staff from the head office provision.

Mr. RODDA: There are many Aboriginal families in my district, most of whom are assimilating and settling in well. However, in some cases they seem to have difficulties and need guidance as their homes are untidy. Can the Minister say whether it would be possible to appoint a welfare officer to be resident in the South-East?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: A welfare officer is assigned generally to duties in the South-East. I do not expect that it would be possible to appoint additional welfare staff to

this area. Previously far too much of the money for Aboriginal welfare has been spent on the part-Aboriginals in the southern part of the State. The most under-privileged people are in the North and West, and previously they have not received nearly the allocations received by those at Point McLeay, Point Pearce and the surrounding areas. In the expansion of welfare staff and the spending of moneys to bring people to use the ordinary facilities of society as quickly as possible, our expenditure will have to be concentrated in the North and West.

Mr. CASEY: I am pleased to see an increase of £8,370 provided for the purchase of houses for Aborigines. The total expenditure for this purpose this year is £74,500. Housing of Aborigines is taking place at Copley where Aborigines are settling down well. Can the Minister say where the money will be spent and how many houses are likely to be available?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I cannot give the exact information. We hope that there can be additional housing at Copley. We have bought every survey site available, and I think this is a good start in the area.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Some of the surveyed land would be more expensive than unsurveyed land.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I think the honourable member will agree that we did get one or two bargains. Housing for Aborigines is provided in various ways. We subsidize the purchase and erection of houses in some instances. In the North we have had experiments with various kinds of housing. Often housing has to be adapted to the kind of facility that Aborigines want, for instance, they may want a central fireplace, or they may want a wind break. We have had several prototypes prepared, and Aborigines are now showing considerable enthusiasm for purchasing these houses. Numbers of them have money of their own, and they get a subsidy from the department to assist them in purchasing a house, which money they pay back over a period. In some instances we have bought old houses in country areas for Aboriginal families on interest-free loans, where it seemed to us that this was a proper welfare provision. In other cases, houses have been purchased from the Housing Trust. The member for Victoria (Mr. Rodda) will be interested to know that we have just agreed to the purchase of a house in Penola about which he has spoken to me previously.

It is not possible to categorize, because we have so many different kinds of provision for

the purchase of houses for Aborigines. I should have liked this line to be very much bigger than it is, but there is a certain amount of financial stringency this year. However, I think the honourable member will agree that this figure will make a significant contribution during the coming year.

Mr. HEASLIP: The grants to Ernabella Mission, Yalata Mission, Umeewarra Mission and Nepabunna Mission show an overall decrease of about £7,100. In my opinion, those private missions have played a most important part over the years in helping Aborigines. Before the Government came in and did very much, those organizations were in the field in a voluntary capacity helping to assist the Aborigines in the remote areas. The Aborigines have been taught to tend flocks and to shear the sheep, to spin the wool and ultimately to fabricate clothing for themselves. In this respect, the missions are teaching the Aborigines something useful, and thus greatly reducing the Government's costs. I am at a loss to understand why these four items have been reduced. The actual payments on those lines last year were only about £8,000, yet this year they are to have over £7,000 taken from them, and this does not seem right. I agree that on page 79 under "Miscellaneous" the Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions is voted another £3,400. However, I cannot understand why these amounts have decreased.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: These grants are for specific and non-recurring projects. The grants last year were for specific projects that did not recur this year. During the financial year 1964-65 Ernabella Mission received special purpose grants (that is, apart entirely from the grants given to it under the agreement) totalling £2,600; Yalata Mission received special purpose grants amounting to £4,275; Umeewarra Mission received such grants amounting to £1,250; and Nepabunna Mission received similar grants totalling £250. These special purpose grants were in no way associated with the considerable sums expended upon routine assistance provided to the above missions each year. This routine financial assistance is not revealed at first glance, as it is included in the line "Head Office Provisions". The special purpose grant to Ernabella Mission during the year 1964-65 provided for the following projects: the building of four Aboriginal houses, £1,000 (they have all been built; I regret that they were not occupied as quickly as I would have liked, but they are there and the money has been paid for them); the purchase of a

cool room, £800 (that has been paid for); part payment of a subsidy towards construction of a school classroom, £627 (that is nearly completed); and minor grants, £173; making a total of £2,600. The part payment of a subsidy of £1 for £1 towards construction of a school classroom was estimated originally to amount to a total subsidy of £1,500. The £900 originally placed on the Estimates for this year as a special grant and subsequently removed was to be the balance of the subsidy for the classroom. We had the amount originally on the Estimates and we took it off. This proposed grant was removed initially because it was felt that negotiations could be made with the Education Department for subsidy there. However, when that did not eventuate, an investigation was made of the project, and a subsequent visit to Ernabella Mission has revealed that the classroom at present under construction is now expected to cost only £1,500 and not the £3,000 originally estimated. The pound-for-pound subsidy therefore is only £750 and not £1,500, and £123 will be provided this year to cover the balance.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: What is the total amount for Ernabella this year?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It will be £5,706 to Ernabella generally. That is under the Head Office provision, under "General salaries and wages" in the first general line.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: Is the department providing officers at Ernabella?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The department is paying officers at Ernabella, and also there is the specific salary of the nursing and welfare staff of £1,000 provided at Ernabella. That is paid to the nurse. Any additional amounts are provided in any emergency grants under the Miscellaneous line. In the same way Yalata will get £6,190, Nopabunna £247, and Umeewarra £493, and £12,636 will be paid to these missions under the general lines, as well as nursing and welfare staff, and payments under the Miscellaneous line. That is by agreement with the missions. The general payment to Ernabella under the agreement made by the previous Government was £27,000 during the years 1961 to 1964.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: That was for a special project, and apart from the general assistance grant.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We have not had a submission from Ernabella this year for a special project. We consider any increase in wages in the extra funds that they may expend. A special grant has been made to

Yalata this year to repair the shearer's quarters and water tanks. That was asked for and granted. Umeewarra asked for £1,500 for a cool room, but this has not been agreed to because a cool room has been provided on the reserve in the department's store, and we have asked them to use that facility. In the final Estimates a total of £13,250 is included under head office provisions to provide for routine mission expenses. A reduction in salaries has occurred at Umeewarra, because the department has a fully qualified matron employed there and provision for a part-time nurse at the Davenport Reserve is not necessary. The matron's services are available to the mission. The salary of a nurse (£1,000) and medical supplies (£1,436) are contained in the overall sums. In addition, the Education Department subsidized the salary for schoolteachers to the extent of £2,610 in 1964-65, but £3,470 has been estimated for the current year to subsidize the salary of an extra teacher. The missions have not had their provisions drastically reduced in any way.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am pleased to hear that, because recently I visited Ernabella and was impressed with the work of the mission. Perhaps the Attorney-General next year could group the Estimates for these missions so that the amounts to be spent could be followed easily. My information is not confirmed, but a lady closely associated with Aborigines has informed me that the Attorney-General intends to allocate land at Point Pearce to three individual Aborigines. I understand that this land was made available as a gift and was not to be operated by individuals, and also, the proposition has not been well received at Point Pearce. I am awaiting confirmation of this information before asking the Attorney-General about these matters. I agree with the Attorney-General when he says that the most under-privileged Aborigines in the State are those in the North-West. When I visited that area as Commissioner of Crown Lands, these people were completely tribal natives who rarely came in contact with civilization. I appreciate that we are trying to do in a few generations what has been done by white people over several thousand years. It was reported to me that about 60 per cent of the Aborigines in the North-West had bad eye diseases. I believe the main disease was trachoma, it is evidently contagious, and many children were affected by it. I believe a similar position existed at Yalata several years ago, and that an effort was made to remedy it. I am informed that, in some places, sectional diseases

exist, but it appeared to me that no medical services were available to a large area of the territory. First, will the Attorney-General consider sending sufficient medical officers into the Far North-West to undertake at least a sample survey of the diseases that exist? Secondly, will he say whether any truth exists in the rumour that Point Pearce is to be split up into three allocations to private Aboriginal land-holders?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I point out that there is no substance whatever in the statement that Point Pearce is to be cut up into three blocks and let to three individual Aboriginal families. I have never made any such statement or hinted at it. A Bill will be introduced this session to provide for the setting up of a land trust that will consist at the outset of three Aborigines nominated by the Minister. They will have transferred to them the unoccupied reserve land in those unsupervised reserve lands where the residents indicate that they wish to join the trust. A supervised reserve, other than administrative areas, including Government buildings, will be transferred to the trust when the council on the supervised reserve indicates that it wishes the transfer to be made, when it has taken a vote of people in three months' continuous residence on a reserve prior to the vote, and when those people have endorsed handing over the reserve to the trust.

The councils may then each nominate one member to the board of the trust. I have discussed this matter with the council at Point Pearce, and at a general meeting there. We do not intend to dispose of land at Point Pearce until the people concerned have had their say about what they believe should be the methods of disposition. When the trust is set up it will be able to alienate land, but only subject to the consent of the Minister. The trust will, of course, hold a freehold title, which will be subject to proclamation, but that is only in relation to the land under the regulations made in respect of reserves. In respect of the alienation, the new Act will provide that the trust is able to deal with lands. I expect that the alienation that will take place will be of those few pieces of land that are a decided liability. Regarding the trachoma, to which the Leader referred, I assure him that I will have this matter taken up to see what can be done.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I believe development in regard to Aborigines in the North and North-West of the State is most important because this is where the primitive

people reside, and they are the ones who are most in need of help. There has been a tendency to concentrate too much activity at Port Augusta. In the general provisions for salaries and wages an increase of £14,193 is provided for Davenport and an increase of £20,000 is provided in the general contingencies provision for this reserve. The general contingencies provision for Gerard Reserve shows a decrease. I believe there is every possibility of profitable expansion in production and training and so on at Gerard. Aborigines should not be concentrated together because this presents problems. Therefore, I do not think any increase should be made for major stations such as that at Port Augusta. Every endeavour should be made to increase allocations for housing, particularly in outside areas. More should be done for Iron Knob and Whyalla rather than concentrate development in Port Augusta. Wherever first-class facilities are provided, Aborigines tend to congregate and too much congregation in one place could eventually result in even a colour problem.

Line passed.

Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department, £1,143,390.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The honourable member for Burnside, who has been called out of the Chamber, has asked me to inquire about the sum of £21,000 proposed for Brookway Park, Campbelltown. Will the Minister give some information about this institution and explain the reason for the increase from £1,747 to £21,000?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Minister of Social Welfare): Brookway Park is a junior boys reformative institution, which was occupied only a few months ago and is now almost fully staffed. Unfortunately, very few institutions under this department are not under staffed. I visited Brookway Park about a fortnight ago and it is proceeding well. It is attractively built and laid out, with almost every conceivable facility provided. I imagine that the increased allocation is because of the fact that when it was opened it immediately filled and needed staff at full strength. A little strain is caused at the moment because insufficient space is available.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I wish to refer to Struan Farm, and what I have to say about it could apply to other institutions. In his report the Auditor-General sets out a table showing the number of children in each of these institutions and the net payment per child per week for 1963-64 and

1964-65. The cost per child per week at Struan Park is now £26 14s. 11d. On page 54 of his report, the Auditor-General states:

The average cost per child to Consolidated Revenue in 1964-65 was £981, compared with £833 in 1963-64, £846 in 1962-63, £831 in 1961-62 and £719 in 1960-61. Attention is again called to the high cost to the department of maintaining each child at certain institutions.

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

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

That the items "Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department" and "Attorney-General, Miscellaneous" be postponed and taken into consideration after the item "Transport Control Board".

Motion carried.

PREMIER, TREASURER, MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION AND MINISTER OF HOUSING.

Premier's Department, £92,672.

Mr. CUMBE: Under the item dealing with industries promotion, research, etc., is this the work of promoting and attracting industry that was previously done in the Treasurer's Department?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: As far as I know, most of this work in the last Government was done with the assistance of a Housing Trust officer. I have set up a Premier's Department for this purpose but there is still a liaison between a Housing Trust officer and the newly appointed departmental officer. Some correspondence has reached me from England and other countries. Exhaustive inquiries have been made in respect of industries. The correspondence with the Agent-General in England has been heavy recently, and only this afternoon I signed two letters providing information that had been sought. It is essential that a very capable officer be appointed to this position. I know that the present officer in charge is likely to be appointed soon to a much higher position in the Public Service, and the officer appointed to take his place will have to be equally as capable. In addition, it will be necessary that he receive at least the same co-operation as the present officer has received from the Housing Trust.

Line passed.

Treasury Department, £42,595.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I refer to the line "Budget and Research Officer (also Member, Supply and Tender Board, £250 per annum), Accountant, Administrative, Accounting and Clerical staff." The amount voted last year was £30,798, the amount spent was £29,618, and the amount proposed for this

year is £28,945, which is a reduction of £673. I believe that this group of officers is the most important group in the State, for it has the job of keeping the State's accounts and preparing the Budgets for the Treasurer. I was delighted to hear the Treasurer speak so highly of these officers. I know that over a period of years the number of Treasury officers has been reduced considerably, so that today we have fewer Treasury officers than we had when the Treasury accounting was only about £15,000,000 a year. As the whole Administration of the State depends ultimately upon Treasury control, I should like an assurance from the Treasurer that this decreased amount represents only some temporary matter and that the staff is not being cut down to the extent that there will not be sufficient control of the State's finances. Can the Treasurer explain the reason for the reduction of £673 in the amount provided in respect of the item I have mentioned?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: These salaries are payable in accordance with officers' classifications, awards and Public Service Board determinations and, in addition, there is provision for the increases of 1½ per cent in the margins. I would be the last person to attempt to reduce the number on the Treasury staff. Indeed, if the Under-Treasurer said that he needed additional staff, I would not hesitate to assist him, but I have received no such request. If further inquiries elicit additional information on this line, I shall convey that information to members tomorrow.

Line passed.

Prices Branch, £77,571.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: There is a reduction in the item covering the staff of the Prices Branch. Last year £69,000 was voted and £63,000 was spent. However, only £62,000 is provided this year and so, over a period of two Budgets, there is a reduction of £7,000 in the salaries of investigating staff. With the advent of decimal currency, it will be necessary to ensure that the public receive a fair deal in cases where exact conversion cannot be made, although in some instances traders will have to pass on the difference to the consumers. In view of the determinations and investigations carried out by officers of the Prices Branch, which result in price reductions in many instances, I should have thought that there would be an increase in the amount provided this year compared with the amount provided last year. Will the Treasurer explain the reduction and ask the Prices Commissioner whether the staff is adequate to deal with

problems of conversion? If additional staff is needed, will the Treasurer take active steps to provide it?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The department is being reorganized, and Cabinet yesterday approved the appointment of several officers who were recommended for positions by the Public Service Commissioner. These appointments will go before Executive Council this week. The Public Service Commissioner has been requested to ascertain from the Prices Commissioner the staff numbers and qualifications he requires. The previous Prices Commissioner received an emolument as chairman of a Government committee, but the present Commissioner has not been appointed to that position. I am awaiting a report from the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the grape industry. At present the Prices Commissioner does not receive extra payment for work connected with this industry. I do not know how many officers are in this branch, but I will get that information. I am sure that the department will work well in future, as the staff are settling down.

Mr. COUMBE: Can the Treasurer say whether the Prices Branch investigated the recently announced bus fares?

Line passed.

Superannuation Department, £75,832.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: What is the justification for the steep increase in the cost of wages for officers in this department? Is the Superannuation Department increasing its staff? Is it undertaking some new function?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: One of the contributing factors to the increase is the conversion to decimal currency that will take place early next year. Over £2,800 will provide for increases in expenditure owing to annual increments of salaries. Further expenditure is involved in additional stationery and new stencil plates required in connection with the decimal currency conversion, and in an amendment to the Act. A cash register also has to be purchased. Additional expenditure will be incurred in payments to dependants of officers, as well as in respect of commitments for Mr. Bowden and increased salaries for certain typistes. I do not think the increased expenditure is in any way unreasonable.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I accept the Treasurer's explanation but I point out that it is not consistent with the two reports he has previously given me. The amount for the Treasury Department, which has the problem of the conversion to decimal currency of the whole of the State, has been

reduced. A similar reduction takes place in the Prices Branch.

Mr. HEASLIP: The changeover to decimal currency will concern businesses throughout Australia. If the increase of 20 per cent in the Superannuation Department's allocation is because of the changeover, does this mean that all businesses will have to provide for a 20 per cent increase?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I resent the implication made that this increase is caused entirely by the changeover to decimal currency. I said that the increase was because of the changeover to decimal currency, an amendment to the Act and a reclassification of salaries. I am not responsible for increased salaries. An authoritative body makes these recommendations, and when the Public Service Commissioner intimates to me that the increases will be paid then I ask the Treasury Department to provide for them.

Line passed.

Motor Vehicles Department, £318,046.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am concerned with the steep increase in salaries and wages for this department, in addition to the 1½ per cent provided as a special adjustment. I understood that this department would probably benefit from the establishment of a computer in the Public Service and that before long its accounting would be substantially assisted by the automatic data machine. Does the line for chief clerk, supervisors and so on include a sum for those engaged in the collection of the ton-mile tax? If it does not, then where are they included? Would it be possible to give the Registrar of Motor Vehicles additional permanent staff to enable him to be less dependent on temporary staff and overtime?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: First, I should like to tell the Leader that with the approval of the Public Service Commissioner we have awarded officers of the department the three grace days in respect of the Christmas period. These grace days will be added to the officers' annual leave, thus bringing these officers into line with all other public servants. The Railways Department's officers are looking for the same consideration, but the railways is entirely different from other Government departments in that the railway operations cover 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Government has endeavoured to rent further accommodation from the Railways Commissioner, but the Commissioner has intimated that he wants all the available space and that in fact he would like the Motor Vehicles Department to vacate the building

entirely when other accommodation can be found. Certain sections of the department are using a stock company's building in Currie Street, accommodation which is more suitable than any they have had before. The decrease on one line is the result of fewer expected retirements, so the staff of the department is becoming more settled. Much work must be done by this staff and the Registrar is anxious that the alpha-numero system be introduced over a period of five years. Representations have been made to the Public Service Commissioner with a view to obtaining additional accommodation and a start has been made, consistent with the efficient administration of the department.

Line passed.

Agent-General in England Department, £67,604; Land Tax Department, £182,284; Stamp and Succession Duties Department, £66,978—passed.

Publicity and Tourist Bureau and Immigration Department, £339,194.

Mr. CUMBE: The Adelaide Festival of Arts has received wide recognition and I commend the Government for what is being done. Can the Treasurer say whether the £10,000 provided last year was spent just prior to June 30 of this year as expenses towards the next festival, or whether it was a payment in respect of the last festival?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Item No. 13 provides a further £10,000 for a festival grant and a special grant of £30,000 for further entertainment at Elder Park. A charge was made for admission to the festival fair at Elder Park on previous occasions, but admission to the next fair will be free. It suited the chairman to have this prepayment.

Mr. HALL: I am alarmed at the £7,786 reduction in subsidies towards swimming pools and sundries. The reduction is the same as the increase in subsidies to municipal authorities for development, and I wonder whether policy is involved, as otherwise it is a great coincidence. I am conscious of the need for swimming pools, particularly in the country, and I am grateful to the previous Government for subsidies made available to my home town. Balaklava is collecting money to build a pool to serve not only people in the town but the 500 children attending nearby schools. As I am associated with and have encouraged this effort, I should like the Treasurer to explain the reduction.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Subsidies are provided for swimming pools at Booleroo Centre, Bordertown, Burra, Iron Baron, Clare,

Jamestown, Kingscote, Cummins, Port Adelaide, Port Pirie, Riverton, Salisbury, Whyalla, Nuriootpa, Williamstown, Edithburgh and Cambrai, and the amount provided covers all applications received. This shows how competent Mr. Pollnitz is. When the member for Gouger is ready to apply he should discuss the matter with Mr. Pollnitz, or with Mr. Brooks, if he has an immediate request. If the application meets the requirements of the department, I am sure he will not be denied assistance.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Are there minimum safety standards to be observed before an organization or district council qualifies for the subsidy? I am reminded of this by an article in the *News* earlier this year about the banning of diving in hundreds of swimming pools throughout Britain because of the insufficient depth of water.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Cabinet believes that there should be a standard type swimming pool for which Government subsidies can be paid. If standard specifications and design were used the pools would be less costly. Country people would know the requirements, and it would not be necessary for them to engage professional people to draw up plans for these pools.

Mr. HEASLIP: For some time I have advocated the establishment of tourist resorts, particularly in the Flinders Ranges. Applications for assistance for swimming pools have been made by Wilmington and Wirrabara. Money that is being taken away from this line could well be spent in providing amenities, including roads and caravan parks at tourist resorts in the Flinders Ranges. I have made applications along these lines previously, but they have been refused.

The National Flower Day provision is increased by £2,328. This money will be spent in the metropolitan area, to the detriment of country people. Why has this line been increased, and why has the sum by which the provision for swimming pools has been decreased not been used in country areas that are clamouring for assistance?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The sum provided for swimming pools covers all applications received. If the honourable member wishes to see more swimming pools constructed in the country, particularly in his own district, and if he makes representations to the Director of the Tourist Bureau, I am sure the Director will fully consider them. Roadmaking is to take place at Windy Point in the district of the member for Mitcham

and £4,000 is provided for this very important tourist attraction. The allocation for National Flower Day will cover the expenses of a flower day to be held on March 16, 1966. About half the allocation will be paid to the Public Buildings Department for floodlighting exhibits. A flower day was not held in 1964-65. The floodlighting of buildings will be an added attraction at the Festival of Arts and will show oversea visitors what this State can do.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: What the Treasurer has said about applications for swimming pools is probably correct. However, in the past a sum has been included in the Estimates to meet applications that may arise after the original Estimates are prepared. About £36,000 is allocated for tourist resorts for subsidies to municipal authorities for development, and this is £7,786 more than the sum provided last year. This directly coincides with the reduction of £7,786 from the vote for swimming pools. The swimming pool vote previously went not so much to municipal councils as to district councils. Will the Treasurer assure me that "municipal" will include district councils? Some amounts of money spent through district councils on tourist activities have made a difference to the economic outlook of the community. For instance, a swimming pool and some small assistance to Quorn and the northern Flinders Ranges generally have improved the prospects of that area.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The provision is for payments to councils of subsidies on approved improvements to tourist resorts, so I accept "municipal" as including all councils. I recently received a deputation from Tumby Bay introduced by the member for Flinders (Hon. G. G. Pearson), as a result of which we appreciated the disabilities existing there. We were unable to make provision to assist them this year to improve their caravan park, as a result of which they were, apparently, losing tourist trade. However, there is an arrangement to assist them to the extent that, if they can get a guarantee by way of overdraft, next year they will get that subsidy that was promised them this year. We are doing the best we can to improve, wherever possible, existing tourist attractions rather than to establish new ones, which will need much capital expenditure. Some of them are not as well kept as they should be and they need to be improved.

Mr. COUMBE: Under "Subsidies towards swimming pools", I refer to the establishment

of a swimming centre in the north park lands. I appreciate the offer that the Treasurer has made on behalf of his Government to contribute one-third to the cost of this project but I doubt whether it will actually see the light of day unless this proportion is increased. Is the Treasurer prepared to increase this proportion; secondly, has he received any further information from the Adelaide City Council or any other municipalities regarding their willingness to proceed with this scheme; and, thirdly, if the money to be raised by these other bodies becomes available this financial year, in what way will the Treasurer make financial provision for this item?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I have not altered Cabinet's decision in this matter in any way, and I am not going to hawk around the proposition whether other councils will subscribe to this pool. I am not going to chase the councils. Even if they did come to the party between now and the end of June, the answer would still be that we could not possibly go beyond one-third of the total cost. To my knowledge, no further representation has been made by the councils concerned, and in any event there is a limit to what can be done. Any further application will be considered on its merits.

Mr. HALL: I accept the Treasurer's explanation that, if a district finds it can apply for a swimming pool subsidy this year because it has raised money more quickly than had been thought possible, it will receive a sympathetic hearing. I am pleased that there has been an increase in the allocations to tourist resorts, but I am disappointed at the lack of provision for beach improvements. I am not saying this on a political level, because I had been pressing the previous Government on this matter. The previous Government in its policy speech promised to spend greatly increased amounts on beach and pleasure resorts, and the previous Treasurer in reply to a question here said that he hoped to include a special line in the Budget for beach and foreshore development. He found himself unable to do that when he presented his last Budget, but in effect in his policy speech he promised to include such a line. No such line appears in this Budget, and we still do not have a special vote for beach improvements. However, this Government has established a committee to look into the improvement of waterways and foreshores, and I commend the Government for this. I believe that if that committee is properly constituted and properly used it can do enormous good. If it is to do good it will eventually have to

be backed up by money, and its results can be put into effect only by some work.

The Hon. G. A. Bywaters: That is understood.

Mr. HALL: It would have no effect if no money was coming to it. The committee's deliberations will take some time. However, I should like to see a special vote under this heading next year for foreshore development. Local committees will require subsidies and it will be necessary to spread expenditure over a number of years. It will be necessary to commence this new approach to foreshore development so that a result can be achieved over five or 10 years. Those who are endeavouring to improve the foreshores at St. Kilda and Port Broughton (with which areas I am associated) are doing much to help themselves and are not waiting for the Government to do it for them. However, they will be seeking a Government subsidy and I ask the Treasurer whether he intends to work towards a special vote for foreshore development in South Australia.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: This involves a big problem. For instance, I have requested my colleague, the Minister of Works, to ascertain the cost of joining the two points at Port Elliot in order to provide an extremely safe beach and an ideal place for people to view the surf life saving annual events. The elevation there provides a much better view than a flat foreshore area.

There is need for the improvement of the beaches generally and, although I do not know what the experts will recommend, I think common sense tells us that something in the shape of an arc built up with good solid stone or granite would provide not only a safe beach but also natural boat havens. This type of work could be done in stages of about 150yd. a year, and sand or cement would not be needed. What I have said could apply to almost every metropolitan beach. The case mentioned by the honourable member warrants consideration. It has not been forgotten and perhaps it will be mentioned in the next Budget. I hope we can do something to encourage councils to do this work not only for the present generation but for future generations.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, £6,987,161.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Last year £100,000 was provided for expenses of conversion and public loans and £93,371 was spent; this year the provision is £150,000. Conversions that the Commonwealth Government has to effect on behalf of the Treasurer this year amount to about £62,000,000 of which

nearly £2,000,000 is in London. My experience of London conversions has been a bad one; London is sometimes not a bad market for borrowing money but is an adverse market for conversions. On one occasion the terms were so adverse that at some difficulty we repatriated the amount back to South Australia. The provision of £150,000 on a conversion of £60,000,000 is only 5s. per cent. Will the Treasurer say on what basis the calculation has been made?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The terms and conditions of issue on conversion and the new cash loans determine the expenditure of this nature. The amount required can vary markedly from one year to the next, but the amount provided this year will give reasonable cover. I assume it includes the expenses of public loans this year.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I doubt whether the amount provided will cover the cost of conversion.

Mr. Hudson: Conversions were high last year.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Sometimes conversions are difficult; it depends on how they are held. Some conversions have to be met by part of the cash subscription of a new loan, because people will not convert. The sum provided last year for interest on trust funds and other moneys was £210,000. For this year it is £200,000, although only £192,000 was spent last year. There is thus a saving of £7,500. Will the Treasurer indicate the ramifications of that item?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I remind the Leader of the Opposition that the largest increase will be in interest and sinking fund payments in respect of Loan funds borrowed to finance capital projects. The interest alone is expected to be £21,300,000, an increase of £1,482,000, compared with an increase of £1,370,000 in the previous year. The increased interest will be due to greater borrowing funds outstanding and to the effect of higher rates both on new borrowings and on the conversion of previous issues. In the earlier part of the last financial year the loan rate advanced to 5½ per cent, and at the same time a sharp upward movement occurred in short-term loans. The interest-bearing balances were a little below expectations last year, but for the current year a slight recovery in these balances is expected.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Why has the part cost of administration of the Betting Control Board been increased?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Part of the cost of the administration of the board is provided under section 35a of the Lottery and Gaming Act.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Will the Treasurer explain the reason for the sharp increase in respect of the Loans to Producers Act provision?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The State Bank has authorized borrowing moneys as a semi-governmental authority, to relieve the Loan Fund of part of the responsibility of financing loans to producers. This provision is to permit reimbursement to the State Bank of interest costs arising from such borrowings, as well as the cost of administering the scheme.

Mr. HALL: In respect of the provisions relating to homes advances administration and Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement Acts, I am not familiar with all the details required by the lending authority of potential borrowers. However, I know of a case in which interest payments have been so great that the borrower could not cope with them. Apparently, a company will sell a house to a purchaser on the understanding that he will receive concession rates on temporary finance for a certain period, while application is made for a bank loan. I point out, however, that this concession rate can run out before the bank loan is available. Will the Treasurer say whether a specific approach is made to the State Bank or the lending authority concerned, when a building company sells a house to a person on the understanding that he will apply for a loan from that authority? Does the vendor obtain a guarantee from the bank that a loan will be granted? If this is not done then it is nothing more than a racket because people will be sold houses on the understanding that they will receive bank loans. In transactions where a house is sold on temporary finance and the agent gives an understanding that a bank loan will be available, can the Treasurer say whether it is usual for banks to have inquiries directly from the people concerned and whether the banks give an opinion of whether the loan will be available?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Last week I received a deputation from the Master Builders Association, particularly from those members concerned with housebuilding. I intimated to the builders concerned that I would endeavour to arrange a meeting with the

Manager of the Savings Bank of South Australia, the Manager of the State Bank and the General Manager of the Housing Trust. This meeting was held last evening in the Master Builders Association Hall, South Terrace. It was presided over by the Chairman of the Association, Mr. O'Neill. Questions concerning housing finance, which had been prepared by members of the organization, were asked. A typical question was, "Is the Savings Bank of South Australia under political control", to which the answer was, "No, the manager is there to carry out decisions of the board of trustees". I said that the trustees were responsible to safeguard the savings of the people, and this was accepted by the meeting. Borrowing money was mentioned and reference was made to fringe banking by hire-purchase companies. I referred to lending authorities: the Savings Bank of South Australia, the State Bank and, to some extent, the South Australian Superannuation Fund. A question was raised whether builders could get a number of applications through the banks easily. The answer was that each bank must deal solely with the building owner and not with the builder himself.

Last night a builder told me of a person who had invested his money and built his own house at Modbury. He entered into the contract, but things have gone so badly in his building operations that he is over £3,000 in debt and nothing can be done to rescue him and enable him to repair the house, which has deteriorated greatly. He has no money. All he can do is bulldoze the house down and commence again, with a debt of over £3,000.

Information and letters that I have received prove that the general position is grave. Most people buying a motor car probably obtain a 6 per cent flat interest rate, and they repay as much in the first month as they do in the 36th month. Such a contract rarely exceeds three years, so that at the end of that period the motor car becomes their own property if the payments are maintained. A house is a positive asset, and the average house now being built will become an even greater asset in five years' time than it is today, for it will probably cost more to build five years hence. These people are paying up to 10 per cent and 14 per cent flat interest, yet on a motor vehicle, which by comparison has a very short life, they can get a loan at 6 per cent flat. People selling houses at least should be obliged to advise a client to apply to a lending authority, such as a bank, for a loan, and the bank should be able to give an undertaking that in the event of those people taking temporary

finance for a period the bank itself will meet its obligation. Some protection should be afforded people.

Mr. HALL: This problem is not confined to new houses. I had the problem two months ago of a newly built house, but still a secondhand house, being sold to British migrants with a glib promise by the agent that it was easy to obtain a loan on secondhand houses, which, of course, it was not. Eventually I was able to help those people I referred to, very much to their pleasure and to mine. I do not know the solution to this problem, and I doubt whether the Treasurer does, but I am pleased that he is thinking of it. I suggest that if an agent sells a house to people who have been in the State for only three days the contract should be voided and those people should have their deposit refunded. They do not have it refunded at present. Those people pay interest rates for months, or perhaps a year or more, and when they have to move out only a small proportion of their deposit is offered to them because the house has to be resold. However, it is generally the selling agent who is wrong in the first place. Something should be done to make sure that this contract (which is made on the one hand by an agent who is well aware of the facts and on the other hand by people who do not know anything of the values here) is honoured.

Mr. Jennings: Refer it to the Land Agents Board.

Mr. HALL: The agent should bear the cost, if there is to be a cost, of those people moving out to other accommodation. I thank the Treasurer for his answer and hope that he can, perhaps through the banks, come to some arrangement whereby agents will sell not on glib promises but only on almost a definite assurance that the buyers will get their loans eventually.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Land Agents Board was set up to deal with an improper practice such as this. If a case of false pretences can be made out, it should be referred to the Land Agents Board. However, it is necessary to have the precise particulars.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The sum of £10,000 is granted to the Tramways Trust, and this has been the figure for some time. I am wondering whether the stage has been reached where there is no justification for the inclusion of this sum. When the new board took office, it faced an almost impossible task because of the run-down condition of the plant and equipment and the many obsolete assets. However, good management and Government

assistance have enabled the trust to be in an extremely good position today. The Auditor-General's Report shows, at pages 232 and 233, that the trust earned £2,949,350 in the year ended June 30 last and, after the deduction of certain charges (including interest charges on funds represented by unexpired capital outlay) and after making certain other adjustments, there was a net deficiency of £43,298.

However, I do not accept that that correctly represents the position of the trust, because an amount of £2,535,524, representing losses to June 30, 1964, was absorbed in the working expenses, whereas at the end of the year this had been reduced to £2,338,000, which represented an improvement in the position of about £200,000 for the year. That may have taken place as a result of the adjustment of £240,000 by way of apportionment of the National Debt Sinking Fund appropriation. The £10,000 provided this year will go towards working expenses, yet the trust has a surplus on working expenses. When some years ago £750,000 was provided towards working expenses, there was a deficit on this item. I do not object to the £240,000 provided from the National Debt Sinking Fund, but I doubt whether it is necessary to provide £10,000 from these Estimates, as the trust through good management is now in an extremely sound financial position. Will the Treasurer get a report from the Under Treasurer about whether it is necessary to continue this provision?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Government's contribution towards working expenses was reduced from £94,000 in 1959-60 to £10,000 in 1964-65, and a further nominal contribution of £10,000 is proposed this year. This provision is purely for emergency.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: But the Treasurer is more hard up than the trust is; that is my point.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Tomorrow afternoon I shall be asked to make another contribution towards the trust, which will still be down £170,000 despite increased fares.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: You used the term "Increased wages and service payments". Have employees received service payments yet?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I cannot answer that now. Service payments have become an industrial matter. Recently the Arbitration Court was considering one-man operated buses, but some evidence was given which resulted in the case being adjourned. Payments to employees generally and service

payments are involved, and as this Government has a policy of arbitration and conciliation there are certain matters that we cannot deal with until they have been determined. I will have something to say tomorrow afternoon about increased bus fares. Concession fares for schoolchildren on buses will not be a cheap proposition for the trust. The Under Treasurer has fully considered the effect of granting a reduction in fares for schoolchildren. On the question of entitlement cards and relative Commonwealth legislation, this Government will have to decide the issue, if nothing further eventuates. Is the Government to provide free travel for everybody in receipt of a pension? If we had to meet all such obligations as these, we should need much more than £10,000. It could well happen that people receiving a pension would be in a more advantageous position than people trying to raise a family on the basic wage.

Mr. QUIRKE: Regarding loans for houses, I have encountered people dealing with the Shylocks that we have all heard about. On one occasion a couple came to me, and I learned that they were paying interest on a temporary loan over six months at the rate of 27½ per cent but, when they approached the bank, it refused to make a loan. There should be ways of overcoming this sort of thing. An authority could be set up (and it need involve only an accountant and a typist) as a consultant for people desiring temporary finance. Ruthless lending authorities would then be able to advance money only if permitted to do so. A good accountant could almost tell at a glance whether a certain borrowing arrangement was reasonable, and such an authority could save many people from misery. I commend this suggestion to the Treasurer.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: We are building houses and flats at the rate of more than 12,000 a year. I have previously referred to the meeting I attended last night. The master builders' organization said it was appealing to its members to do the honest thing. As the honourable member knows, a Land Agents Board has been set up.

Mr. Quirke: I am talking about money lenders.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Would the honourable member be prepared to support legislation to provide that, before fringe banking

organizations made a temporary loan, the prospective buyer had to show a certificate that he was going to be financed by a lending authority such as the State Bank or Savings Bank of South Australia and that unless he produced this certificate he would not be able to get a temporary loan?

Mr. Quirke: That would be all right.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: This is not an easy matter to iron out. If we appeal to the fringe banking organizations would they be prepared to measure up to our requirements? We are prepared to investigate this matter through the Crown Solicitor.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: I refer to the provision for a repayment to a totalizer clerk to the value of tickets paid out incorrectly of £18. The error here is £18 but it could have been £1,800. On one or two occasions in recent years I have seen statements in the press that a totalizer clerk had made an error and appealed to the member of the public to whom he had made an incorrect payment to come forward and refund the amount of the incorrect payment, because unless that were done the clerk would have to make good the error. Is it the usual practice for a clerk to make good an error?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Payment was made by a totalizer clerk on two incorrect tickets. The correct tickets have not been presented for payment, and if they remain outstanding for 12 months from the date of the meeting the unclaimed dividends will be credited to revenue, and it is proposed to reimburse the clerk the loss he has borne.

Mr. McANANEY: Will the Treasurer give me some information regarding the provision for refunds account State income tax?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The refunds of State income tax, made by the Commonwealth Taxation Department, are recouped to the Commonwealth from this provision.

Line passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

REFERENDUM (STATE LOTTERIES) BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council with amendments.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 9.53 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, September 29, at 2 p.m.