

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, October 21, 1965.

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

### ASSENT TO BILLS.

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

Appropriation (No. 2),  
Port Pirie Racecourse Land Revestment,  
Referendum (State Lotteries),  
Associations Incorporation Act Amendment,  
Noxious Trades Act Amendment.

### QUESTIONS

#### WATER RESTRICTIONS.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: Yesterday, the Minister for National Development in the Commonwealth Parliament (Mr. Fairbairn) announced that water restrictions were likely under the scheme operated by the River Murray Commission. I notice, however, that the Director of the Engineering and Water Supply Department in South Australia (Mr. Dridan) does not agree with that contention. Admittedly, it has been a very dry season with lack of rainfall over the watershed of the River Murray system, resulting, naturally, in a decreased flow of water in the river. As this matter vitally affects the Upper Murray area, as well as the city of Adelaide and the pumping in the Mannum-Adelaide main, has the Minister of Works any statement to make about future restrictions under the River Murray Waters Agreement?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I am pleased that this question has been asked today. This morning I discussed this matter at some length by telephone with Mr. Dridan, one of the commissioners, and he assured me that, although no finality had yet been reached, the matter would be considered in the next few days. However, South Australia is not expected to be in difficulty as a result of any decision that might be made.

#### BEDFORD PARK TEACHERS COLLEGE.

Mrs. BRYNE: Can the Minister of Education say when the teachers college at Bedford Park is likely to start operations?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The honourable member was good enough to tell me that she was interested in this matter. The teachers college at Bedford Park will commence opera-

tions in February, 1966. The initial teaching staff will consist of five members, four of whom have already been appointed. The fifth appointment will be finalized shortly. The Vice-Principal of the teachers college will administer the college until the joint appointment of Professor of Education and Principal of the teachers college has been made. In 1966 the enrolment will be about 175 students, who will enter the "D" (secondary teaching) course and will do a full first-year course in one of the appropriate University Schools (School of Biological Sciences, School of Physical Sciences, School of Social Sciences, and School of Languages). The introduction of a "B" (primary teaching) course is planned for 1967. During 1966 the staff and student body of the teachers college will be housed in quarters provided by the university in the School of Social Sciences. The first stage of building operations (administration and lecture buildings) is expected to be completed in time for the transfer of the college to its own buildings at the beginning of 1967. The final building stage (auditorium, teaching practice building, gymnasium and student facilities building) is due for completion late in 1967 or early in 1968. It is expected that positions for additional staff will be advertised during 1966, so that full teacher training can commence in 1967.

#### ARTIFICIAL BREEDING CENTRE.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: During the Estimates debate I referred to the artificial breeding centre at Eden Valley, in my district, and indicated to the Minister of Agriculture that representations had been made by primary producers and by me for an extension of the service to nearby districts. The Minister said he would take the matter up with the Artificial Breeding Board and inform me in due course of the board's decision. Has he a reply?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: The Eden Valley subcentre operated by this board is somewhat different in nature from other existing subcentres. It is not situated in what could be described as an intense dairying area. Establishment of the subcentre sprang from application made by the local Dairymen's Association Branch which was well substantiated by information given by the Agriculture Department regarding the nature and extent of infectious infertility problems of local dairy herds. The depth of support for a subcentre

in the area was established by postal questionnaires, publicity in the agricultural and local press, and finally by a well advertised public meeting held at Eden Valley. After the minimum requirement of 1,000 cows had been over-subscribed and the location of each farm from which applications had been received had been plotted on a map of the district, it was possible to delineate what was expected to prove the most economical working area. Farms which did not fit into this scheme were notified by explanatory letter which, in all cases, appears to have been accepted with good grace.

It appears strange that, despite all the publicity given in the press prior to the initial opening of this subcentre and the advertising of a public meeting at Eden Valley, no applications were received or voices heard at the meeting requesting the service be extended to cover Light Pass. From the figures presented of 21 farms and 126 cows, it is unlikely that Light Pass would have been included in the subcentre. Since Eden Valley is the board's first venture into the less intensive dairying area, it wishes to examine critically the economics of this venture over a reasonable length of time. Only then can the board determine the most logical method by which further progress can be made in this area and possibly in that adjoining, including Angaston, Greenock and Williamstown. It is felt that any increases in the service at present being given should be by adoption of more farms within the confines of the existing operational area.

#### TRAVEL CONCESSIONS.

Mr. LANGLEY: Recently, a constituent of mine whose daughter attends the university informed me that, whilst travelling on a bus during the primary school holidays, she was told that her pass was not valid. Can the Premier, representing the Minister of Transport, say whether university students over 19 years of age receive a pass or a travelling allowance, and will he have these matters investigated?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I do not know of any provision covering students over 19 years of age but I shall inquire further and inform the honourable member.

#### PANORAMA BUS SERVICE.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: My question concerns the extension of a bus route in my district. A letter dated September 23 last, signed by a number of pensioners living in Ontario Avenue, Panorama, states:

We, the pensioners occupying flats in Ontario Avenue, are finding it increasingly difficult to get to transport and the shopping

centre. Would you please present our signatures to the M.T.T. regarding the extension of the present bus service?

On receipt of that letter, I wrote to Mr. Harris (General Manager of the Municipal Tramways Trust) and quickly received a reply from him stating, in part:

The trust has had this matter under consideration for some time but has been advised by Mitcham council that the roadways in the area are at present unsuitable for bus operation.

The concluding part of the letter states:

Until suitable roadways are available, the trust is unable to proceed further with its investigation into the possibility of providing the requested service.

As a result of that letter, I wrote to the Town Clerk of the Corporation of the City of Mitcham asking whether the roadways could be put into better condition so that they could carry the buses, and Mr. Hayes replied, enclosing a copy of a letter written by him to the M.T.T. on June 10, which concluded:

The council decided that provided satisfactory arrangements can be made for the Government to contribute materially towards the cost of the necessary strengthening of Eliza Place, O'Neill Street, Alma Street and Stella Avenue to make such pavements suitable for bus traffic, the council would approve the running of M.T.T. buses along the above route.

It appears, therefore, that the cause of the hold-up in the extension of the bus service in this area is the council's lack of money to put the roads into a condition to carry the buses. The council has asked for Government financial assistance to do this and, although that request was made in June through the M.T.T., no reply has been received. Will the Premier consult the Minister of Transport to see whether money can be made available for the council to do this work?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Yes.

#### PORT PIRIE WHARVES.

Mr. McKEE: Recently, I asked the Minister of Works a question about the provision of lighting facilities on the Port Pirie wharves while shunting was in progress and I was told that the situation was under review. Has the Minister a report on this investigation?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The latest information I had was that an officer of the Harbors Board was visiting Port Pirie, I think last week, and that a report was being prepared. I shall do my best to get an early reply for the honourable member following the officer's visit.

## UNIVERSITY AUDIT.

Mr. NANKIVELL: During the Budget debate I drew attention to the fact that the University of Adelaide received this year £5,622,000—£5,082,000 under the Miscellaneous line of the Minister of Education, and £540,000 under the Miscellaneous line of the Minister of Agriculture. I quoted from page 67 of the Auditor-General's Report, which states:

Pursuant to the Institute of Technology Act, 1892-1959, the audit of the books and accounts of that activity is carried out by the Auditor-General and the financial statements are published in this report. The books and accounts of the university and the Waite Agricultural Research Institute are not subject to audit or review by the Auditor-General as is the case with universities in other States.

I asked whether the University of Adelaide was the only university in Australia whose books were not audited by the Auditor-General's department. As £5,622,000 of public moneys is being allocated to the university, does not the Minister of Education consider it proper to bring this university into line with universities in other States?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Because of the honourable member's earlier question on the Estimates, I have inquired and found that the University of Adelaide is the only university in Australia the accounts of which are not audited by the appropriate State Auditor-General. I understand, as a result of my inquiries, that the accounts of all other universities are audited by the Auditor-General either under a Statute or by arrangement. I shall be pleased to examine the position in South Australia, and will inform the honourable member later after considering it.

## CITRUS COMMITTEE.

Mr. CURREN: Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether the report of the committee inquiring into the citrus industry, tabled in this House last Thursday, has been considered by Cabinet, and, if it has, whether Cabinet intends to introduce legislation to give effect to the recommendations in the report?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: This report has been considered by Cabinet and the drafting of legislation in accordance with the report has been approved. It is realized that this is an urgent matter, particularly with respect to the next citrus season, and it is hoped that the drafting will be completed soon. I have been very pleased at the reaction from citrus growers and others interested in the industry concerning the nature of the report. I have had no adverse reports, but I have had telephone calls and written and personal communications

from all sections of the industry indicating that they are happy with the report. I think this is a tribute to those who have been associated with the committee and who have spent much time travelling extensively and making exhaustive inquiries. I am sure the report will be a great asset to the industry as a whole. Further, it is of interest to the people outside this State. I have already received requests from people in other States for copies as soon as the report is printed. I have promised to supply copies because, as the situation in this State affects people in other States, they are naturally interested in the report. In view of the extensive work put into this report by the committee, I appreciate the comments made by all sections of the industry.

## CLARE COPPER MINE.

Mr. QUIRKE: There has been very great interest in the northern areas of this State in the discovery of large quantities of copper which, even though it is low-grade, I understand is quite workable. This will give a great impetus to the interest in mining in these areas. At the time of the uranium investigation, when everyone was running around with geiger counters looking for uranium, I heard that uranium was often associated with copper, and I drew the attention of the Mines Department to a little-known copper mine at Clare. The Mines Department had no knowledge of this mine, although large quantities of high-grade copper had been taken from it. One "bubble" alone extracted 1,000 tons of high-grade ore. It occurred to me that that was an extrusion from the ground, made when the earth was molten, the same as at the Burra and Kapunda mines, and that there could be a lode there that had never been investigated by deep mining or drilling. Will the Minister of Lands seek from the Minister of Mines a report on this mine, which is about three miles north-west of Clare and which is right away from the main road, with a view to having it probed, if the Mines Department thinks it worth while, to discover whether there is anything there?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Yes.

## SEWER REGULATIONS.

Mr. BURDON: With the installation of sewerage at Mount Gambier, the stage has been reached where connections are now being made by householders to the mains. Solid wooden floors in bathrooms, laundries and toilets in some private buildings will have to be removed and replaced by cement floors to comply with the Health Act and the Sewers Act Regulations.

I understand that in Victoria wooden floors are permitted. In view of the expense involved in replacing wooden floors (which these days can be cheaply sealed with certain materials), I draw the attention of the Minister to regulation 277 under the Sewers Act, which provides:

Unless the engineer otherwise orders or directs, any existing fixture, fitting or appliance not in accordance with these regulations and which is inoffensive and not likely to cause an insanitary condition, may continue in use.

Will the Minister of Works ascertain whether this regulation can be applied sympathetically in Mount Gambier in respect of properties having wooden floors?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I assure the honourable member that the department is not anxious to create additional expense in this respect but, of course, the Health Act must be considered. I shall take up this matter, call for a report, and see whether we can (without of course contravening the Health Act) accede to the honourable member's request.

#### RURAL ADVANCES GUARANTEE ACT.

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Premier a reply to my question regarding the availability of funds under the Rural Advances Guarantee Act?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: It is pointed out that the Rural Advances Guarantee Act does not, in fact, provide the moneys out of Government Loan funds but provides for the Government to guarantee, in prescribed circumstances, advances secured from ordinary financial institutions. It was anticipated that a borrower would ordinarily have obtained the requisite funds from his own bank. However, as Parliament was advised a couple of weeks ago, the total guarantees approved in 18 months amount to 71 cases totalling £860,299. Of these, the State Bank provided for 46 cases totalling £573,569, the Savings Bank 23 cases totalling £273,430, and one private bank two cases only, totalling £13,300. The drain on the State Bank resources has been such that, to enable it to cover reasonably its other requirements, it has had to operate the general rule of restricting individual advances where practicable to £15,000, and to suggest to applicants who are customers of other banks that they put their propositions to those other banks. If the State Bank were to be enabled to meet all applicants, whether established customers or not and without limit, the Government would have to provide the bank with considerable supplementary Loan funds. At the present stage this cannot be afforded, in

view of the pressing requirements in respect of Loan funds for hospitals, schools, housing, waterworks, etc.

#### WHEAT.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: In 1949, rust-resistant wheats were made available to South Australian growers and, until last year, these proved to be virtually immune to all the known strains of rust then extant in South Australia. Last year, however, the wet and prolonged spring produced new strains of rust that were active in many parts of the later districts of the State. Indeed, the State only narrowly averted a serious reduction in yield and quality resulting from the appearance of these new strains of rust. I know that the Agriculture Department, Roseworthy College, Waite Institute and other interested parties are endeavouring to back-cross resistant wheats with the more prolific varieties in order to produce new strains. Unfortunately, as this is not likely to be a prolific season, the results of the sowing this year may be curtailed. However, if a wet summer occurs there will be a heavy demand for these wheats next year. In view of these facts, will the Minister of Agriculture bring down a report indicating what possibilities exist for the distribution of new rust-resistant strains for sowing in the coming season by selected growers around the State?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Yes.

#### GRADERS.

Mr. CASEY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question regarding the possibility of a departmental repair shop at Leigh Creek?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The departmental report states:

Consideration has been given to the suggestion by the honourable member that a workshop be established at Leigh Creek, but it is considered that there would be little real advantage in the proposal and the cost of establishment of a workshop and associated facilities at Leigh Creek would not be warranted. When plant has to be brought back from remote areas such as the Birdsville Road or Oodnadatta there would be little difference in the total time that the machine is out of action whether the workshop is at Leigh Creek or Crystal Brook. The honourable member is correct in stating that two of the graders on the Birdsville Road have recently been out of action. In each case the engine had to be removed and for one grader a complete engine reconditioning was necessary which had to be done in Adelaide. In the other case repairs to some parts had to be done in Adelaide and, in consequence,

in neither case would there have been any appreciable difference in the time taken to get the graders back into service whether the workshop was at Leigh Creek or Crystal Brook. A replacement grader was made available for work on the road while the repairs were being made. The Crystal Brook workshops carry out overhauls and repairs to plant on all northern roads under the control of this department, and a workshop at Leigh Creek would be convenient for only portion of this work. The duplication of facilities at Leigh Creek with the cost involved and the difficulties in obtaining staff is not considered to be warranted and it is considered that the present arrangements are satisfactory for the conditions.

#### EYRE PENINSULA WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: Can the Minister of Works inform me when the re-laying of the pipes between the Tod River reservoir and Cummins will be completed and when it is expected that a recommencement will be made on the Lock-Minnipa work?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I am not in possession of the facts at the moment but I will call for a report, and advise the honourable member when it is to hand.

#### PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Can the Premier say what further legislation the Government intends to introduce this session before Christmas?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: At the moment I am unable to give as much information on this matter as I should desire. With the assistance of honourable members, I intend to introduce this afternoon legislation affecting road and railway transport. However, I shall endeavour to give a firm indication next Tuesday of legislation likely to be introduced.

#### CAVAN RAIL CROSSING.

Mr. HALL: I refer to the Cavan rail crossing over the Port Wakefield Road, on the southern border of my district. The southern portion of that road is being duplicated and reaches almost to this crossing in a northerly direction. I understand it is undecided whether the road shall continue across the line or whether an overway crossing shall be built. This matter is of growing urgency because of the increasing volume of traffic on the Port Wakefield Road from country areas and people living along the Salisbury Highway travelling to and from Adelaide each day. I understand (I have experienced it myself) that there is a great hold-up when shunting operations are in progress at this crossing. Will the Minister of Education get for me from his

colleague, the Minister of Transport, a report on whether a decision has been reached about the type of crossing at Cavan and when it will be constructed?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Yes.

#### ROLLING STOCK.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I understand the Premier has a reply to a question I asked last week in which I drew attention to the new type of rolling stock being manufactured by the New South Wales Railways Department, specifically mentioning the aluminium-body wheat hopper waggons.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Railways Department is not at present in need of more waggons for the movement of bulk grain. However, when the time comes to build more waggons for the carriage of bulk grain, consideration will be given to the advantages and disadvantages of building hopper rather than open waggons, and in particular to building hopper waggons with aluminium bodies.

#### AFFORESTATION.

Mr. BURDON: Has the Minister of Forests a reply to a question I asked on September 29 about afforestation?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Yes. The House will recall that on that occasion the honourable member referred to a report by Mr. McGrath. I did answer the question from my own personal viewpoint but undertook to get the opinion of the Conservator of Forests on this, which I now have for the honourable member. It states:

I have to advise you that, as proposed, I have taken up the matter of Mr. McGrath's reported statement with the Director-General of the Forestry and Timber Bureau (Dr. Jacobs). Dr. Jacobs agreed entirely with my view that your statement in the House gave proper and adequate emphasis to the importance of forestry in the south-eastern portion of South Australia, and he went on to say that he felt that perhaps some incorrect impressions in regard to Mr. McGrath's statements had been drawn locally from a newspaper report. It is, of course, an undeniable fact that forests close to markets are, other things being equal, of greater value than those situated further away, but this should not in any way be taken as writing down the undoubted and continuing success of our own forests in the South-East, and I am now quite satisfied that Mr. McGrath did not intend to convey any such idea. I know personally that Mr. McGrath, while Acting Principal of the Australian Forestry School at Canberra, repeatedly made use of our forests as an example to his students of wise national planning.

TINTINARA CROSSING.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I have a letter that was directed to my colleague, the member for Mitcham (Mr. Millhouse), from a Rev. Charles Dadds of Clarence Park. It refers to an accident he had on the overway crossing about three miles south of Tintinara on Dukes Highway. He draws attention to the fact that this is a very dangerous crossover, as it involves a right-angled bend of the highway across the railway line. He claims that his inquiries reveal that in the last few years some 500 accidents have taken place on the bends approaching this overway bridge from either side. I negotiate this crossing fairly frequently myself, but I was not aware that there had been so many accidents on it. I know that the crossing is appropriately sign-posted. However, I can appreciate that accidents could easily happen there. Will the Minister of Education ask his colleague, the Minister of Roads, to investigate this matter to see whether there is any way of improving the approaches to this overway bridge in order that this serious run of accidents, both minor and major, may be prevented in future?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Yes.

PARAFIELD GARDENS ESTATE.

Mr. HALL: As the Minister of Housing knows, the Housing Trust is building in the Parafield Gardens area adjacent to the Salisbury Highway, and next year about 550 living units will be occupied. In that substantial estate there is planned a sizeable recreation area, which I believe will serve it admirably. However, I understand from local residents that the trust does not intend to develop this area or contribute towards the cost of its development. I understand that in other areas such as Elizabeth (and I believe it is the intention at Ingle Farm) the trust assists in the development of recreation areas within the estate that it is building. Will the Minister investigate this matter with a view to ensuring that if the trust has assisted in other estates in providing development for recreation areas it will also do so at Parafield Gardens?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: As the honourable member knows, the Housing Trust has already assisted. However, I will take up the question and ascertain whether it is possible for the trust to give further assistance in this area.

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CROWN LAND LEASES.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: From time to time the Lands Department surveys and allocates Crown lands for the benefit of applicants desiring to take up farming. I do not know whether it is the normal practice over past years, but I am informed that recently the initial lease has been of a temporary nature, or a miscellaneous lease. One of the successful applicants has asked me to ascertain whether or not in due time, provided he fulfils the requirements of the temporary licence, he will be granted a perpetual lease. Can the Minister of Lands say if that is his general intention, or that of the department?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: A temporary lease is primarily one where there is a certain amount of work to be done. It is issued as a miscellaneous lease and, if certain work is carried out in compliance with the conditions, consideration is given to the granting of a perpetual lease. So, if the applicant to whom the honourable member refers does what is intended to the satisfaction of the department, I have no doubt that he will be granted a perpetual lease.

RATE RECOVERY.

Mr. NANKIVELL: My question is addressed to the Minister of Education, representing the Minister of Local Government, but the matter may also concern the Minister of Lands. The District Council of Coonalpyn Downs has brought to my notice that, although it thought it had the right under the Local Government Act to claim on estates for unpaid rates, it has found that this does not apply in the case of Crown lands. The specific case referred to me was in relation to the bankrupt estate of Messrs. Angus, sections 34 and 35, hundred of Jeffries, who held a developmental lease. The council found that, although it had received no rates for four years, it was unable to claim on the bankrupt estate for the overdue rates, because the land was Crown land and the property could not be sold in order to recover the amount due. Will the Ministers look into this matter to see whether there is anything that can be done by way of amendment of the Acts to enable councils in these circumstances to recover some, if not all, rates due when occupiers of Crown lands become bankrupt?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Yes, I shall look into the matter.

LYELL McEWIN HOSPITAL.

Mr. HALL: I have been told by a constituent that the lack of a resident medical

officer at the Lyell McEwin Hospital (Elizabeth) is causing concern in the southern areas of my district. I understand that one person took along a child that had been injured (not seriously, but the child had sustained a cut) and was surprised to find that there was not a resident medical officer in attendance. I am not aware of the reason for this. Will the Attorney-General obtain a report on this from his colleague, the Minister of Health, and have the matter taken up with a view to the appointment of a resident medical officer, if that is at all possible?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I shall obtain a report from my colleague and let the honourable member have it.

#### BARMERA POLICE STATION.

Mr. CURREN: Can the Minister of Works give me any information regarding work approved for the Barmera police station?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The honourable member was good enough to inform me that he would ask that question and I found upon checking that approval had been given for the provision of shower and toilet facilities in the cell block at the Barmera police station at a cost of about £1,000.

#### RENMARK HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. CURREN: Is the Minister of Works able to say whether approval has been given for carrying out certain work at the Renmark High School?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: As I knew that the honourable member would ask this question, I have ascertained that approval has been given for the provision of improved lighting and the re-wiring of the main building at an estimated cost of £1,400.

#### TATIARA BY-LAWS.

Mr. NANKIVELL: The Tatiara District Council is anxious to know what progress has been made in considering certain by-laws it has made relating to the Town Planner's zoning of the township of Bordertown. Can the member for Port Pirie, as Chairman of the Subordinate Legislation Committee, say whether his committee has received these by-laws?

Mr. McKEE (Chairman, Subordinate Legislation Committee): I do not think that these by-laws have been dealt with by the committee yet.

#### ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOLS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: On October 12, in reply to my question concerning assistance given to independent, non-Government schools in this State, the Minister of Education referred to assistance given in the provision of capital required for new buildings at church schools. I understand that he has further information concerning financial assistance given in respect of capital works and in respect of furniture and equipment. Will he now give that information to the House?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The point in question relates to assistance in the provision of capital required for new buildings at church schools. The State Bank may, with the approval of the Treasurer, make an advance for the purchase of land, or for the construction of buildings, or for enlarging buildings, or for the purchase of furniture or equipment for use in boarding schools, provided that reasonable preference in accommodation is given to students whose homes are in the country. The advance from the State Bank for the purchase of or construction of land or buildings is not to exceed nine-tenths of the reasonable cost and is repayable over a period not exceeding 40 years. For the purchase of furniture and equipment the advance is limited to half the reasonable cost and is repayable over a period not exceeding 12 years. In each case the interest charged is not greater and is sometimes less than the current rates charged by the State Bank for guaranteed overdrafts.

#### POTATOES.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Last week, and I think the week before, I asked the Minister of Agriculture several questions about the price of potatoes in this State, and in his reply (I think he quoted from a report from the Chairman of the Potato Board) the Minister said that there was a shortage of potatoes in South Australia. Since that report was made public, several growers have seen me and telephoned me to say that for the last three or four weeks they have been trying to sell their potatoes in South Australia, but on many occasions the board has told them there is no market for potatoes and not to bring them in. One grower, Mr. Teakle, told me yesterday that he was so annoyed by this, particularly in view of the information given in this House, that he went to the *Advertiser*, which on Tuesday published a statement by him to the effect of what I have just said. Yesterday he was telephoned and told to bring his potatoes in today. There seems to be some conflict between

the information the Minister was given, and gave in this House, and the position as represented to me by a number of growers. Can the Minister say anything that will show what the true position is or, if he cannot do that now, will he seek a further report from the Potato Board to see whether or not there is, in fact, or has been in the last month, any scarcity of potatoes in South Australia?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: As stated earlier, there has been a shortage of potatoes in this State. However, some potatoes from the Hills area and the South-East have been held by growers; two railway truckloads were brought to Adelaide from the South-East without the board having had any knowledge that they were there, the board thinking that supplies in the South-East had been depleted. I do not know of the individual case the honourable member referred to, but a buyer resistance to potatoes was set up because of the price, as many housewives naturally bought only new potatoes that were coming in slowly from the Adelaide Plains area, and particularly from Virginia. With more new potatoes coming in, the position has now improved and there has been a decrease in price. It is known that many potatoes that are held deteriorate towards the end of the season, and there is a buyer resistance to this type. Although I do not know the circumstances of the case referred to, I know that there is deterioration with some potatoes held for several months.

I said earlier that it was hoped to amend the Act so that quantities of potatoes in this State would have to be declared. This amendment would have to be agreed to by Parliament, but it would be a good idea to have it because at present the existence of potatoes not known to the board earlier is revealed at the end of the season. Although there have been many complaints in this State about the high price in recent weeks, I have obtained figures from New South Wales and Victoria to compare with the figures in South Australia, and I would have had them with me had I known this question would be asked. These figures show that the South Australian price was considerably lower, although the wholesale price in this State appeared high compared with that in other States.

#### FAUNA CONSERVATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS (Minister of Agriculture) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Fauna Conservation Act, 1964. Read a first time.

#### ROAD AND RAILWAY TRANSPORT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

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

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Road and Railway Transport Act, 1930-1964.

Motion carried.

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

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I move:

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

Its object is to restore co-ordination of transport in the State. In 1930 a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into and report on the State railway system. One of its terms of reference included an inquiry into "the causes of the heavy and increasing losses in the railways". One of the main causes decided on by the Commission was road motor competition by carriers and private vehicles. Evidence tendered showed that the motor operator found his greatest field of activity between towns connected by rail and, generally speaking, in commodities most highly rated in the railway classification, thus weakening the power of the railways to carry wheat, coal, etc., at low rates.

The annual losses on the railways, deriving from the uneconomic competition of motor vehicles plying for hire regularly on routes parallel to the railways, were estimated to be between £100,000 and £200,000 a year. Considering the purchasing power of money in those years, the economic loss to the community was considerable. As a consequence of the Commission's deliberations, legislation relating to the control of road transport by the Transport Control Board was enacted. In a subsequent Royal Commission report in 1938 the Chairman of the Transport Control Board claimed that during 7½ years of road control railway revenue had benefited by traffic diverted from roads to the extent of about £1,125,000.

The Royal Commission constituted in 1947 stated in its report, when referring to intrastate transport: "The co-ordination of the various transport agencies operating within the State with the object of evolving a duly integrated transport system is essential." It follows, therefore, that to implement such a policy it would be necessary to have some sort of transport control. Transport control in South Australia in the past was administered under the provisions of the Road and Railway



Transport Act. This method established controlled routes and diverted the freight to the railways in most circumstances in respect of these controlled routes. It established co-ordination of transport by licensing carriers to operate between country centres and the metropolitan area. The Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act of 1963, and the Road and Railway Transport Act Amendment Act, 1964, abolished transport control and even though some licences exist until 1968 the roads are, in effect, now free for all carriers.

This State is now the only State which does not exercise control over transport. Control in Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania is exercised by limiting road transport, while in New South Wales and Queensland transport is allowed to operate in competition with the railways, but on the payment of substantial fees. Statistical information shows that, although the State's percentage of population to the national total is slightly increasing, the percentage of State railway gross earnings to the total of all States is falling. Furthermore, the average earnings a net ton-mile of freight fell from 3.8d. in 1962-63 to 3.69d. a net ton-mile in 1963-64. This was the lowest figure of all States. (Victoria registered the lowest figure in 1962-63, with South Australia next.)

The Government knows that the previous system of transport control was not popular in South Australia. The unpopularity did not arise from any question of the integrity of the members of the Transport Control Board at any time, but from the application of the Act whereby licences for operation on controlled routes were issued on a restricted basis, and only the licensed carrier could operate on the controlled route for which he was licensed. This, together with directions that goods should be carried by rail where a rail service was available, apparently came up against the Australian desire of freedom of choice—theoretically a good thing, but not necessarily so in practice.

The Government has carefully considered the manner in which transport control should be reinstated. The alternatives are a restricted system as previously operated or an open system whereby permits would be readily available but where a fee would be payable when road transport was operating in competition with the railways. After mature consideration and after considering methods of control in other States, it has been decided that what I shall call an "open" system—based on readily available permits associated with the payment of a ton-mile fee, calculated on carrying

capacity, when competing with the railways—is the one most suitable to this State. The permits will be available at the Transport Control Board's head office and in appropriate country centres, most likely through a police station or local court staffed by a public servant. There will be certain classes of goods exempt from any fee and varying scales up to a maximum of two cents per ton-mile in respect of other goods. The fee will apply in respect of journeys over all or any part of a controlled route, with exemptions in the following circumstances: (a) for journeys completely outside the 25-mile radius of the General Post Office where a total distance of 50 miles will not be exceeded in competition with rail; (b) for journeys outside the 25-mile radius of the G.P.O. where use of combined road and rail would exceed by more than 50 per cent the mileage by road direct; (c) freight transported to and from the nearest rail point; (d) any item which, because of its size, the Railways Department confirms inability to handle; and (e) journeys within the 25-mile radius of the G.P.O. except in respect of any goods which may, as a result of a board order, be restricted to rail transport only. A nominal fee of \$4 for a permit current for up to 12 months or \$1 for up to one month will be payable in respect of permits which will be issued to authorize transport by road in respect of exemptions (a) to (d). The legislation will come into operation after the introduction of decimal currency.

Goods which by nature of their perishability or other special circumstances should be carried by road will be exempted from any charges whatsoever, under the provisions of section 3 of the principal Act. It is envisaged that exemptions will cover: bees and apiarists' equipment; crushed rock, gravel, sand and earth filling required for road construction or repair being conveyed to the site of such roadworks; fresh cream; fresh fish; fresh fruit and vegetables (other than hard vegetables); grapes being carried from vineyards to distilleries or wineries; Her Majesty's mails; plants, seedlings, trees; poultry; rabbits; whole milk; all classes of exhibits being carried to and from agricultural shows; goods required for roadworks being conveyed from a country depot to the site of such roadworks within a 30-mile radius of such depot; and any vehicle being towed or in any other way moved otherwise than under its own power from a place where it has become immobilized due to accident or mechanical breakdown to a place of security.

In the administration of the Act, due regard will be had to the policy of decentralization of industry. Where small secondary industries are established in the country, according to the merits of the case some exemptions from charges will be granted in the cartage of raw materials, and in the distribution of finished products in circumstances where the use of rail has disadvantages as against road transport, such as comparative cost and the need to meet rush orders at times when a rail service is not available. If it is argued that this is not co-ordination of transport but solely taxing of road transport, I make it clear that in the Government's view it is co-ordination between the main sources of transport—rail and road—whereby steps are taken to channel movement of freight to rail where adequate rail facilities exist and where the railways are competent to carry such freight. It is on this basis that exemptions and the scale of fees will be determined. As I said before, the old form of transport control was not popular, but under these proposals road

transport will be free to operate without the licensing of individual carriers for certain nominated areas.

The benefits to be received from this legislation will be in increased railway earnings. It is not expected that the fee involved will produce revenue in excess of £200,000 per annum. It is expected, however, within the first full year of operation railway revenue will increase by £1,000,000, half of this increase being clear profit. The position should improve still further in subsequent years. It is possible to administer the Act in the way proposed by making the operative sections of the Act those relating to the issue of permits instead of the licensing sections. It is also proposed to extend control to the ancillary carriers, the majority of whom operate vehicles of such a capacity that they do not even make any payment in respect of road maintenance contributions.

A check by inspectors of the Transport Control Board has revealed the following figures on two roads in respect of ancillary carriers:

Location.	Date.	Time.	2-8 tons.	Over 8 tons.
Glen Osmond . . . . .	28/4/65	9.30 a.m.—4.30 p.m. . . .	151	16
	29/4/65	7.00 a.m.—12.30 p.m. . . .	49	17
Cavan . . . . .	28/4/65	9.30 a.m.—4.45 p.m. . . .	201	15
	29/4/65	7.00 a.m.—12 noon . . . .	120	19

All other States have for many years found it necessary to control the ancillary carrier, and action in this direction in South Australia has for a long time been recommended by the Transport Control Board and the Railways Commissioner. The Royal Commissions that inquired into State transport services in 1938 and 1947-51 were firmly of the opinion that, in the public interest, the ancillary carrier should be controlled. The 1947-51 Commission did not recommend control at that stage because of the labour and materials shortages following the war years. It did envisage, however, that the ancillary carrier should be controlled as soon as post-war conditions were stabilized.

It would be fair to assume that if the Commission reported today it would come out strongly in favour of ancillary vehicles being controlled. Ancillary vehicles having a carrying capacity not exceeding four tons will be exempt, as will primary producers' vehicles having a carrying capacity not exceeding eight tons in circumstances where primary producers are carting produce of their own land or goods required for personal use or use on their own property. A further provision in the

Bill is that the revenue derived from the issue of permits will, after the deduction of administration costs, be paid into a Railway Improvement Fund to be used either for meeting railway deficits or for capital improvements such as rolling stock, both freight and passenger. This will give some flexibility and opportunity to make improvements beyond those possible within the limited Loan funds available.

Capital investment in the South Australian Railways exceeds £60,000,000 and present railway losses are approximately £3,600,000 per annum. The Government has a duty to see that this large investment is utilized to the best advantage and to take all possible steps to reduce losses. Whatever can be done in this regard is to the benefit of every citizen in South Australia, as he is the one who finally has to meet the bill for these losses. It must be said that past Royal Commissions have recognized that the State has a duty to take all proper steps to safeguard public investments in railways, and to do this the Government is of the opinion that transport control must be reinstated. To illustrate my remarks I table statements giving comparisons for : (a) Mean

population, each State and Australia since 1953-54; (b) Gross earnings for each State railway system for 1963-64; and (c) Australian railway gross earnings and South Australia's percentage thereof and population percentage since 1953-54. I ask leave of the House to have those statements included in *Hansard* without their being read.

Leave granted.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I now deal briefly with the various clauses of the Bill itself. Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the Bill on a day or days to be fixed. Clause 4 strikes out the definition of "hire" in section 2 of the principal Act and inserts a new definition of "operate" which will include all forms of carriage of passengers or goods whether for hire or reward or other consideration or in the course of any trade or business, thus bringing the control of ancillary carriers within the provisions of the Act. It is considered that without the control of ancillary carriers satisfactory co-ordination of road and railway traffic cannot be satisfactorily achieved. Clause 5 (a) will clarify the position regarding the removal of household furniture. The intention of section 3 was undoubtedly to exempt the carriage of household furniture on removal from house to house by a householder, but as drafted it could have the effect of exempting the carriage of household furniture purchased from a store. Paragraph (d) of clause 5 will exempt the carriage of goods within a 10-mile radius of the General Post Office and also the carriage of passengers or goods for hire on any route within 10 miles of the boundaries of any town proclaimed by the Governor. Clause 5 (b), (c), (e) and (f), clauses 6, 7, 8, 9 (a), 10 (b) and 14 (c), which may be taken together, will give the Minister some control over the operations of the board making it a requirement that in the exercise of its powers the board will generally act only with the Minister's approval. This is considered desirable, it being the policy, as honourable members know, of this Government that the administration of State affairs should be subject to the oversight of Ministers of the Crown responsible to Parliament.

Clause 9 (b), (c) and (d) are consequential upon the inclusion of a general definition of "operate" in section 3 of the principal Act which covers the carriage of passengers or goods for hire or reward or in the course of any business. Clause 9 (e) provides for a minimum fine of £25 for a second or subsequent offence in relation to the operation of

unlicensed vehicles on controlled routes. Clause 10 (a) removes from section 17 the provision that in granting licences the board must give preference to applicants already carrying on business as carriers. It is considered that it might be desirable to leave room for new entrants into the transport industry rather than extend the licences of existing operators. Clause 11 inserts a penalty into section 18c of the principal Act which requires a holder of a licence or permit to produce it on demand; while this section constitutes an offence, it does not appear to provide any penalty.

Clauses 12 and 13 will remove references in the principal Act to licence discs and disc fees. While these provisions may have been of some value when comparatively few vehicles were operating under the control of the board, it is considered to be unnecessary under present-day conditions. Many permits are issued for short periods, and it is not practicable to supply the owners with discs prior to commencement of operations. Hundreds of permits are issued annually for as short a period as one day. In any event, the fee of 2s. 6d. a disc does not meet the cost of administration. Clause 14 of the Bill, by paragraph (a), removes the limitation of £25 upon permit fees, but in this connection I draw attention to paragraph (c) which empowers the Minister to give directions to the board with regard to the issue of permits. Paragraph (b) provides for a minimum penalty of £25 and a maximum of £200 for a second or subsequent contravention of a provision of a permit, this provision being in line with that relating to operating a vehicle without a licence in section 14 as amended by clause 9 (c).

Clause 15 amends section 25 (1) (b) which requires the board, before granting a permit, to satisfy itself as to the state of the roads over which the vehicle is to be used and also as to the necessity to meet the requirements or convenience of the public. There will be exempted from this requirement cases where a person applies for a permit to use a vehicle for carriage or delivery of his own goods or goods sold. Clause 16 removes sections 27f to 27q inclusive dealing with payment for use of roads by unregistered vehicles: these sections were held to be invalid some years ago. Clause 17 will exempt Tramways Trust vehicles or vehicles licensed by the trust for the carriage of passengers within areas which are subject to the control of the trust. Clause 18 relates to section 30 of the principal Act

## (A) MEAN POPULATION, EACH STATE AND AUSTRALIA, 1953-54 AND 1959-60 TO 1963-64.

Year.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Northern Territory.	Australian Capital Territory.	Australia.
1953-54 .. .. .	3,405,414	2,422,839	1,300,464	785,981	630,705	309,416	15,930	29,595	8,900,344
1959-60 .. .. .	3,796,452	2,819,650	1,478,129	933,619	717,316	344,111	24,573	50,013	10,163,863
1960-61 .. .. .	3,875,921	2,893,417	1,503,703	957,136	729,770	350,077	25,673	55,232	10,390,929
1961-62 .. .. .	3,948,380	2,959,167	1,526,959	980,108	745,805	356,686	26,566	62,433	10,606,104
1962-63 .. .. .	4,015,463	3,021,792	1,551,304	998,971	764,426	362,111	27,604	69,217	10,810,888
1963-64 .. .. .	4,086,489	3,090,956	1,573,410	1,020,098	782,203	366,187	30,061	77,229	11,026,633

## (B) GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS: GROSS EARNINGS (a) AND AVERAGE EARNINGS PER NET TON-MILE OF FREIGHT, EACH STATE, 1963-64.

State.	Gross Earnings. (a) £'000	Average Earnings per Net Ton-Mile of Freight. d.
New South Wales .. .. .	101,244	4.05
Victoria .. .. .	46,339	3.70
Queensland .. .. .	42,130	4.62 (b)
South Australia .. .. .	14,748	3.69
Western Australia .. .. .	17,301	4.39
Tasmania .. .. .	2,834	5.41

(a) Excludes government grants.

(b) Excludes Queensland portion of uniform gauge railway.

## (C) GOVERNMENT RAILWAY GROSS EARNINGS (£'000).

Year.	All States.	S.A.	S.A. % of Total Revenue all States.	Population S.A. % of total population.
1953-54 .. .. .	166,461	12,718	7.64	8.83
1959-60 .. .. .	188,836	12,758	6.76	9.19
1960-61 .. .. .	202,187	13,870	6.86	9.21
1961-62 .. .. .	201,243	13,924	6.92	9.24
1962-63 .. .. .	205,397	13,836	6.74	9.24
1963-64 .. .. .	224,646	14,748	6.57	9.25

concerning proof of a licence. The amendment will enable permits to be proved in the same manner as licences. Clause 19 repeals the existing section 37 which established a Transport Control Board Fund, which has been closed for some time. It is proposed, however, that the new revenue of the board should be paid into a railway improvement fund to be applied by direction of the Governor in Council to current or capital railway expenditure. The last clause of the Bill, namely, clause 20, which is the most important one, repeals the sections included in 1963 and 1964 respectively which virtually removed transport control throughout the State. The effect of the amendment will be to re-establish control along the lines of the original Act.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### MAINTENANCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Adjourned debate on the question "That this Bill be now read a second time", which Mr. Millhouse had moved to amend by leaving out all words after "That" and inserting in lieu thereof:

"The Bill be withdrawn and redrafted to provide, *inter alia*, for the repeal of the Maintenance Act, 1926-1963, and its re-enactment in an amended and simpler form."

(Continued from October 12. Page 2074.)

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Minister of Social Welfare): To conclude my remarks in reply on the second reading, I want briefly to refer to some points made by honourable members that I have not yet dealt with. The member for Flinders raised the question of preliminary expenses, as provided in the Bill. The provision is rather wider in this measure than in the Act and follows the provisions of the uniform measure proposed by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General. I agree that some limitations on preliminary expenses are too great in the present provision, and, in consequence, there is an amendment on the file. However, we have endeavoured to adhere to the provisions of the uniform Bill as far as possible. I think the amendment will overcome any major difficulties involved.

As to the standard of proof of paternity in affiliation cases, I will not agree with the honourable member that this is unsatisfactory in the Bill. Before we adopt the proposed provision (which is the provision in the uniform Bill) I discussed the matter in some detail with Mr. Elliott, Q.C., an eminent counsel in

South Australia who is very experienced in this field, and he agreed that the provision provided all the safeguards that could reasonably be prescribed and at the same time would allow a court reasonably to come to a conclusion on a paternity issue. He had no objection to the drafting of the present clause. As I understood the remarks of the honourable member for Flinders, part of his objection related to the provision for *ex parte* orders. I agree that it is unwise to have *ex parte* orders providing for non-variation for a specific period. Any *ex parte* orders should be subject to variation upon application, because they could work an injustice otherwise and, in fact, an amendment is on the file concerning this matter.

If I may turn to some further remarks made by the honourable member for Mitcham, he protested that there was an inadequate explanation of three pages of amendments contained in the Bill. The three pages to which he refers form a simple code that is easy to understand and I see no reason to simply repeat the provision that members could understand by reading the Bill. There is no necessity for extra explanation, unless there is something beyond the provision of the Bill that needs to be explained to members, and a simple reading of this provision was as much as we could put forth in an explanation of those sections.

The honourable member has objected to the definition of "near relative", which he considers is too broad. With great respect to him, however, I cannot agree. There are cases where it is proper for people, within the definition prescribed in the Act, to pay something towards the maintenance of relatives. I see no reason for adopting the attitude that there is no family obligation beyond the members of the immediate family, either parents or children. In some cases, there may be good reasons why grandchildren, having received substantial benefits from grandparents, should contribute to the maintenance of the grandparents in due course, and the court has a discretion in this matter. It has to be satisfied, and the standard laid down leaves the court an extremely wide discretion indeed to do what it thinks proper in the circumstances.

The honourable member has objected to the payment of employees by the Minister. I do not know why, because that is the position at the moment. People who are not members of the Public Service can be employed in the department and a simple approval given by the Minister, and, obviously enough, some people will be employed by the department from

time to time who will not be eligible to become members of the Public Service.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: What employees will they be?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Gardeners, laborers, and people of that kind.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Not professional people?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No, the professional people are in the Public Service and are appointed in the normal way, through the Public Service Commissioner, so this relates only to those people who are not members of the Public Service. The honourable member has objected that there is no adequate definition of "social welfare" in the Bill, but I do not see any necessity for defining the term. It is a broad concept generally known to welfare workers these days. Although I have seen in journals some articles by learned social scientists who talk about social welfare, I have never seen a definition propounded. I do not see that there is any great necessity to put it in this Bill. Why have some narrow definition? It must be clear to honourable members what we intend basically by social welfare.

The honourable member has objected that the report of the Director should be detailed. Well, I have no objection to an amendment that will prescribe specifically the matters to go into the Director's report, although I do not see that there is any great necessity for it. Other measures on the Statute Book do not detail what is to be provided in the reports of public officers tabled in Parliament. In fact, since the Chairman of the board, the Public Service head, will draft the report to Parliament and as he will provide the material for it, one can expect that the same kind of report will be tabled under the new measure as was tabled under the old legislation. I cannot see that there is the slightest likelihood of there being any difference but, if the honourable member insists on spinning out the matters to be contained in the report, I have no objection.

The honourable member has complained about provisions regarding the property of old persons and he has asked why we consider a power of this kind should exist. Many cases show that the provision of this power is vital to the welfare of many old people in South Australia. Members who have to deal with old people in this State know that many of them are in privately conducted homes for aged people that are conducted in an endeavour to make a profit out of a payment from a pension and it proves extremely difficult for friends or

relatives of the persons in some of these institutions to find out what is happening to them, sometimes to see them at all, and certainly to find out what has been done about their assets. There have been cases where writs of habeas corpus have had to be issued out of the Supreme Court in order that people could get in touch with aged persons in some of these places.

Mr. Millhouse: I would not object if this power were exercised only by the authority of a court. That should be sufficient.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No, I do not think it is. The provision in the Bill is that we should be able to investigate so that a report may be made to the court under the Aged and Infirm Persons' Property Act. It is possible for us to make the complaint to the court. In many cases we need to have the information as to the nature of the situation of the old people and the nature of their assets before an application can be made to the court. We have to be able to show some *prima facie* basis for such an application, and until we have some means of investigating we cannot get that basic information. That is why in some cases there has not been an application under the Aged and Infirm Persons' Property Act, but instead it has been necessary to get a writ of habeas corpus, which is an expensive and complicated procedure, as the member for Mitcham knows, in order to get the information to put before the court. That is why this provision has been written in. It is not designed to provide anything in the way of an intrusion on people, but where allegations are made to the department from time to time we must have some means of finding out whether the allegations are correct and soundly based. This is the only way I can see that this can be effected. If the honourable member has amendments which will provide us with the means of remedying a real ill at present, and which will safeguard the people about whom he talks, I shall be happy to consider them.

Mr. Millhouse: My own view is that you could only have the power on an order of the court. I can see the difficulty you refer to, but I think it would be preferable to work out a procedure so that there is an order of the court before an investigation is made.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It is difficult to get a court order without providing evidence on oath. In many cases, how do we get that, unless there has been an investigation to establish some facts that can be put before the court to get an order? This is the grave difficulty here. I have discussed this with the Public

Trustee and with the Chairman of the board to see whether we could find a way of remedying a situation which, in many cases, has become acute. This is the only way we can foresee. If the honourable member has suggestions for safeguards, I shall be happy to see whether we can provide them, but the safeguards he suggests will defeat the provisions. If he suggests that we should have safeguards with orders for entry only given on the authority of the Director or the Minister in a particular case, I have no objection. I am not certain how otherwise we could provide safeguards.

The honourable member complained about the question of repayment of relief, and complained about the present procedures of the department in invariably requiring that when people apply for public relief they have to sign an order for repayment of the relief. I am opposed to that being done, but there are difficulties in doing anything other than to provide that these authorities may be given. I originally examined the possibility of providing that repayments of relief should only be made on a complaint to the court, but that would place the department in an impossible position, as in many maintenance cases maintenance is spasmodic, people are going on and off relief from week to week, and one could not have, in the many varied cases, a series of complaints to the court. It would be cumbersome and expensive to do that. All authorizations for repayment of relief are revocable at any time, and what I propose to do is lay down a new form of authority that will make it clear to the recipients of relief that they have that protection. It is intended that there shall be a revision of the relief scale and a revision of the means tests applied, and that the terms upon which we decide these days to recover relief will be altered.

The necessary review is being done at present, as our relief payments are being affected by provisions and changes in Commonwealth social services, and anomalies are arising on the present relief. We must urgently revise the scale and terms on which relief is given. I believe that the terms of the present Bill are proper, but I believe that the procedures previously adopted need amendment. I assure the honourable member that details of these procedures will be given to the House so that honourable members may scrutinize the policy of the department, and that the basis upon which relief is given will be publicly known. In his references to the drafting of the Bill, the honourable member made a serious allegation as to my wide powers, but this allegation

was rather ill-based, if I may say so. The effect of new section 162a, enacted by clause 105, has been misrepresented to the House by the honourable member. The new section provides:

No person shall keep or conduct a place as a children's home in which more than five children under the age of 12 years are at any time received, cared for, maintained or trained apart from their parents or guardians unless he is the holder of a valid licence in respect of such place granted to him under this section and he complies with such terms and conditions (if any) as are specified in the licence or are prescribed.

In his criticism of the section the honourable member said:

I do not know whether the Minister meant this to happen, but it gives him the power to close down any junior boarding school in the State, and that is a power even he would find too sweeping.

Later he said:

It is obvious that, if one looks at the definition of "children's home" earlier in the Bill, this would cover a junior boarding school for either boys or girls. I do not know whether the Minister proposed, expected or meant to take the power that he takes under this new section, but if he did, I think it is far too sweeping. Why on earth he should have the power to close down the boarding school of the preparatory school at St. Peter's College or at Prince Alfred College or at any of the girls' or other boys' schools I do not know. I suspect it is an example of sloppy drafting.

I did not draft this Bill, as the honourable member will know.

Mr. Millhouse: The responsibility is yours.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, and I take it. It was not sloppy drafting and I entirely endorse what the draftsman did.

Mr. Millhouse: I will go quiet on that, actually.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am pleased to hear it, because the honourable member did not read the section correctly. I have to clear this up because, unfortunately, this has been publicly reported.

Mr. Quirke: That's right, turn him on the grid iron.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not wish to be unpleasant to the honourable member. If I used to the honourable member the terms that are on this sheet I have before me I might be being a bit uncharitable. If the honourable member had referred to the definitions of "children's home" and "home" in the Bill he would have observed that "children's home" is defined as a home, and "home" is defined in the Bill as:

—“home” means any establishment or place intended or used for the reception, care, maintenance, support or training of destitute, infirm, necessitous or neglected persons or for the reception, care, custody, detention or reformatory treatment of children, but does not include a private family residence, a school, hospital or lying-in home, or any child-minding centre or creche . . .

It will be seen that the Bill does not confer power on the Minister, nor did the Government intend, expect, or mean to take the power to close down any school.

Mr. Millhouse: Under proposed new section 19 (1) (f) the Director has almost as much power by way of supervision, hasn't he?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not think he has nearly as much power as the honourable member has suggested in the second reading debate.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: Would this be a diversion?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I think so. The supervisory powers provided for the Director in certain places in this Bill are necessary. Many of the provisions of the Bill are designed to prevent abuses which do not exist in this State now but which have certainly developed in other countries and some other States. There has grown up a great deal of trafficking in children in other places, and there have been many cases of undesirable institutions in other places. It is necessary that we have some sort of knowledge and surveillance of what is going on.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: The fact that we have not got that position is surely to the credit of the present board.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In relation to that matter, the board has very few powers at the moment over these further things, and that is why there are to be amendments to the Bill to provide different powers from those that the board has. If it were not for the change of power to the Minister, the board would want to have these powers over such matters as have developed elsewhere. It is not so much a matter of paying a tribute to the board. I am not suggesting that there is any fault on the part of the board; it is just that the social conditions arising elsewhere could give rise to these unfortunate developments which have not so far occurred here but which, as this community grows, are likely to occur. In consequence, we have to take great care. At the moment there is increased pressure on the department about children, about obtaining children for adoption and the like, and it is necessary to take the greatest care that

people do not traffic in children. There is some trafficking in children now across State borders, and in some other parts of Australia undesirable advertisements have appeared. We do not want that sort of thing here; we want to see that we prevent it and that children are properly in the care of people who can discharge their responsibilities to those children. The extra provisions of the Bill are designed for that purpose. I commend the measure to the House and ask honourable members to support the second reading.

Mr. Millhouse's amendment negatived.

Bill read a second time.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Minister of Social Welfare): I move:

That it be an instruction to the Committee of the whole House on the Bill that it have power to consider:

- (a) a new clause enabling a court of summary jurisdiction, when making an order for the periodic payment of a sum by a husband for the maintenance of his wife, to include in that sum an amount reasonably necessary for the support of such of the children of the family as are under her custody and control; and
- (b) a new clause relating to the compellability of officers of the department to give evidence or produce documents in legal proceedings.

The new clause mentioned in paragraph (a) is necessary to cater for certain of the objections that were raised to the provisions of the Bill after it had been introduced and the second reading explanation given. The new clause, however, cannot be provided by simple amendment to the Bill. The new clause relating to the compellability of officers of the department to give evidence or produce documents arises from the fact that since the Bill was introduced the practice has grown up of issuing a subpoena to the Chairman of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board to attend before courts and produce not only the records of the department as to maintenance paid to the department but the whole of the department's correspondence with the parties. Since it is necessary for the Prosecution Branch of the department to conduct prosecutions for deserted wives in most cases, it is sometimes necessary for officers to get confidential instructions. If the wife had gone to a solicitor, her communication to him would be privileged, but her communication to the department is not—and normally she has to go to the department because she cannot afford a solicitor. It is improper that what would normally be privileged communications in relation to instructions to the department to prosecute should



be brought before the court, and it is improper to have the Chairman there. The proper thing is simply to produce the records of the department in correspondence with somebody else or those in regard to maintenance. To provide that that be so in future and to provide for the proper officer to attend, we have had to introduce this new clause. I apologize for having to do so at this stage, but this practice arose only after the Bill was introduced.

Motion carried.

In Committee.

Clause 1—"Short titles."

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Many clauses are extremely long and contain lengthy new sections. I wonder whether, Mr. Chairman, in view of the intricacy and complication of this matter, you are prepared to take each new section as though it were a separate clause. I point out that one clause is of 30 pages.

The CHAIRMAN: I suggest that we look at the position later when we reach these clauses.

Clause passed.

Clauses 2 to 6 passed.

Clause 7—"Interpretation."

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Minister of Social Welfare): I move

In the definition of "uncontrolled child" after "guardian" to insert "appears or".

This makes a small grammatical alteration to the definition of "uncontrolled child".

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Mr. Chairman, will the passing of this amendment (which I do not oppose) preclude the Committee from discussing an earlier part of the clause?

The CHAIRMAN: It will, unless a decision is made by the Committee to recommit.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I desire to ask the Attorney-General—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member asked whether carrying this amendment would preclude any amendment or discussion about an earlier part of the clause. The carrying of the amendment will not prevent discussion, but it will preclude another amendment being moved.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I desire to ask the Minister for information about the definition of "home". Depending on what he says (he being the chief law officer of the State and able, therefore, to give opinions) I may wish to move an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is in order.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I refer to the definition of "home" and particularly to the exceptions to it. Portion of the definition states:

. . . but does not include a private family residence, a school, hospital or lying-in home, or any child-minding centre or creche in respect of which a person is the holder of a current licence issued by any local government authority pursuant to a by-law made under the Local Government Act, 1934-1964, as amended:

I can remember the by-law approved by Parliament, I think a few years ago, with regard to child-minding centres. That was a model by-law which, as such, could be adopted by local government authorities. I know that some have adopted it but I do not know whether all have done so.

Mrs. Steele: I don't think so.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: I think the honourable member is right.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: If that is so, there may be certain child-minding centres or creches that are not licensed because there is no requirement for a licence in the local government area in which they are situated. Although a specific case I have in mind is not quite the same, I shall mention it to the Attorney-General, because it illustrates a slight difficulty. An old friend of mine (she was my kindergarten teacher some years ago) still conducts what I think is termed today a child-minding centre. She has about 20 small children at her home every day. She lives in Unley Park. When the model by-law was adopted by the city of Unley, officers of the council called and arrived at the opinion that she did not require a licence, because of the way she was carrying on her activities. Therefore, she has not got a licence. I do not think the Minister intends to catch a person in that situation, or to catch a person who may be in an area where the by-law has not been adopted, yet I think the provision, as it is now drawn, would catch such a person. This may be a slight drafting technicality that should be rectified.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It certainly was intended that, where child-minding centres have not been licensed under the Local Government Act, they should obtain a licence from the department, which believes that it is desirable that all such centres be either licensed under the model by-law, or licensed by the department. There should be no difficulty in obtaining a licence in the case mentioned by the honourable member. However, it is necessary, in our view, that the department be notified of a child-minding centre where that

centre is not already licensed within the provisions of the Local Government Act. The honourable member can see the difficulties that can arise, otherwise. There have been some unpleasant cases in other States, and the honourable member will possibly recall a child-minding centre in Victoria where some children were burnt. In these circumstances, the department believes that a gap exists. If places are not licensed under the existing provisions, the department should be notified. If they are proper places, such as the one the honourable member mentioned, there will be no difficulty in obtaining permission to continue to conduct them.

**Mr. MILLHOUSE:** The Attorney-General said that bad things had happened in other States. That may be so, and we do not want them to happen here but, on the other hand, it is undesirable that the Minister should use as a sort of vague reason for adopting in South Australia (and for taking fairly wide power) what has happened elsewhere. He pointed to a tragedy that occurred in Victoria but, so far as I know, no undesirable cases have arisen in South Australia that have not been cleared up because of the model by-law. It seems that we shall have a dual system of licensing if what the Minister proposes takes place. This Parliament gave power to local government authorities to adopt the model by-law, which, in its terms, was extremely detailed and too complicated. Having given that power to local government authorities we should allow them to exercise the power if, in their discretion and knowing their own areas, they believe it needs to be exercised. What we are doing here is saying to local government bodies that have not adopted the by-law, "You are not doing your job properly; we are going to do it for you".

I do not think the Minister's explanation is sufficient for us to accept the amendment. As we have given power to local government I do not think we should interfere with it and say, in effect, that it is not doing its job. The Minister has not pointed to any case in South Australia where this is required. In the case of my old teacher, I know that she was upset when she thought she needed a licence from the council, and she was relieved when she found out that she did not need one. She will be upset again if she has to go to the department for a licence. In her case there has not been the slightest suggestion of anything but good in the way she has conducted her activities. An Assistant Crown Solicitor brings his children several miles so that they can be

looked after by her. This is the sort of hardship (although it will be unintentional in this case) that the Minister will be imposing unless the matter is cleared up.

**The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN:** I am concerned about this matter, although not for the same reason as the member for Mitcham. This is a function of local government if it wishes to fulfil it. No doubt the argument would be in favour of the department's taking charge of licensing these small child-minding centres. No doubt the department has in mind the safety and health of the children, and that is laudable; naturally, no-one wants to see a dangerous situation arise. However, it has been specifically stated to local government bodies that they may exercise this power. I am afraid that the power will be exercised in due course; I do not think it is intended at present, but eventually it will be exercised to demand that, before licences are issued, certain structural alterations be made to the places to which the children go. I can imagine a series of specifications dealing with sanitation and other matters, such as the size of rooms, and so on, which would catch not only places that need attention but also tend to harass places that need no attention at all. The type of centre referred to by the honourable member for Mitcham (although I have not seen it) obviously does not require any alteration in order to get a licence. I am afraid that this matter will develop into the laying down of standards that people will have to adopt. I should not be surprised if local government eventually loses what right it has in this matter.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** There is not the slightest intention to deprive local government of its right in this matter. Of course, if any local government body has not adopted the model by-law it comes within the jurisdiction of the legislation. Local government has the power, if it chooses to exercise it. This amendment is aimed only at filling in the gap that exists. It was intended that new section 162a should apply where more than five children were kept. That section provides:

No person shall keep or conduct a place as a children's home in which more than five children under the age of 12 years are at any time received, cared for, maintained or trained apart from their parents or guardians unless he is the holder of a valid licence.

Of course, in respect to child-minding centres, that applies only where the Local Government Act does not apply, and where the model by-law has not been adopted. We are not trying to take anything from local government; the more local government takes over child-minding

centres the less work it leaves for the department. It is not intended to lay down specific standards. If, as the member for Alexandra suggests, there are places (as referred to by the member for Mitcham) where there is obviously no need for special standards to be laid down, it would be as obvious to the department as it is to the honourable member. The granting and the refusing of a licence are matters that can be raised in this place by any member asking a question of the Minister; this is more than can be done with local government.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: With regard to the type of centre referred to, does the Minister intend to go any further than the present position?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Not as far.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I am not sure whether State children are at present not permitted to be placed in children's homes not under the care of the department, or whether it has been the policy to place them in those homes. I am referring to the various homes run by church organizations. Is it the policy (or will it be the policy) of the department to place State children with those organizations at different times?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: There is no specific policy on this matter. The fact is that where there are State children under the custody of the department and the department decides that they need institutional care they are, of course, placed in institutions for which the department can take responsibility. We feel that here the policy of the department is clear. That does not mean that children cannot be fostered out into homes or the like. It would be possible in some cases, where it was found appropriate, for a child to be in other than a departmental home. I hope that for the most part where we find that children need institutional care it will be institutional care of the specialized kind that the department provides. If the children do not need institutional care we hope, for the most part, that they will be placed with families. Indeed, what the department is trying to do, as far as possible, with children under its care is to develop the cottage home system. The new home to be established at Newton will be on cottage home lines: the whole institution will be a series of cottages. The cottages to which the member for Torrens referred in the Budget debate have proved successful indeed. That is the general pattern. It is not very likely that where we find we need to place a child under institutional care he will go to an institution that is not under departmental

direction. It is only the really disturbed children, for the most part, who need institutional care. We want to provide specialized treatment for them in those circumstances.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have been asked by the Association of Social Workers to clarify several points in the Bill. First, is it necessary that training, rehabilitation and treatment be included in the definition of "institution", or does the present definition cover them?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes; it does cover them.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Although the definition of "near relatives" does not appear in the Bill, it is in the principal Act, where it includes the grandfathers and grandmothers of a child. The association claims that that is too remote a relationship to be included in that definition. What has the Minister to say on that?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am not certain whether we are in order in discussing the principal Act at a point where it is not being amended but, in my reply on the second reading, I explained that we had considered this objection from the association but believed it was desirable to leave in the grandparents and grandchildren. There are cases where it would be appropriate to make a recovery from those people where children had been cared for by the grandparents.

Mr. Clark: It is not all that uncommon.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No. We do not think that excepting these people is justified. The court will have to exercise its discretion in these matters where the recovery of maintenance is concerned. I see no reason to make the definition as narrow as the association suggests. There are cases where there is a real nexus in dependency and obligation between grandparents and grandchildren.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The definition of "preliminary expenses" refers to expenses in respect of the confinement of a woman during the two months immediately preceding the confinement. The association suggests it should include "such period as she is medically certified by reason of her pregnancy or related causes as incapable of earning her living". I am not moving an amendment along those lines but I am asking the Minister's opinion on this.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: This point was extensively discussed at the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General and meetings of their officers to arrive at a uniform proposal. This

proposal extends the provisions in the original Act, and we believe we should stick to the original proposal. There are difficulties here about the suggestion made by the association. It is not easy to define the period as it suggests and get something that is adequate for the courts. The provision for preliminary expenses here will cover most things that normally a woman will face in a confinement, and some special provisions as well. There was, however, an oversight in the provisions in the draft uniform Bill, relating to the position where a child was stillborn. In a later clause I shall move an amendment to cope with that difficulty, which could work an injustice.

Amendment carried.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: This is claimed to be a Christian State, and we seem to favour monogamy rather than polygamy. I notice that in new subsection (2) of section 5 we provide, "for the purposes of this Act", for polygamous marriages as well. If a Moslem came from another country with many wives, should each wife be covered? Is there some specific case in point for this provision, or is this inserted merely *ex abundante cautela*?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: This provision is in the uniform Bill. It has arisen from some difficult cases that have occurred in some other States.

Mr. Millhouse: Have there been any here?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not know of any. This is not a power which is given to me; I am not claiming powers to maintain a polygamous marriage myself.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: If the Minister is prepared to give me a definite undertaking that he will remain monogamous I will take the matter no further.

Clause as amended passed.

Clause 8— "Repeal of Part II of principal Act and substitution of new Part therefor."

Mr. MILLHOUSE: This is the first clause that contains many new sections. I suggest it would be more convenient to take each new section as though it were a separate clause.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have no objection to that; I think perhaps it would be more appropriate to do it that way.

The CHAIRMAN: I point out that Standing Orders require me to deal with clauses.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The clause occupies many pages, and I would have thought that such a procedure rather defeated the object of Committee stages.

The CHAIRMAN: I remind the honourable member that the Standing Orders are made by the Standing Orders Committee, and any Chairman is required to give effect to those Standing Orders, otherwise he would be accused of being partial or weak. I am obliged to do what has been done in the past and to give effect to the Standing Orders. Whether or not we like it, that is the position until such time as they are amended.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has agreed to the procedure I suggested, in new section 6 (1) the Minister calls himself "Minister of Social Welfare". As I said earlier, that is a high sounding title.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: The office already exists; I had permission from His Excellency in terms of the Constitution Act.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I must not reflect on anything His Excellency has done. However, I point out that although this phrase appears many times it is not defined anywhere, and it is an exceedingly wide and vague phrase. The definition of "social welfare" is important, because it would help to define the powers of the Minister of Social Welfare. I refer in this respect to new section 14 (1) (c). Can the Minister say what is involved in the phrase "social welfare"?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I believe that the area of social welfare is well understood in Australia. There are Departments of Social Welfare now in several States, and they all undertake largely the same kind of work as is proposed by the Department of Social Welfare in this State: they care for indigent people, for the aged, and for children, and they provide social workers who deal with problems of social adjustment involving families and individuals within the community. On this score it is difficult to provide a definition of "social welfare". Many things that will be done by the Department of Social Welfare will be designed to fill in the gaps left in Commonwealth social services, where difficult social problems arise as a result. At the same time, it will be necessary for the Minister of Social Welfare to concern himself with the development of youth welfare, not only in respect of delinquent or neglected children but the provision of facilities for young people generally in the community, and to see that they have adequate recreation and welfare facilities. How one defines this I do not know, nor can I see why it is necessary, for nothing will turn very much on the term.

The CHAIRMAN: Regarding the point the honourable member for Mitcham raised, I will call each new section and any honourable member who wishes to raise any point on that section may do so at that stage.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I refer to new section 11. The present Act provides for both officers and employees, but I am not clear on the line between the two. This new section seems to give the Director what we would call the common law powers of any employer in relation to employees. I should like to know what the line is between the two, and particularly what classes of person are employees.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The distinction is drawn between people who come under the provisions of the Public Service Act and those weekly-paid employees who do not. The honourable member will know that only certain classes of people are appointed public servants. Other persons, such as gardeners, are weekly-paid employees and are not covered by the provisions of the Public Service Act. These weekly-paid employees are employed in the same way as those in gangs in the Engineering and Water Supply Department. The distinction here is exactly the same as obtains under the present Act.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I move—

The CHAIRMAN: I am calling the new sections in order to see if there is any discussion or amendment. If there is no further discussion on new section 11, we will go to new section 12. The next is new section 13. Then, there is new section 14, "General powers and functions of the Minister."

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I move:

In new section 14 (1) to strike out paragraph (c).

I mentioned this in the second reading debate because I considered that the power could be used to a far greater extent than was necessary for social welfare purposes. I do not say that the Minister intends to use it in that way, and I want to be clearly understood on that. I am not suggesting that he personally will be using this provision politically. However, we always discuss legislation in terms of "the Minister" and do not refer to that Minister personally. I think we should know how the Minister, whoever he is, is likely to use this power.

The Minister has said in his second reading explanation that this power is necessary to enable assistance to be rendered to youth clubs

and other organizations and he has referred to the work that has been going on for some time in some districts. I cannot see how the Minister is prevented from helping in that field if we remove this power. The word "promotion" is not a good word when used with reference to a Minister in charge of a department. It implies looking for ways of advertising and promoting the work of the department and, to my mind, it could be misused by a Government, not necessarily this Government.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The power is necessary in the present situation. It will provide me with the authority to use departmental officers for the experimental work that needs to be done at this stage in expanding the work in the social welfare field. If the Government is to do as it has said at the election it intends to do and move into the field of family welfare generally and into the field of providing youth welfare services, we must be able to use the officers of the department.

Without this specific power, there will be no authority under which a Minister can do this. This State is lagging behind other States in this aspect of work. The Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department has been operating under an outmoded Act and the activities of the department have been confined to certain matters. If we are to do the other things for which the Ministry has been created, I will require power to say to one of my officers, "It appears to me from the project put forward that we need to have a departmental officer there for a time to assist the project."

I may want to send a trained probation officer to a Drop-in club for a period. However, if I did not have this power, what would the Public Service Commissioner or the Auditor-General say to me? We do not intend to rush into this field. If we are to be effective, we have to know precisely the sort of thing we ought to be doing for the co-ordination of services and to fill in gaps. We have to be tentative and experimental and I shall need flexible powers in regard to the allocation of departmental officers for that purpose.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I agree with much that the Minister says but I am not happy about giving him power which is built around such a vague phrase as "social welfare". When I asked him what he thought it meant, he gave as good a definition as one could expect but it is still vague and not within definite limits.

I sympathize with him in his desire regarding our social welfare provisions but I think it will be wrong if this Minister or any other Minister, because of an excessive power ill-defined, becomes a sort of big brother in the community. I see that the Minister does not want to be a big brother.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: The Minister's actions will be subject to the scrutiny of Parliament.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: That would be scrutiny after the actions had been taken. I can do nothing but support the amendment moved by the member for Alexandra, unless there is some limit placed on the power now provided in the subsection.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Wouldn't new section 14 (1) (d) give the Minister sufficient power? It uses the words "other assistance".

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No, because I am bound by the provisions of the Public Service Act which have to be read in conjunction with this Act. Officers are provided by the Public Service Commissioner for certain purposes, and if I do not have the flexibility to use them from time to time for other purposes than those for which they have been specifically provided, I am in difficulties. The section to which the member for Angas referred gives me power to provide financial assistance if appropriated by Parliament. I could have an argument with the Public Service Commissioner if I used an officer on duties other than those for which he was provided.

Mrs. STEELE: I understand that new section 14 (1) (d) gives the Minister power to establish and finance centres. Does it also give him power to give financial assistance to existing social or voluntary agencies which have set up this type of social welfare, without bringing them under the control of the Minister?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, but that would have to be done by a special appropriation. As it stands, it gives me power to assist existing youth and social welfare agencies. I

am hopeful that we can provide additional facilities for the Council for Social Services, which has been a most useful body in this State.

Mr. SHANNON: No legislation gives a Minister such overriding powers as new section 14 gives, and I refer specifically to paragraph (j), which covers everything. I am sure the Government is not aware of the power being put in the hands of one Minister. Does the Government realize the extent to which this power could involve it in financial commitments, which may be embarrassing? If it is aware of this and is prepared to take that responsibility, well and good.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: I have to get money from the Treasurer.

Mr. SHANNON: Yes, but the Minister will institute new ideas, and obviously all social services are popular. The Treasurer could be embarrassed by having to curtail some of the projected social services. We cannot do everything that some people would have us do because of the financial restrictions. In our urgency to get things done perhaps we may regret that we have established certain services which cannot be withdrawn. Perhaps we have been too paltry and parsimonious in the past, but do not let us make the mistake of swinging the pendulum too far the other way. The present Bill has no effective provision whereby Parliament can have any voice in controlling these matters. If the Treasurer passes the vote required by this department, that becomes an accomplished fact, and Parliament has no voice in it. Under this clause we shall be signing a blank cheque to make money available for things that are not known at the moment. I support the amendment, which is a partial approach towards having some check on the department.

Amendment negatived.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.3 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, October 26, at 2 p.m.