

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, November 4, 1965.

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

EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, intimated his assent to the Bill.

SUCCESSION DUTIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL (RATES).

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

STAMP DUTIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

DECIMAL CURRENCY BILL.

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

CATTLE COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Honourable members on this side of the House have learnt this morning that the Attorney-General has been created a Queen's Counsel. Although the policies of the two Parties differ widely at times, I express to the Attorney-General the congratulations of members of this side on his high appointment.

QUESTIONS

WATER SUPPLIES.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Although there was a shower of rain in the catchment area (including my district) this morning, it is now obvious that metropolitan reservoirs will not benefit from any large

intake before the summer commences. As catchment areas (particularly in the Mount Lofty Ranges) are extremely dry, and would require unusually heavy rains to receive further intakes, I believe that this is an appropriate time for the Engineering and Water Supply Department to define its policy on pumping of water. Can the Minister of Works say whether a decision has yet been made in relation to the pumping programme, to ensure that sufficient water will be available for the heavy draw-off that always occurs in the metropolitan area in the summer months?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The facts are as the Leader has stated: it has been a dry year, and the catchment areas would require heavy rains before any run-off would be possible. The heavy consumption of water in October this year far exceeds that for corresponding months back to 1960. The consumption figures (including evaporation losses) for the years 1960 to 1965 are as follows:

Year.	Consumption plus evaporation. (Gallons.)
1965	3,227,000,000
1964	1,720,000,000
1963	2,744,000,000
1962	1,758,000,000
1961	2,883,000,000
1960	1,956,000,000

The reservoir holdings as at October 31 in the same years, while most interesting, cause concern, and are as follows:

Year.	Reservoir holdings. (Gallons.)
1965	15,114,000,000
1964	23,411,000,000
1963	22,922,000,000
1962	15,163,000,000
1961	7,177,000,000
1960	13,415,000,000

This is not a satisfactory position and, accordingly, pumping has been taking place for a considerable time, using four pumps to augment the supply from the Murray River. From tomorrow three pumps will be pumping 24 hours a day with a view to keeping up the supply and avoiding restrictions.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: Will a fourth pump continue to pump off-peak?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Yes. If necessary, it will be brought into operation also to avoid restrictions this year. Having stated these facts, I hope that everybody will appreciate the serious position in which we find ourselves, and will do their utmost to conserve water and make it possible for us to continue supplies next year if the dry spell continues.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

Mr. CLARK: For many years many of us have been advocating changes in the Public Examinations Board examination system. I have been reliably informed that the University of Adelaide and the Public Examinations Board have agreed on sweeping changes. I am happy to hear this, and from what I have heard of the changes I believe that they will be of enormous benefit to South Australian children and to their parents. As I am sure that the Minister of Education is aware of this matter, will he give details of the changes and say whether he approves of them?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The University of Adelaide recently sent me notice of the decisions of the University Senate regarding statutes and regulations for the forthcoming year. Of particular interest are the changes to be made with regard to the public examinations. These decisions have been made by the Public Examinations Board, and referred to me as Minister of Education. I may say that I heartily approve of the alterations that are being made. The revised regulations, which will come into force on March 1, 1966, are consequential on the introduction in that year of the new matriculation examination. The main points of interest are that no provision will in future be made either for the Leaving Honours examination or for a supplementary Leaving examination. Provision will be made for a new type of certificate at both the Intermediate and Leaving examinations. The new certificate will be a record of the candidate's performance in every subject. The Public Examinations Board proposes that the results of candidates in each subject will be classified in six grades according to their distribution on the order of merit list for the subject. The grades will be numbered one to six from the top group downwards according to a certain scale. This will mean that there will be no pass or fail mark, but an employer or organization will be able to look at the candidate's full record in respect of each subject. In my opinion this will be of great advantage not only to the employers and organizations concerned but also to the students and parents concerned. I am certain that this is a much better method: it does away with the harsh pass or fail mark and gives a much better picture of a student's position.

Regarding the matriculation examination, the Public Examinations Board will act as the agent for the council in the conduct of the examination and in the issue of certificates.

The board intends to issue a certificate showing the subjects attempted, the grade of result obtained in each subject, and an explanation of the significance of all grades, both failing and passing, but without any indication of whether or not the candidate has qualified for matriculation.

The last change is in regard to a new subject termed "Elementary Science" which will be introduced at the Intermediate examination in 1968 and subsequently. In addition to that new subject, a new two-unit subject will also be introduced to be called "Science" and to replace the existing science subjects of Physics, Chemistry, Geology, Botany, Physiology, Elementary Science, General Science I and General Science II. These are far-reaching changes, and I believe that, after members have considered them, they will agree that the changes are a tremendous advance and that they get away from many points that have concerned parents, students and teachers for a long time.

GRASSHOPPERS.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: Last week I asked a question of the Minister of Agriculture concerning grasshoppers at the far end of Eyre Peninsula. Has he a reply?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Grasshopper activity on the Far West Coast was examined by officers of the Agriculture Department, Lands Department, Ceduna District Council and the Ceduna branch of South Australian Farmers' Union. Loose drifting swarms of adult *Austroicetes cruciata*, the plague grasshopper, were found from 20 miles west of Ceduna to Penong and Bookabie in the areas generally referred to as the Charra, Koonibba and Penong flats. Pastures had dried off and were providing very little feed for grasshoppers. The damage which had been caused to pastures could not be assessed because of their poor growth due to seasonal conditions. The only damage still occurring was in cereal crops. Many crops had been completely stripped of flag, and in some cases this had been done earlier by hoppers. Continued feeding by fliers was resulting in the lopping of seed heads with losses occurring of up to 50 per cent. Egglaying was about to begin but, in view of the very dry spring weather, it was considered probable that heavy mortality would take place within about two weeks due to the shortage of food and that relatively few eggs would be laid this year. At this late stage, it was not considered practicable to consider extensive co-ordinated control. The

grasshopper swarms were too diffuse to present a reasonable target and the only damage occurring was to cereal crops, which generally were so poor that they did not warrant the spending of money on crop spraying. A few better cereal crops could be given some degree of protection by spraying, but the effectiveness of such practices would depend on the extent of continuing re-invasion.

VICTORIA SQUARE.

Mr. LAWN: Some time ago the Adelaide City Council wished to close Victoria Square to north-south traffic. It is necessary for a decision to be made by the Minister of Lands in this matter, and it has been reported that the deadline for that decision is some time in November. Although I realize this is only the fourth day of the month, I ask whether the Minister has made a decision on that proposal. If he has not, when will the decision be made?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I realize that much interest has been displayed by the honourable member in this subject. In fact, he has introduced two deputations, one in favour of closing the square and the other one against it. Newspaper reporters generally have been asking me (and quite rightly) when I will give my decision on this matter. However, I thought it only right and proper that I give the answer in this House, and I suggested to the member for Adelaide that, if he asked a question, I would give him an answer here. On May 31 of this year the Adelaide City Council, in compliance with section 14 (4) of the Roads (Opening and Closing) Act 1932-1946, submitted to the Surveyor-General the minutes of the meeting relating to the order for the closing of portions of King William Street through Victoria Square, together with objections lodged with the corporation, answers by the Town Clerk, and other matters relative thereto. The Act specifically states that the Surveyor-General shall transmit the Road Order to the Minister of Lands for confirmation by the Governor, together with a report by the Surveyor-General upon the matters dealt with by the order and a recommendation whether or not the order should be confirmed by the Governor. I also received deputations from the Adelaide City Council, the South Adelaide Citizens League, the Central Traders and Dr. Henry Simpson Newland. Also, correspondence for and against was received. All evidence was placed before the Surveyor-General. The Road Traffic Board, the Fire Brigade and the Police Department offered no objections. The Surveyor-General

submitted to me through the Director of Lands the following report:

There were 14 objections lodged with the Corporation of the City of Adelaide but only six objectors complied with the provisions of the Roads (Opening and Closing) Act by forwarding copies of objections to me within the prescribed time. The remainder were then advised of this requirement and four replies setting out objections were received. Copies of the other objections were obtained from the Town Clerk and have been considered although non-compliance with the requirements of the Act may have caused them to be invalid. With the exception of the objection lodged by the Engineer-in-Chief the grounds for objection were very similar and can be summarized as follows:

- (1) Objection: loss of trade due to reduction in pedestrian and motor traffic flow.

Town Clerk's comments: There is no known evidence to support this generalization. It is considered that there will be no reduction in traffic flow.

- (2) Objection: traffic congestion due to north-south roadways being of a lesser total width.

Town Clerk's comments: It is confidently stated that capacity of roadways within the square will be greater than at present.

- (3) Objection: interference with east-west traffic.

Town Clerk's comments: There will be no alteration to east-west traffic.

- (4) Objection: interference with traffic proceeding east on Grote Street and wishing to turn south along King William Street and with traffic proceeding west on Wakefield Street and wishing to turn north along King William Street.

Town Clerk's comments: Although the distance to be travelled will be slightly greater the time taken will be no greater because of the linked system of traffic signals.

- (5) Objection: cost too great and grown trees will be lost.

Town Clerk's comments: These are not valid objections to the road proposal. No cost was stated in the notice of road proceedings and new plantings will more than compensate for trees lost.

- (6) Objection: A further reason for objection in the case of the S.A. Road Passenger Services Association and of the Taxi Cab Operators Association of S.A. is the loss of existing terminals and stands and consequent loss of passengers.

Town Clerk's comments: The removal of bus terminals from Victoria Square is inevitable whether or not a change in layout is implemented. Other stands will be provided for taxi cabs. Services would not be dislocated but could continue to flow as freely as previously.

The objection of the Engineer-in-Chief has now been withdrawn, satisfactory arrangements having been made by the corporation to preserve access to mains at all times and to meet all costs of alteration to water mains. In considering the objections I have taken into account the statements of verbal evidence given at meetings of the council as well as all written objections and the comments supplied by the Town Clerk. I am in agreement with the comments supplied by the Town Clerk and from my study of all evidence submitted I consider that the objections lodged with the exception of that of the Engineer-in-Chief have no real foundation in fact. I have considered also that the closing of this portion of King William Street is a legal step that must first be taken before proceeding to other steps in the complete plan.

There is no likelihood that the road surface of King William Street will be torn up before alternative roadways are constructed. The continued use of King William Street roadway through the square following confirmation of the road order would be quite legal as the closed road will be merged with the Crown land of the square and placed under the control of the corporation which is empowered by the Local Government Act to construct and maintain roadways in such places. If for any reason the corporation is unable to proceed with further steps including construction of alternative roadways, King William Street could be legally re-instated by simply re-delineating as a road on the public plans. Therefore, after full consideration of all objections to the proposal I concur with the council's resolution and recommend confirmation accordingly. Herewith road order in duplicate certified for signature of the Hon. the Minister and confirmation by His Excellency the Governor in Executive Council in terms of Section 14 (4) of the Roads (Opening and Closing) Act, 1932-1946.

(Sgd.) H. A. Bailey, Surveyor-General.

The Surveyor-General has carried out the task he was set under the Act, and I see no reason to alter his recommendations in any way. Consequently I signed the order, which was presented to the Governor's Deputy in Council this morning, and he signed it, too.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Because of the great change in the plan of the city of Adelaide, does not the Minister consider that this matter should be submitted to Parliament? If we alter a stock route Parliament has to approve. This is a matter of great moment to the city of Adelaide and, although I am not disputing the Minister's power to make the order, I believe that, in the interests of all, this matter should be thoroughly discussed and should be appropriately placed before Parliament. Will the Minister have this matter considered by Parliament?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I submit that the proper procedure has been taken.

The Act was passed in 1932 and amended in 1946 to provide that the recommendation should be made by the Surveyor-General. To my knowledge I have complied with all procedures under the Act, and, having received advice, I see no reason to do anything other than what I have done. It is not intended to submit this matter to Parliament.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS.

Mrs. STEELE: Has the Premier, representing the Chief Secretary, a reply to my question of October 26 about the reports of the Director-General of Medical Services for the years 1961-62 and 1962-63?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: A report from Dr. Rollison, Director-General of Medical Services, states:

Owing to the retirement of Dr. Birch and the appointment of his successor, Dr. Cramond, as Director of Mental Health in June, 1961, the preparation of Annual Reports on the State Mental Hospitals was subject to considerable alteration and adjustment brought about by the reorganization of the Mental Health Services. This reorganization was such that the Director of Mental Health recommended that the report on the first two years of his administration (*i.e.*, 1961-62 and 1962-63) be incorporated in one comprehensive report in order to more readily show the integrated development of the activities within the Mental Health Services as one dynamic movement.

The reorganized report naturally took somewhat longer to prepare than usual but was forwarded to the Honourable the Minister of Health for transmission to the Government Printer for printing on June 12, 1964. The printed copies of the report for laying before Parliament only became available this month and were signed immediately on my return from recreation leave on October 26, and tabled in Parliament the same day. The 1963-64 report was completed and forwarded on January 26, 1965, to the Honourable the Minister of Health for transmission to the Government Printer for printing. This report is still with the Government Printer who, at this stage, is unable to advise when it will be printed.

COUNTRY TROTTING.

Mr. McKEE: I refer to a statement by Mr. Clem Hewitt reported in this morning's *Advertiser* and dealing with country trotting. Headed "Sauce for Country Goose: None for City Gander", the article states:

The Wayville trotting track must be paved with gold, judging from the amount of money that it pours into four country clubs. These clubs—at Naracoorte, Mount Gambier, Port Augusta and Port Pirie—receive a percentage of the money invested at their meetings on Wayville races. Back in 1958, the South Australian Trotting Club allowed the Naracoorte club to provide a betting service on

Wayville events. Later in the same year the Mount Gambier and Port Augusta clubs followed suit. In the following season, Port Pirie switched its fortnightly Thursday night meeting to Saturday night to cash in on the gold mine. Naturally, there was increased interest in trotting at these centres. Betting Control Board figures show that Naracoorte has received £2,400 from holdings of £167,642 on Wayville events—

and it gives the holdings relating to Mount Gambier, Port Augusta and Port Pirie. The article continues:

It seems, though, that the country clubs are prepared to bite the hand that feeds them. For the Wayville Club's recent application for four mid-week meetings was refused on Monday at the South Australian Trotting League's executive meeting—attended by country delegates only.

It seems that the country clubs referred to receive large sums from the South Australian Trotting Club, but that is not so. This service is enjoyed by all racing and trotting clubs throughout South Australia, and does not adversely affect the revenue of the metropolitan clubs. The article also implies that none of the four mid-week dates applied for were granted which, again, is not so. Last year, on appeal to the Betting Control Board, the South Australian Trotting Club was granted permission to conduct two out of three mid-week meetings applied for. This year the league followed the same policy, and granted the South Australian Trotting Club permission to conduct two mid-week meetings. It seems wrong that Mr. Clem Hewitt, a member of the committee of the South Australian Trotting Club (he is also a member of the executive committee of the league, and occupies the position of Trotting Reporter with the *Advertiser*), should publish articles that are often not correct and not in the best interests of the sport. This is emphasized by the fact that the Premier has appointed a committee of inquiry into all aspects of trotting. The article that I have quoted could unduly influence the deliberations of that committee. Has the Premier anything to say about the article?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: If I understand the question correctly, I believe the honourable member has convinced himself on the issues involved. I should be the last person to deny country people their rights in respect of trotting. The South Australian Trotting League is the authoritative body controlling trotting in this State, and it is not my prerogative to tell it what it should do. In the interests of the sport, however, and because of the type of occurrence referred to

in the honourable member's question, I considered it desirable to investigate the conduct and control of trotting (a matter that has already been announced to the House). Only this morning Executive Council approved the appointment of a committee of inquiry, which, from memory, comprises Mr. Martin and Mr. Smith (representing the South Australian Trotting Club), Mr. Needham and Mr. Hambour (representing country interests), and Mr. Andrew Wells, Q.C., as chairman. Until I know the results of that committee's investigations, there is nothing I can add. Indeed, I know that the trotting interests would not wish me to intervene on a question that solely concerns the league.

WATERVALE WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: In relation to the Watervale water scheme, the Mines Department has drilled a bore and is at present testing it. Will the Minister of Works ascertain what stage this work has reached?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Yes, I shall be happy to do that.

BRANDY EXCISE.

Mr. CURREN: About three of four weeks ago an article in the daily press stated that an application had been made by the Whisky, Gin and Vodka Distillers' Association to the Commonwealth Minister for Trade to remove the differential excise levy that now greatly favours brandy, and that this application had been referred to the Tariff Board. As about 80 per cent of Australian brandy is produced in South Australia, as the whole economy of the wine grapegrowing industry depends on the maintenance of this favourable excise differential, and in view of the present unstable position of the industry in South Australia, will the Premier, as a matter of urgency, take up with the Commonwealth Government the dire consequences that may ensue in the industry if the present excise differential is unfavourably altered?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I have ascertained from the Adelaide office of the Commonwealth Department of Trade that the matter referred by the Minister for Trade to the Tariff Board for inquiry and report concerned (a) whether assistance should be accorded to the production in Australia of whisky, gin and vodka, and (b) the nature and extent of such assistance if the board's finding in respect of (a) was in the affirmative. It will be noted from the above that the reference to the Tariff Board contains no mention of the

~~information about the walling of the Chowilla dam?~~
~~Can he say whether a final decision has been made by departmental officers and the Government on the type of wall to be built for the dam?~~ As only a small allocation was made in this year's Estimates for this work, although the estimated total cost is about £18,000,000, will the Minister comment on the delay in calling tenders for this urgent work that is so important to South Australia?

MODBURY SOUTH SCHOOL.

Mrs. BYRNE: The Modbury South High School is at present attended only by first-year students. Will the Minister of Education say whether zoning of high schools will operate in this and nearby districts from the beginning of 1966 and, if it will, what effect it will have on this high school?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The honourable member kindly indicated that she would ask this question today. Zoning will operate for Modbury and other metropolitan high schools in 1966. The enrolment of Modbury (which was 102 first-year students in February this year) is expected to become 130 first-year and 105 second-year students in February, 1966, and to increase later by 150 to 200 a year. In the meantime, the third wing of the school will continue to house the Modbury South Primary School. Without zoning, it is likely that there would be less students at Modbury and consequent increases in the enrolment of other high schools which are already large. First-class accommodation and teaching is being provided at the school to ensure the best education opportunity for students living in the district. Senior classes will be added year by year and eventually the school will teach work to matriculation level.

MURRAY RIVER.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: A week or two ago I asked the Minister of Works a question about the restriction on the quantity of water to be taken from the Murray River throughout the Murray watershed and in the Upper Murray districts. The Minister replied (and I take it that his information was supplied by the Director and Engineer-in-Chief) that there would be no great difficulty in this regard under the River Murray Waters Agreement. Since then, conflicting statements have been made about the supply of water under the River Murray Waters Agreement, and concern has been expressed about who is correct. Although I do not doubt the Minister's statement because he was advised by the Engineer-in-Chief, I point out that this matter is causing concern. Has the Minister further

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I do not wish to comment at this stage other than to say that the Director and Engineer-in-Chief, as a Commissioner on the River Murray Commission, is meeting his fellow Commissioners in Melbourne today with regard to river levels and any restrictions that might have to be considered. I believe that my original reply to the honourable member was correct. However, in view of the conflicting reports to which he has referred I think it would be wise if I did not make a definite statement until I had received a report from Mr. Dridan, who will be returning tonight. If the honourable member cares to ask a question on Tuesday, I shall give him the text of the report I receive. Last evening the Premier made a broadcast about the Chowilla dam and this is reported in today's *Advertiser*. However, I believe I can add a little to it. I had a long and comprehensive report from Mr. Dridan on his return from overseas and it appears that the work on the Chowilla dam is running to schedule. The honourable member will appreciate that the dam is the concern of three States and that we are the constructing authority. We now firmly believe that a bitumastic face should be used on the dam. This will save about £500,000 because, for a normal stone face dam, we would have to carry stone about 120 miles from Sutherland; because of our not having to do this the cost will be reduced. All I can say in addition to what the Premier said is that during his trip overseas Mr. Dridan saw much of the construction to be used at Chowilla, and he is convinced this is satisfactory. A test is being made of its efficiency in respect of Chowilla dam and, on completion of that test, a decision will be made.

LAND SUBDIVISION.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Before asking a question of the Attorney-General, I wish to add my congratulations to those of the Leader. As a member of the profession and as a fellow member of this House, I congratulate the Attorney on his taking silk. I have been approached on behalf of Mr. H. J. Curtis, who

resides in my district, at Hawthorndene, regarding the subdivision of his land. He owns an extensive area (I am not sure of the exact size); he has three sons; and he wants to give each son sufficient land on which to build a house. Through Messrs. Mosel & Associates an application has been made to the Town Planner for resubdivision of the land to provide a block for, at this stage, only one of his sons. I have a photostat copy of a letter from the Town Planner's office, dated July 16, 1965 (its reference number is 1259/65), which reads:

In connection with your application for the abovementioned resubdivision, I wish to advise that the Town Planner requires the application to be re-submitted as a plan of subdivision.

The Attorney-General will appreciate the difference in procedure between the two. I am informed that this looks clearly to be a matter of resubdivision. Can the Attorney-General say why this application is being held up as it is, and why the Town Planner requires it to be resubmitted as a plan of subdivision? For the Attorney's benefit, I mention that there has been a subdivision in the very near neighbourhood in the last 12 months, and there seems no real reason why this application should be held up unless it is that this area is in the hills face zone. However, that is not a valid reason to hold it up. Will the Attorney-General obtain this information, if he does not already have it?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As I do not know of the particular case in question I cannot reply offhand, but I will undertake for the honourable member to obtain a report from the Town Planner and let the honourable member know the Town Planner's reason for his decision. I take this opportunity of thanking the honourable member, the Leader of the Opposition, and their colleagues for the kind expressions that they have voiced this afternoon upon the appointment made this morning. I sincerely appreciate their kindness to me on this occasion.

TELEVISION SALE.

Mr. HUDSON: I should like to add my congratulations to the Attorney-General on his recent elevation. A constituent of mine rented, for over five years, a television set from Canberra Television Services. Over that period she paid an average amount of about £50 a year or £4 a month. Recently the television set she had on rental broke down. She called a man in to repair it and it was suggested to her, when a new set was left for the old set, that she should consider buying the new set. It was suggested to my constituent

that it would cost only £145, plus some interest, because of the credit that would be given on the previous rental payments. The constituent agreed to such a purchase, and signed a form, represented as a hire-purchase agreement form, on which her memory is that only the figure of £145 was given. The night before last she received back the hire-purchase agreement, fully completed in the following way: Cash price £145, deposit £5, making net payment of £140; maintenance for two years, £30; add terms charges, including a "peace of mind" bond, £109; making a total of £279; add deposit of £5, leaving a grant total amount, £284, payable in 60 monthly instalments of £4 13s. This woman, at the end of a further five years, will be the proud owner of a five-year-old television set, having paid Canberra Television Services £534 over 10 years. The agreement seems to be drawn up in terms of the law of the Australian Capital Territory, for at the top it states:

The hirer hereby declares that before the hirer signed this offer he received from the owner a duly completed written statement under section 7 (1) of the Hire-Purchase Ordinance, 1961, and the summary of the hirer's financial obligations shown in the statement does not differ from that shown in the undermentioned schedule.

My constituent claims that she did not receive such a financial statement, although when she was told to sign there she did, and the only figure that she can recall on the agreement was £145. The "peace of mind" bond excuses the hirer from further payments in the event of death, total disablement, or unemployment, but it is subject to certain conditions and exclusions. It states:

The above-mentioned entitlements shall not apply in respect of any event which is directly or indirectly attributed or attributable to or consequent upon:

- (1) (a) Intentional self-injury or suicide or any attempt thereof whether of sound or unsound mind; (b) from the deliberate exposure to exceptional danger (except in an attempt to save human life) or from the hirer's own criminal act; (c) unsound mind; (d) alcoholism; (e) drug addiction.
- (2) Venereal disease.
- (3) Childbirth, abortion or pregnancy (even though accelerated or induced by accident).
- (4) Injury sustained or disease contracted outside the Commonwealth of Australia.
- (5) Football, motor cycling, polo, racing of any kind (except foot), professional boxing or wrestling or any other sporting activity.
- (6) Travelling by air except as a bona fide fare-paying passenger in a fully

licensed aircraft operated by a recognized airline maintaining a regular schedule of flights over an established route.

- (7) Riot, civil commotion, strikes, or lock-outs.
- (8) War, invasion, act of foreign enemy, hostilities (whether war be declared or not), civil war, rebellion, revolution, insurrection or military or usurped power.
- (9) The hirer being under the influence of intoxicating liquor.
- (10) Any illness existing on or before the date of acceptance of agreement or arising from a disease or physical condition existing on or before the date of acceptance of the agreement.
- (11) Any period of unemployment existing at or commencing within one month—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member did have leave of the House to make a statement explaining his question. However, having heard dissentient voices, I must now ask him to ask his question.

Mr. HUDSON: In view of the fact that this "peace of mind" bond, in terms of the exclusions, is virtually worthless; in view of the fact that the terms charges indicate a flat rate of interest of about 12½ per cent, or an effective rate of 25 per cent; in view of the fact that this purports to be a hire-purchase agreement not drawn up under the South Australian Act; and in view of the further fact that the deposit is represented as being only £5, which is less than 10 per cent of the cash price, will the Attorney-General investigate this matter? I can give him all the necessary details, and the people concerned are prepared to provide written statements.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I should be very grateful to have this material from the honourable member. From what he has told the House this afternoon, however, I should say that a whole series of offences against the Hire-Purchase Agreements Act of South Australia appear to have been committed, and I shall do my best to see whether the State of South Australia cannot give the people concerned a piece of our mind.

CRAYFISH POTS.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Some days ago I asked the Minister of Agriculture about the use of escape gaps in crayfish pots. This has been tried in Western Australia, and encouraging results have been reported. Has the Minister a considered reply to the question?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: About three years ago, the Western Fisheries Research Committee (established under the Commonwealth-States Fisheries Conference) arranged

in conjunction with the Western Australian Department of Fisheries and Fauna for technical work to be undertaken in connection with escape gaps. The experimental work proved entirely satisfactory and, as a result, from January 1, 1966, every cray pot in Western Australia must have an escape gap. (This regulation was only recently introduced). As a member of the Western Fisheries Research Committee, the Director of Fisheries and Fauna Conservation has naturally been kept fully informed both with regard to the investigations and the Western Australian Government's action. In addition to proposals concerning licences for commercial fishermen, the Director of Fisheries and Fauna Conservation is preparing recommendations concerning a new set of regulations for the management of our cray fishery. *Inter alia*, these will include a recommendation that escape gaps be introduced in this State. However, because of difficulties in modifying existing cray pots, it is proposed that escape gaps be not introduced until November 1, 1967. In other words, fishermen will have at least one complete year in order to prepare for the new regulation.

MOUNT GAMBIER BUILDINGS.

Mr. BURDON: Recently the Public Buildings Department has been carrying out a fairly extensive painting contract on public buildings in Mount Gambier. My attention has been drawn to the fact that there is some doubt whether the Mount Gambier courthouse (an old building which I hope will be replaced shortly) is included in this programme. Can the Minister of Works say whether the department intends to include this building in its current painting programme?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I am pleased to inform the honourable member that I have just given approval for an amount of £1,540 to meet the cost of painting this courthouse building, both internally and externally, and also the fencing. The Director, Public Buildings Department, reports that painters are at present working on the police buildings at Mount Gambier and, when these are painted, will transfer to the courthouse.

PARAFIELD GARDENS SCHOOL.

Mr. HALL: Will the Minister of Education obtain for me departmental plans for providing secondary school education at Parafield Gardens?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I shall be pleased to try to get that information for the honourable member.

BLACK FOREST HOUSE.

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about work on a house in Forest Avenue, Black Forest, belonging to his department?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I am pleased to inform the honourable member that the work is already in progress.

PEAKE WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Minister of Works a reply from the Minister of Mines to my question of October 26 about the Peake township water supply?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Minister of Mines has supplied the following report from the Director of Mines:

The drilling of a bore at Peake is scheduled to commence in January, 1966, but subject to the completion of prior commitments, an earlier start may be possible.

SIMMS COVE CLIFF.

Mr. HUGHES: During the last few days I have directed questions to the Minister of Marine about the overhang of a cliff at Simms Cove. On Tuesday the Minister said that this land was not under the jurisdiction of the Harbors Board, but formed a strip of Crown land known as the Coast Reserve. Because of the circumstances, will the Minister of Lands take immediate action, in conjunction with the Mines Department, to ensure the safety of children in this area?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I realized the concern of the honourable member, and when I learned that this land was under my jurisdiction I called for an immediate inquiry. This area has been inspected by my departmental inspector in company with the Town Clerk, Corporation of Moonta. Although the demolition of the overhanging portion of the cliff does not appear to be a big job, it is considered that there may be complications requiring expert advice. The matter has, therefore, been discussed with the Mines Department which has no labour available, but is ready to advise and supervise the necessary work. I understand that the corporation is willing to carry out the work subject to these safeguards.

FULHAM GARDENS SCHOOL.

Mr. BROOMHILL: I recently visited the Fulham Gardens Primary School, and was informed that the Public Buildings Department had approved the erection of two additional temporary classrooms at this school. However, during my visit I saw nothing to show that a

start had been made on these rooms. As they will be required next year, can the Minister of Works say whether these rooms will be ready for occupation at the beginning of the 1966 school year?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Director, Public Buildings Department, informs me that work is expected to start in December, 1965, and that two new temporary rooms should be completed by the commencement of the next school year.

PANORAMA BUS SERVICE.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Has the Premier obtained a reply from the Minister of Transport to my question of October 21 about the Panorama bus service?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Mitcham council has not applied to the Highways Department for assistance for the improvement of roads in the Panorama area so that the Municipal Tramways Trust bus route can be extended. Assistance would not be considered without a formal application from the council, and an assurance from the M.T.T. that its bus service would use such route.

ASSEMBLY CHAMBER.

Mr. LAWN: Members have been complaining about the heat in this Chamber. I have ascertained that, until the centre lights are switched on in the afternoon, the temperature in the Chamber is a normal 68 degrees. However, after the lights are switched on it jumps to 70 degrees, and it is now 75 degrees. Also, I ascertained this morning that ventilators on the roof of the building have recently been closed, although they have been used for some years. Will the Minister of Works see whether something can be done to retain the normal temperature of 68 degrees in this Chamber?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Speaking for both the Speaker and myself, I assure the honourable member that this matter will be investigated to see whether the temperature can be kept at its normal level.

WILD LIFE RESERVE.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to my recent question about a fire in the wild life reserve in the hundred of Hambidge?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: The National Park authorities have obtained a verbal report from the Emergency Fire Service control officer at Lock. It seems that three separate outbreaks occurred and were caused by lightning. One originated in the north-west corner

of the reserve, the second in about the middle, and the third on the eastern side. The fires started in the mid-afternoon on Friday, continued through Saturday, and were extinguished on Sunday. It is estimated that 25,000 acres within the reserve was affected, and 12,000 acres outside the reserve. No serious damage was caused to crops because they were still green. One house was slightly damaged, and there was some damage to about two miles of private fencing. It is relevant to mention that the Commissioners of the National Park and Wild Life Reserves assist landholders adjoining this reserve to fence the common boundaries by meeting the cost of the materials involved, provided that the landholders accept responsibility for erecting the fencing and agree to plough and maintain a one-chain firebreak within the reserve. This programme is steadily proceeding.

GRAPE PRICE PETITION.

Mr. CURREN: I address a question to you, Mr. Speaker. My attention has been drawn to a letter to the editor of the *Murray Pioneer*, printed in the issue of October 21, 1965, and referring to a petition—

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask honourable members to refrain from conversing. This question is being asked of me, and I am having difficulty in hearing it.

Mr. CURREN: My attention has been drawn to a letter to the editor of the *Murray Pioneer* printed in the issue of October 21, 1965, referring to a petition, allegedly presented to this House during the 1959 session, on the matter of wine grape prices. As it is rather a long letter I will refer to one paragraph at the conclusion of the letter, which states:

In summing up, there are several facts that cannot be refuted. Firstly, it was the suggestion of the then President of the A.P.P.U. that a petition be presented to Parliament. Secondly, the A.P.P.U. Secretary, Mr. Retallic, prepared the petition. Thirdly, the A.P.P.U. obtained over a thousand signatures to the petition.

As this matter is at present of considerable public interest, will you, Sir, ascertain whether a petition on wine grape prices, containing over 1,000 signatures, was presented to the House in 1959?

The Hon. T. C. Stott: Not the way they put it!

The SPEAKER: That information would be readily available to any honourable member, as it would be recorded in the Votes and

Proceedings. If it will assist the honourable member, I shall obtain the necessary information.

TINTINARA CROSSING.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Minister representing the Minister of Roads a reply to the question I asked on October 31 concerning the dangerous crossing over the railway over-pass south of Tintinara?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, reports that, since 1961, 14 accidents have been reported at this railway over-pass. Investigations made by the department show that the curves commencing to the left can safely be negotiated at speeds of 55 miles an hour while curves reversing to the right can only be negotiated safely at 40 miles an hour. Arrangements have been made for two additional over-size reflectorized curve warning signs, incorporating advisory speed signs, to be fabricated and erected shortly. It is considered that the introduction of these over-size signs indicating the speed value of the curve after the initial advanced warning sign should induce motorists to reduce their speed, so that the curves can be negotiated safely.

INSPECTION FEES.

Mr. McKEE: Recently, I took up with the Minister of Marine the matter of inspection fees charged for inspecting a certain size of fishing boat. Has the Minister a reply?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Having referred the matter to the General Manager of the Harbors Board, along with a number of other inquiries concerning the same subject, I am awaiting a reply, but in view of the honourable member's further question I shall endeavour to obtain a reply by Tuesday next.

FIRM NAMES.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: From time to time members on both sides of the House ask questions about the activities of private firms, an example of which occurred with the question asked this afternoon by the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson). Although I make no criticism of that question, I point out that a member who is merely seeking information often mentions the name of a firm, in respect of which the details he relates to the House may or may not be correct. Do you, Mr. Speaker, consider that, as a custom, it would be better for members to refrain from mentioning firms by name until charges (if charges are involved) are substantiated? I point out that I do not imply that we do not have

complete rights and privileges to reveal the names if we wish.

The SPEAKER: Nothing in Standing Orders enables me to rule such questions out of order, simply because names are mentioned. If I am asked for a personal opinion, however, I think it would be a good principle not to mention names unless special circumstances warranted it, but it is a matter for the good judgment of members.

PRICE'S JETTY.

Mr. HUGHES: On a recent visit to Wallaroo the Minister of Marine was approached by members of the Wallaroo Fishermen's Association seeking his co-operation in allowing them to drive their motor vehicles on what is known as Price's Jetty as far as the boat-house, which would facilitate the loading and unloading of their boats. At the time, the Minister stated that in the interests of safety it would be necessary to obtain a report from an engineer of the Harbors Board. Has the Minister obtained that report and, if he has, is it favourable?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Deputy General Manager of the Harbors Board reports:

A previous request for permission to drive motor vehicles on the old Wallaroo jetty was received from the local fishermen in 1960, when an examination by Harbors Board engineers showed the structure to be unfit to bear the load that would be imposed by any kind of motor vehicle. The only means of transportation that could be safely used were the cargo trucks running on the jetty rail tracks. There has been neither strengthening nor major repair of the jetty since 1960, and it is still the opinion of the Harbors Board engineers that motor transport could not be permitted to use the jetty with safety.

GRAPE SURPLUS.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: The Minister of Agriculture is no doubt aware that representations have been made and that discussions have taken place concerning the establishment of a sultana regulating board to handle the coming vintage. As he (and, indeed, every honourable member) is also aware, a Royal Commission is at present inquiring into the problems of the wine industry. Doubt exists whether the Commission will have completed its report before Parliament adjourns on December 2, and the question arises whether temporary legislation should be introduced to control the handling of the coming vintage of surplus sultanas to go into the distilleries. The Minister is probably also aware that the extremely dry weather, particularly in the

Barossa Valley, may affect the production of sultanas. Will he say whether Cabinet has considered this matter, and whether it intends to introduce temporary legislation relating to the supply of sultanas to try to solve the problem of surplus grapes at the coming vintage?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: The Government is perfectly aware of the situation. Cabinet has considered this matter, but believes it inadvisable (in the light of its present knowledge of the situation) to introduce any such legislation. The Grape-growers Council of South Australia and the Australian Primary Producers' Union have both been advised that the Government intends to take no action at the moment, but to await the report of the Royal Commission.

WALLAROO WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. HUGHES: When the Minister of Works visited Kadina, Councillor Dr. Thyer told him of the poor quality of water reticulated through the mains in the Wallaroo district and said that in 1961, after a deputation had submitted a case for a better water supply in the area, the Minister at that time had said that, when the new Warren to Paskeville trunk main was completed in about 20 months from then, it would supply the Lower Yorke Peninsula area and a large part of the Wallaroo district with a better water supply. That promise has not been fulfilled and, although at times, particularly after a protest about the water has been made, an improvement is noticed, water of improved quality is available for only a short period. Dr. Thyer said that the district needed a permanent improvement. On the present Minister's visit, he was also informed that the poor quality of the water was seriously affecting equipment in the town, particularly in small industries where steam processes were used. The Minister said he would have an officer examine the complaint and would supply a report to the council. Can he say whether this complaint has been examined by an officer of the Engineering and Water Supply Department and, if it has been, whether the council has been supplied with a copy of the report?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Wallaroo, in common with many other townships and surrounding areas, can normally be supplied with water from either (a) Beetaloo reservoir, (b) Bundaleer reservoir, which in years of low intake is supplemented by Murray River water pumped through the Morgan-Whyalla main, or (c) Warren reservoir, or a mixture

of water through interconnected trunk mains from the above sources. At present there is insufficient water in the Warren reservoir, despite its supplementation from the Mannum-Adelaide main, to reticulate it beyond Paskeville and Yorke Peninsula. Wallaroo is, therefore, of necessity, being supplied from Bundaleer reservoir and trunk main with a mixture of Bundaleer and Murray River water. It is pointed out that the quantity impounded in each of the above reservoirs determines the source from which a township such as Wallaroo is supplied. The quality of water being supplied to Wallaroo is examined from time to time by the department and the latest salinities of samples taken from Bundaleer reservoir and Murray River water at Morgan are 944 and 312 p.p.m. A mixture of this water is as good as can be supplied to Wallaroo and I have arranged for the regional Engineer to contact Dr. Thyer at Kadina and further investigate any complaints he may have about the quality of the water.

SCHOOL SUBSIDIES.

Mrs. STEELE: Some months ago the committee of the Magill Demonstration School in my district applied to the Education Department for a subsidy to match £150 that the committee or the parents of the children had raised for the purchase of library books, school aids and sporting equipment. The committee received no acknowledgment from the department of the receipt of the request and the treasurer of the committee then telephoned the department and asked when approval would be given. He was told that approval could not be given until next year, that approvals were being given only in relation to claims for subsidies of up to £50, and that all schools were being treated alike. On receipt of this information, the committee reduced the amount for which it was applying to £50 and, although this was done about two months ago, it has not yet received acknowledgment or approval of the request. Can the Minister of Education give me any information on this matter? If he does not know of it, will he obtain a report?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I do not know anything about the matter, but I shall be pleased to investigate it for the honourable member and bring down a report in a few days.

Mrs. STEELE: I realize that the Minister would not be conversant with the position at a particular school, but can he say whether it

is the present policy of the department to limit subsidies to £50?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I cannot say whether the position mentioned is correct, but the whole question of subsidy payments has been under investigation for some time and in the meantime there has been some diminution in the total subsidies paid out. It was recognized earlier that the provision in the Estimates for subsidies, which again was 10 per cent more than last year's provision, would be insufficient to provide all subsidy payments required for the whole of this financial year and, in order that the subsidies would be allocated equitably, the whole question was reviewed. I expect that within a fortnight the full policy on the matter will be announced. I should like to leave it at that for the moment.

PARA HILLS SCHOOL.

Mr. HALL: Recently, while attending a fete at Para Hills Primary School, I inspected the grounds, and the school committee chairman stressed the need for the services of some kind of caretaker to look after these grounds, which are being improved as time goes by. I believe it has become a problem to keep the oval in good condition, clean up the yard, and look after the school. I understand that the general question of caretakers has been considered by the Minister of Education or his department. Has the Minister any hope of a caretaker being provided at this school in future?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I think it would be preferable if I brought down a report for the honourable member on this subject in general and on this school in particular.

CEDUNA COURT.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: In August I asked the Attorney-General a question about a new courthouse for Ceduna. I have since received a letter from the District Council of Ceduna informing me that last year 197 cases were tried in the courtroom and that 406 have been dealt with already this year. As this courthouse was approved by the previous Government, and as I believe the present Government intends that it shall be built, can the Minister of Works say when the work will commence or something will be done about the matter?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Naturally, I have not the particulars with me today, but I will ascertain when this work will be commenced and inform the honourable member later.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: FIRM NAMES.

Mr. HUDSON: I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr. HUDSON: I refer to the matter raised by the member for Alexandra, when he said that I, in addressing a question to the Attorney-General, specifically named a firm, and I also refer to your reply, Mr. Speaker, when you said that it might not be wise for members to mention the name of a firm in asking a question such as the one I asked. I should like to explain that I had a motive for doing this in that, as the principle of *caveat emptor* applies in relation to this sort of agreement and as, in my opinion, the agreement was outrageous, the only way protection is available to people in this State is by press publicity being given to the kinds of practices that are currently going on in the community and by making it clear that firms that indulge in this sort of practice risk receiving unfavourable publicity. While the situation persists that the buyer of a product can enter into an agreement that may turn out to be legal and be a binding contract, then (and I used my judgment in the matter) it is important to try to use this House of Assembly as a means of giving publicity to the fact and as a means of warning people in South Australia that this sort of thing is going on and that they should be even more careful than they have been in the past about signing agreements, no matter what they are.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member may have misunderstood my remarks, and I want to make them clear. I was asked a general question. The member for Alexandra said that this was a practice engaged in by a number of members and my reply was that, as a general principle, it was unwise to mention the name of the firm, unless there was a good reason for doing so, and whether there was that good reason was left to the individual judgment of the member.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (MINISTERS).

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

MARKETING OF EGGS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE ERADICATION FUND ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS.

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

That for the remainder of the session Government business take precedence of all other business except questions.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): I do not oppose this motion, as I realize the Government has a very full programme and obviously wants to press on with it. However, if there are motions to disallow regulations, these should not be dealt with just by a vote being taken without there being a discussion on the merits of the motion. I therefore ask the Premier whether the Government will at some convenient time allow these motions to be dealt with, as after all they are really official business.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Some time will be given to these matters. I think the Leader will realize, however, that this motion is not unusual and that it has been moved by him as Premier in previous sessions.

Motion carried.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (SALARIES).

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 Constitution Act, 1934-1963.

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.

The object of this short Bill is to increase the salary of the members of the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation from £200 to £250 per annum. Members of the Industries Development and Land Settlement Committees receive £250 and it is considered, having regard to the importance of the functions of the Subordinate Legislation Committee and the volume of its work, that its members should receive the same

annual salary as that received by members of the other two committees. Clause 3 makes the necessary amendment which, by clauses 4 and 5, operates from November 1, 1965.

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

HARBORS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS (Minister of Marine) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Harbors Act, 1936-1962. Read a first time.

STAMP DUTIES 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 Stamp Duties Act, 1923-1964.

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.

It makes a number of unconnected amendments to the Stamp Duties Act principally in relation to the stamp duty on cheques, certain new provisions relating to receipts, and matters arising out of the proposed adoption of decimal currency. Most of the clauses dealing with various subjects appear in various parts of the Bill, and I shall therefore deal with each matter in order. The first general amendment is effected by clauses 4, 14, 15 (b) and 16 which have the effect of repealing the existing provisions governing amusements duty. As honourable members know, it has been the practice for a number of years to suspend the levy of this duty, the most recent suspension being operative until 1967. The Government has decided to repeal all the provisions relating to amusements duty.

Clauses 5, 15 (a), 17 and 18 relate specifically to decimal currency. Section 20 (1) of the principal Act provides for interest on unpaid stamp duty at a rate of £10 per centum per annum. A direct conversion of pounds to dollars would result in doubling the penalty which would become \$20 per centum per annum. Accordingly clause 5 strikes out the word "pounds" in section 20. Clauses 15 (a) and 17 provide generally for amendments throughout the principal Act to substitute the new (decimal) currency for the existing references which, of course are in terms of pounds,

shillings and pence. The clause excepts section 47a which made specific provision following the passage of the amending Act of 1952 when the duty on cheques was raised. Similarly, clauses 5, 8, 10 and 15 are excepted because these make specific amendments and the formula for direct conversion would not apply. Clause 18 will enable the use of old style stamps for a limited period (to be determined by proclamation) after decimal currency comes into force.

Clause 6 empowers the Commissioner to refund the stamp duty on registration of a motor vehicle or the transfer of a motor vehicle where there has been some mistake or the vehicle has been returned by the purchaser to the vendor within seven days. Cases have arisen where a vehicle has been delivered and the purchaser has returned it on the ground that it was not what he ordered. Clearly in such cases provision is required for a refund of the stamp duty.

Clauses 8 and 15 (c) raise the stamp duty on cheques from 3d. to 5c. The proposal to raise the duty was mentioned in connection with the Budget speech, when it was indicated that for the purposes of increasing the revenue this step would be taken. It has already been taken in Victoria, and at least two other States are contemplating a similar change. It is estimated that the increase will produce additional revenue of about £450,000 in a full year—about £150,000 for the current financial year, since the new rate does not come into force until February 14, 1966. In connection with the addition of duty, I point out that by clause 7 provision is made for the use of existing forms stamped with 3d., already in the hands of customers when the new rate becomes operative, for a limited period. This will enable customers to use cheques in their possession until they become exhausted, with the proviso that this privilege will cease one month after a proclamation. At the end of that period old cheques will be required to carry the additional duty.

I deal next with clause 9. The object of this clause is to prevent the avoidance of stamp duty by adoption of a scheme that has recently been before the House of Lords. In the case in question two parties negotiated for the acquisition of certain property—in the particular case, shares. One of the parties gave to the other an option to purchase that could be exercised orally. The property in question was transferred to the proposed purchaser to be held in trust for the vendor. The transfer passed no beneficial interest in the property to the

purchaser and it was provided that if the option should lapse the property should be retransferred to the vendor. The option was in due course exercised and the House of Lords held that *ad valorem* stamp duty was not chargeable on the transfers as conveyances on sale. It will be seen that the adoption of such a scheme could result in heavy losses to revenue, the duty payable being only £1 instead of £1 per £100. Following the House of Lords decision, the United Kingdom Finance Act was amended and the present clause is modelled upon the English amendment. In effect, it provides that any instrument by which property is conveyed in contemplation of a sale is to be deemed to be a conveyance on sale and thus liable for *ad valorem* duty. Subclause (2) provides for a refund if the sale falls through within one year or if the sale has taken place for a lower consideration than the amount on which the duty was assessed.

Clauses 10, 11, 12 and 13 and clause 15 paragraphs (e), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j) deal with receipts. Shortly stated, the effect of these amendments is to make the giving of dutiable receipts compulsory and to alter the amount of duty from the present 2d. for £2 or over to 2c for \$10 (£5) or upwards but under \$100 (£50), 10c for from \$100 (£50) to under \$1,000 (£500), and 20c for every receipt for \$1,000 (£500) and over. In connection with the new scales I would mention that they are comparable with those already existing or contemplated in the other States. Certain exemptions from the obligation to give a receipt are also provided. It is expected that the extended list of receipts exempt from duty will almost cancel out the increases in duty, leaving possibly a small net overall increase. In detail, clause 10 alters the amount of dutiable receipts from £2 to \$10 (£5). Paragraph (b) will include in the definition of "dutiable receipts" cash sale dockets.

Clause 13 imposes the obligation to give receipts liable to duty. Clause 11 removes an anomaly from section 83, which strictly means that a receipt cannot be stamped with an impressed stamp after the expiration of one month. Clause 15 (e) sets out the rates of duty on receipts, and clauses 12 and 15 (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j) deal with the exemptions of receipts from stamp duty. In addition to the exemptions already provided for in the principal Act, all receipts for payment of salary, wages or pensions will be exempt; receipts for gifts will be exempt if the amount concerned does not exceed \$20 (£10) instead of £5 as at present; other exemptions include

receipts in respect of bets on races or on totalizators, receipts for income by way of dividend or interest, receipts in relation to the allotment, purchase or sale of Government or public stock, debentures, bonds and the like, and receipts for money delivered by a carrier to or from any bank. Paragraph (d) of clause 15 raises the duty on letters of allotment and script from 1d. to 5c. (6d.). The rates in a number of other States are considerably higher than this amount. Clause 15 (k) exempts from duty hire-purchase agreements made by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. From time to time financial assistance for the purchase of furniture is made available to Aboriginal families under hire-purchase terms free of interest. As Government moneys are involved, there is no point in these instruments being stamped.

The last matter is dealt with in paragraphs (l), (m) and (n) of clause 15, which deal with partial exemptions of exservicemen from duty on conveyances, transfers or mortgages in respect of residences. Paragraphs (l) and (m) extend these provisions to persons who have been on active service in any proclaimed area outside Australia or any proclaimed military operation. At present the exemptions are confined to cases of actual war or action to suppress violence in Malaya. It appears to be desirable to enable the participants in military operations short of declared war to take the benefit of the exemptions. With respect to paragraph (n), the intention of the present exemption was to give the concession to servicemen who served during the 1939-1945 war. By proclamation that war is deemed to have ceased in February, 1954. This means that any person who served full-time in an Australian or British Service at any time before February, 1954, is entitled to the exemption and could even include all persons called up for full-time national service up to that date. A considerable proportion of the refund of stamp duty which has recently been made has been in respect of migrants of whom about one-half have had military or sea-going service only in the period following cessation of actual hostilities. It is accordingly provided that the exemption shall be restricted to persons who served before December, 1945.

I mention, lastly, that the amendments relating to assessment duty, refund of motor vehicle registration duty, avoidance of duty, the exemption of hire-purchase agreements made by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and the clauses dealing with concessions to

exservicemen, come into operation immediately. All of the other amendments do not come into operation until February 14, 1966, the day on which decimal currency will be introduced.

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

LOTTERY AND GAMING ACT AMENDMENT BILL (TOTALIZATOR).

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 3. Page 784.)

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): I have no objection to this Bill. I understand that it was introduced because some time ago one of the metropolitan racecourses became too wet and heavy for a meeting to be held and it was desired that the meeting be held at another course. As the Act specifically provides that only a certain number of meetings can be held at each racecourse, the transfer could not be approved without an amendment to the legislation. This is not a provision that will be used frequently, nor do I believe that it should. Indeed, it is something to be used only in an emergency. Although the House has no objection to this measure, it would be most unwise for racing interests to assume that, because the amendment has been passed, all the Gawler meetings, for instance, could be transferred to Victoria Park. If any person had that idea, I assure him it would not be very well received. Provided this provision applies only in an emergency, I think it is desirable, because there must be some flexibility in a matter such as this. For instance, if a fire occurred in the grandstand of a racecourse it could disrupt the facilities there and in those circumstances it would be foolish to suggest that another course could not be used. I support the second reading.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH (Premier and Treasurer): I think perhaps the Leader has not read the Bill correctly. Clause 3 states:

Provided further that on the application of the racing clubs concerned and the recommendation of the Commissioner of Police, the Chief Secretary, if satisfied that reasonable cause exists for doing so, may direct that the number of days on which the totalizator may be used in any year on any racecourse to which this paragraph applies shall be increased—

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: I understood that.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I assure the Leader that I would be the last person to tolerate any abuse of this provision.

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

LOTTERY AND GAMING ACT AMENDMENT BILL (MORPHETTVILLE).

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 13. Page 2142.)

Mr. FREEBAIRN (Light): I support the Bill, and it is such a reasonable measure that I am sure every member will be pleased to support it, too. It relates to section 19 of the Lottery and Gaming Act, 1936-1956, which states:

No licence granted under this Act shall sanction the use of any totalizator, (a) on the Morphetville Racecourse for more than 17 days in any one year.

That section also provides that the totalizator may be used for one other charity meeting at Morphetville if the Commissioner of Police is satisfied that on that day a race meeting will be held by at least three racing clubs jointly. The object of this short Bill is to allow one of the 17 days in 1965 upon which the South Australian Jockey Club is entitled to hold a meeting at Morphetville to be transferred to 1966. The clause of the Bill providing for that states:

Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, no licence granted under this Act shall sanction the use of any totalizator on the Morphetville Racecourse for more than 16 days in the year 1965 or on the said racecourse for more than 18 days in the year 1966.

This measure enables the S.A.J.C. to transfer to next year one of the days to which it is entitled this year, so that the total number of race meetings in the two years will be the same. The amendment is needed because of the unusual falling of public holidays this year. If the S.A.J.C. was to take up its entitlement for this year it would need to have a meeting on Thursday, December 30, which is not a public holiday in South Australia and on which no race meeting will be held in Melbourne. The S.A.J.C. desires to have a meeting on Monday, January 3, next year (which is a holiday), and as this is a reasonable request I am sure that all members will accede to it. I am not a racing man and I have never been to the Morphetville Racecourse, but I look forward to visiting it for the first time on Monday, January 3, and hope that the Premier will be able to give me one or two tips.

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

ELECTRICAL WORKERS AND CONTRACTORS LICENSING BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from November 3. Page 2588.)

Mr. LANGLEY (Unley): It is with some satisfaction that I support this Bill. This is another part of the Labor Party policy so excellently presented by the Premier last March and so strongly endorsed by the people of South Australia. The member for Torrens said that it was a worthy Bill, but like the member for Semaphore I say that it is worthy, long overdue and needed to help the people of this State. It ensures that competent tradesmen will be available to do electrical work. Several deputations on this matter waited on the former Government, but it was adamant on this question of licensing. However, this progressive attitude of the Labor Party will be of great benefit to everyone and will give proper protection to life and property where electricity is used. When one reads of a fire occurring it is usually said it was started by an electrical fault, but fires are caused by other means. However, faulty workmanship has caused fires in this State, and also loss of life. Recently a young child was killed in Snowtown by misadventure. Something must have been wrong with the electrical installation.

Electrical work is usually referred to in three sections—supply, installation and repairs. These sections are covered in the Bill although not as fully as some people would like, but no doubt the Bill will be improved. For many years the Adelaide Electric Supply Company was the main supplier of electricity in this State. During that time progress in electrical installations was not great, as the company had shareholders to whom it had to pay dividends, so it would not go ahead with work unless it was on a profitable basis. Since 1946, when the Electricity Trust was formed, the State has made magnificent progress in this matter. The trust was formed under Act of Parliament, and one of the important aspects of its formation was the support received by the then L.C.L. Government from members of the Labor Party. It was that support that enabled the Bill to be passed. Everybody who voted for the formation of the trust agreed that it was a necessity. When the trust was formed we had a delta system of 210 volts on two leads and between 250 and 260 on the yellow lead, but the trust instituted a star system with 240 volts on each lead. This has been a great benefit to the State and has assisted

in keeping down electricity costs. It was one of the earlier innovations of the trust, and since that time the trust has functioned excellently. Its officers are fair in every way and good people to deal with. Our electricity supply is equal to that anywhere in Australia. The companies that supply electricity in other parts of Australia are always in trouble. We have the Osborne power station, the Sir Thomas Playford power station at Port Augusta, and the Torrens Island power station. In this way the trust is endeavouring to meet the needs of the people, and we must ensure that the service continues. The Bill ensures that people who know something about electricity will be employed, whereas in the past anybody could perform electrical work. We must see that loss of life is reduced to a minimum, especially as South Australia has become highly industrialized.

Mr. Freebairn: Tell us about the qualifications you will look for in licensing electricians.

Mr. LANGLEY: I think I have previously answered that question for the honourable member. Of course, this Bill will have its teething troubles. The first person to be considered for a licence may well be the young fellow who has served his apprenticeship.

Mr. Rodda: What about the established man?

Mr. LANGLEY: Many men who have been in the trade for 10 or more years may find it difficult to pass a test at this stage, but the committee to be established will consider everything. As soon as the Bill is passed and the committee is established, people will get an opportunity to apply for a licence.

Mr. Freebairn: Would you be satisfied with a man who passed his trade test?

Mr. LANGLEY: The member for Semaphore referred to that matter. The committee would consider people who had been in the trade for a long time, and would grant a licence to them if they deserved one. Men who had left the trade and who applied to re-enter would have to pass a test. The man who had been in this country for, say, only five years, and who desired to enter the trade, would most likely have to sit for an examination. We do not intend to hinder but to help not only the electrical industry but all people in the State. The general idea is for the committee to ensure that people are employed and assisted as much as possible. If a person cannot keep pace with present standards his

licence can be revoked. It is up to the individual. The trust is only too willing to supply information to those who require it.

In the early days an electrician had to be a carpenter as well. In many houses today we find the wooden capping and casing method still in existence. It is often dangerous and the cause of fires. Vast improvements have been effected by the use of conduit wiring and plastic cables, as well as neutral screen wire, which is safe in the open air. Second fittings, such as pendants, switches, etc., have been considerably improved. With the old brass switches, under damp conditions a person could receive a shock. The member for Adelaide has mentioned the heat in this place. Indeed, Parliament House does not have a desirable electrical system, and I hope it can be rewired at some stage.

Mr. Casey: Would you contract to do the work?

Mr. LANGLEY: It would be a long job, and I am only a small contractor. Electricity Trust inspectors are fair. If the Bill is passed, they will be called on to perform more duties than hitherto. They will be able to help people by explaining what is wrong with faulty installation. When new houses are completed they must be inspected and, if the wiring is satisfactory, the work is passed and supply is connected. The honourable member for Semaphore mentioned a case where a man did everything except put the wires in and I must say that I have never known of that happening. However, the only time it is certain that the work will be inspected is when the trust puts meters into new houses or interferes in some way with the service run to houses that already receive supply. Of course, the trust will inspect when requested to do so but there is sometimes a delay until officers have the opportunity to make the inspection. Danger often arises from faulty wiring when rooms are added to a house.

I recently saw eight lights wired in flex in a house and this was noticed only when a trust inspector came to the house to provide a new service run. There are many hundreds of houses in Adelaide at present that have electrical wiring that is in poor condition but its inspection, except in certain circumstances, is outside the rules under which the trust works at present. Faulty wiring could cause fires and electrocution, resulting in loss of life and property. Many people think that a little knowledge will get them through and will often do a job cheaply. They do not care how they

do the work as long as the appliance operates when the power is switched on.

One part of the honourable member for Gouger's speech that was correct was his reference to the deaths in other States through accidents with electrical appliances. In South Australia, there were 19 deaths through this cause in three years. We desire to cover electrical work by this Bill and I point out that last year the trust, in 800 cases, refused to grant approvals after tests had been made.

Mr. Hudson: That clearly indicates the need for this Bill.

Mr. LANGLEY: Yes, and it is more by good luck than by good judgment that there have not been more injuries. When the trust rejects an application after making an inspection, the people concerned do not worry; they merely go down and pay another £1. If another test results in a rejection, the people pay another £1.

Mr. Rodda: Where is the inspector when all these payments of £1 are being made?

Mr. LANGLEY: The procedure is that the electrician makes an appointment to inspect. When he inspects, he may find eight or nine faults, and he does not connect supply. Then, the person goes back and pays another £1. The cost of sending trust inspectors backwards and forwards is great, but they are fully trained men, well aware of the requirements, and they make sure the work is done correctly. There is provision for compensation in this Bill. The whole point is that, if a man is not sufficiently efficient to do a job, he should not be allowed to do it. Electricity cannot be seen but I assure honourable members that it can be felt. More and more power plugs are being used in homes today, whereas 30 years ago usually only one two-pin plug was required in a house. The number of appliances being used in houses is increasing all the time.

Mr. Freebairn: Surely the electricians put all those new plugs on the original service run?

Mr. LANGLEY: Those who know their job do not. They say to the householder, "Your service run is not big enough."

Mr. Curren: That is another reason for passing this Bill.

Mr. LANGLEY: We should make sure that a job is done properly. People are willing to have faults corrected when the danger is pointed out to them.

Mr. Nankivell: You would frighten them out of having electricity altogether if you told them of all the dangers!

Mr. LANGLEY: No, that is not so, because electricity is a necessity. Much trouble is caused nowadays because some people do not know where to put the live terminal. Only this morning I saw a power point in a bathroom. The cord was in the plug and the switch was on neutral, the live wire being on the power plug. In other words, live current was travelling through the cord all the time.

Mr. Quirke: There should not be a power plug in a bathroom at all.

Mr. LANGLEY: It is common today. Plugs can now be installed in bathrooms, but they should be installed in a certain way.

Mr. Quirke: If a person shaves in the bath with an electric razor, he is taking a good way to put an end to himself, and this has been done.

Mr. LANGLEY: I know it has; this sort of thing is prevalent. Sometimes when a plumber makes an alteration to an outside pipe he forgets to reconnect the earth wire and, when there is a fault in an appliance, the earth is not effective and the person using the appliance gets a shock. If qualified people did the work, these dangers would be cut to a minimum. I agree with the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) that danger will never be cut out completely, but it will be minimized by this Bill. I think the heading of the report in the *Advertiser* was a bad one. I know it is impossible to police this matter completely and to inspect the wiring in every room of every house, but this legislation will act as a deterrent to unauthorized people. The member for Light (Mr. Freebairn) mentioned overloading, and I know that in the average house there is overloading. A good-sized radiator draws 10 amp. but nobody seems to care about that, as people plug in radiators and switch on without considering whether they are overloading the service. These things should be made known to the general public.

The most contentious part of the Bill is that relating to repairs to appliances, but I think that a provision that only qualified people can carry out these repairs is as important as the rest of the Bill. Last year officers of the Electricity Trust were called out to many homes to investigate complaints by people who had received electric shocks. As a result of their inspections, 1,000 faulty appliances were disconnected and condemned. This may not appear to be many when compared with the population of this State.

Mr. Quirke: But if there had been 1,000 deaths, that would have been a lot!

Mr. LANGLEY: Yes. Even one would be too many. Probably twice as many appliances were faulty but no reports were made about them. This points to the need for qualified people to service appliances and ensure that they are in proper working order.

Mr. Coumbe: Does that mean that everyone who repairs appliances will have to be licensed?

Mr. LANGLEY: Yes, and that is the position in other States.

Mr. Coumbe: But that is not provided for entirely by this Bill.

Mr. LANGLEY: I think that by the time this Bill becomes law all electrical work will be covered and only qualified people will be doing it.

Mr. Coumbe: Why not get the Bill right now?

Mr. LANGLEY: I think it is right.

Mr. Hurst: Some do not understand and others do not care!

Mr. LANGLEY: From the way the member for Gouger (Mr. Hall) spoke last night, it is obvious that he does not know anything about this matter. His speech was a mockery of an important Bill, and I think his attitude was irresponsible. There is a big difference between 2-core and 3-core flex, but many people cut out the earth wire, perhaps because it will not fit into the plug.

Mr. Clark: That is a common mistake.

Mr. LANGLEY: I agree, and, so long as the appliance works when plugged in, these people think the wiring must be correct. As most appliances are metallic and are used by women, usually in kitchens where there is a strong earth potential, and as many earth wires are disconnected, there is a great danger of shocks. Advertisements appear daily in all newspapers by firms selling washing machines, electrical hair dryers and dozens of other electrical appliances. Ensuring that these things are correctly repaired by qualified people is a vital part of the Bill, and I am sure it covers the position.

Many accidents occur in industry and, although these are not all the result of electrical faults, something should be done to prevent electrical accidents. Industrial accidents cause a loss of £500,000,000 a year. The fewer accidents we have the better for the

people of South Australia.—Despite the television advertising that took place before the last election I was able to double my overall majority in my district. The member for Gouger said that I had not done anything for Unley. One thing in my favour is that my majority there has increased. If I had done nothing I am sure the people in the district would have put me out. If I am defeated in the future (and I have been defeated and dropped before) I will at least congratulate the person who defeats me, and that is more than the Opposition's candidates have done. In the past I asked many questions of the former Government about the licensing of electricians and found that it was not keen on that course. On November 6, 1963, I asked the following question:

On October 15 I asked the Premier, representing the Minister of Labour and Industry, whether legislation would be introduced to license electricians and contractors as the result of a deputation of both parties to the Minister. Has the Premier an answer?

He replied:

Although I have not the formal answer here, I know that this matter has been considered several times in Cabinet. Cabinet has always been against the proposal, and I know of no decision that legislation be considered for this session. I have seen the list of Bills which will be introduced and which have been approved for drafting, and this legislation is not included. The position in South Australia is, in many respects, quite different from that in other States as here we have an excellent installation inspection system. This State has an extremely good record regarding installations. Further, fire insurance rates in this State are the lowest in the Commonwealth. The accidents that have occurred on electric installations have been mainly where qualified men have been working. I doubt whether anything is to be gained by introducing legislation, because I believe this would hinder the installation of many extensions and make them more costly. No legislation will be introduced during the current session.

South Australia is the only State in the Commonwealth that does not license electricians and this has been to our disadvantage. I agree with what the former Premier said about ours being one of the best systems in Australia but I do not agree that licensing would hinder extensions and installations. That is not at all correct—it is the other way around. Many cheap jacks have been doing jobs badly, and it would have been far better if licensing had been compulsory years ago. I ask leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

In Committee.

(Continued from November 3. Page 2586.)

Clause 5—'Enactment of section 23a of principal Act'—which the Hon. G. G. Pearson had moved to amend by inserting new section 23b.

(For wording of new section see page 2584.)

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Attorney-General): In this matter the member for Flinders has, since the debate was adjourned last, drafted a further subsection to his amendment which will cope with the difficulty raised by the Leader of the Opposition. As I understand it, it provides for the Land Board to be the valuing authority in the case of money to be paid by the promoters or the class of persons prescribed by regulation. The point of the latter provision is that there may be, in the future, some official valuing authority other than the Land Board, and then we would want to substitute that new authority without having to amend the Act. I have been asked to give an assurance that before that happens the Land Board will continue to be the official valuing authority. I do give that assurance. The Minister of Lands is prepared to see to it that the Land Board valuations are made available to authorities other than the Governmental authorities where they will be the prescribed authority for acquisition under the Compulsory Acquisition of Land Act in certain cases. The amendment as it has been shown to me is acceptable to the Government, and I understood the honourable member would, in consequence, be happy with it if I made the assurance that I gave to the Committee.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have studied the amendment which was drawn as a result of reporting progress last evening, and it is acceptable and overcomes our objection. I thank the Attorney-General for the assurance that he has given, which I understand to be that while the Land Board exists as the authority it will determine the value which, under subsection (2), the promoter will pay. I also understand that if, at any time, the Land Board ceases to exist as such and is replaced by some other authority, then the subsequent authority will carry out the same function and that this will apply to all promoters under the Act.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Yes.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: In that case I am happy to move the additional subsection (7) as an amendment to my amendment.

The CHAIRMAN: Will the honourable member read it and ask leave to add it to his amendment?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I ask leave to amend my amendment by inserting the following new subsection:

(7) In subsection (2) of this section "promoters' valuation" means the valuation made, on behalf of the promoters, by the Land Board referred to in the Crown Lands Act, 1929-

1960, or by a person or class of person prescribed by regulation made under this Act as a person or class of person authorized to make valuations for the purposes of this section.

Leave granted.

Amendment as amended carried; clause as amended passed.

Remaining clauses (6 to 22) and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.5 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, November 9, at 2 p.m.