

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, June 21, 1966.

The House met at 12 noon pursuant to proclamation, the Speaker (Hon. L. G. Riches) presiding.

The Clerk (Mr. G. D. Combe) read the proclamation summoning Parliament.

After prayers read by the Speaker, honourable members, in compliance with summons, proceeded at 12.10 p.m. to the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech. They returned to the Assembly Chamber at 12.36 p.m. and the Speaker resumed the Chair.

(Sitting suspended from 12.37 to 2.15 p.m.)

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The SPEAKER: I have to report that, in compliance with a summons from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, the House attended in the Legislative Council Chamber where His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, of which Speech I have obtained a copy, which I now lay upon the table.

Ordered to be printed.

NEXT DAY OF SITTING.

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

That the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday, June 22, at 2 p.m.

Motion carried.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1).

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of the general revenue of the State as were required for all the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

SUPPLY BILL (No. 1).

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by message, recommended the House of Assembly to make provision by Bill for defraying the salaries and other expenses of the several departments and public services of the Government of South Australia during the year ending June 30, 1967.

In Committee of Supply.

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

That towards defraying the expenses of the establishments and public services of the State for the year ending June 30, 1967, a sum of \$36,000,000 be granted: provided that no pay-

ments for any establishment or service shall be made out of the said sum in excess of the rates voted for similar establishments or services on the Estimates for the financial year ending June 30, 1966, except increases of salaries or wages fixed or prescribed by any return made under any Act relating to the Public Service or by any regulation or by any award, order or determination of any court or other body empowered to fix or prescribe wages or salaries.

Motion carried.

Resolution adopted by the House. Bill founded in Committee of Ways and Means, introduced by the Hon. Frank Walsh, and read a first time.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It provides for the appropriation of moneys so that the public services of the State may be carried on in the early part of next financial year. It is in the same form and for the same sum (\$36,000,000) as the Supply Bill (No. 1), 1965, passed by Parliament 12 months ago. As members know, the annual Appropriation Bill does not normally receive assent until about the end of October and, as the financial year begins on July 1, special provision for appropriation is required to cover the first four months of the new year. That special provision takes the form of Supply Bills, and without this Bill now before the House there would be no Parliamentary authority available for normal expenditure from July 1, 1966.

A short Bill for \$36,000,000 without any details of the purposes for which it is available does not mean that the Government or individual departments have a free hand to spend, as they are limited by the provisions of clause 3. In the early months of 1966-67, until the new Appropriation Bill becomes law, the Government must use the \$36,000,000 within the limits of the individual lines set out in the original Estimates and the Supplementary Estimates approved by Parliament for 1965-66. In accordance with normal procedures, members will have a full opportunity to debate the detailed 1966-67 expenditure proposals when the Budget is presented.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): As the Opposition does not desire to delay the Bill, I wish to refer to only two matters. The form of clause 3 is the same as that used in similar Bills over the past 15 or 20 years, since Parliament first realized that it was unfair to Government employees to delay payments that might have been authorized by an award, and a special provision was made enabling the Government to

make payments greater than the sums actually voted in the previous year.

I point out to the Treasurer, and particularly to the Minister of Works, that over recent years another provision has become necessary because of special circumstances. The Appropriation Bill passed last year enabled the Government to meet payments in accordance with awards prescribed by any wage-fixing tribunal and, as in the previous two or three years, to spend, if necessary, money in excess of that voted to pump water. This provision was made because of the difficulty of determining how much was needed for this purpose. Although, with a certain qualification, no provision is included in the Bill for expenditure in excess of the rates voted last year, this does not mean that the extra expenditure that the Government has had to incur has been covered. As the sum provided is to cover expenditure over the next three months, will the Treasurer ascertain whether provision has been made for pumping that may be necessary unless good rains fall in the catchment areas? Living in a catchment area, I know that, although we have had useful rains, they have not produced any material run-off. I do not know what the word "rates" means: whether it means that all of the sum voted last year can be spent in the first month or that only a *pro rata* amount can be spent. However, no doubt the Attorney-General can give an opinion on this matter quickly. If only a *pro rata* amount can be spent and the Engineering and Water Supply Department has to pump water during the first three months of the financial year, that department may be in some difficulties.

This Bill provides for the expenditure next year of sums that will presently be presented to members in the Supplementary Estimates. In other words, members are being asked now to vote on sums, the details of which they have not seen: we know only that these will be substantial amounts. It would be better had the Supplementary Estimates been tabled first so that we would have known details of the expenditure. If we do not, clause 3, which ensures that the Government will not spend more on any line than was voted, is meaningless. In explaining the Bill, the Treasurer said:

In the early months of 1966-67, until the new Appropriation Bill becomes law, the Government must use the \$36,000,000 within the limits of the individual lines set out in the original Estimates and the Supplementary Estimates approved by Parliament for 1965-66.

However, we have not seen these Supplementary Estimates, so clause 3, which provides that no payments shall be made in excess of the usual establishment, does not give Parliament any clue on what those expenditures are. As every member realizes that the Government has to have money to carry on the services of the State, I do not want to hold up the Bill, but next year the Opposition will oppose this procedure if the Bill is introduced in this form and will ask that it be introduced after the Supplementary Estimates have been passed so that members may see why they are being asked to provide the money. I think honourable members opposite will realize that that is not an unreasonable course to take. I hope the Treasurer will be able to agree next year to the Supplementary Estimates being tabled before the Supply Bill for the forthcoming year is proceeded with, or that some slightly different procedure will be set out in clause 3. If clause 3 were confined to the amounts that have been provided on the general Estimates, there would be no objection to it, but when it includes, as it does here, the Supplementary Estimates I think that the procedure is probably a little loose and that it is something the Opposition has a right to query.

Mr. SHANNON (Onkaparinga): I am sorry the Leader has not gone further. I admit that the quantity of water that will have to be pumped through the Mannum-Adelaide main to maintain an adequate supply for the metropolitan area for the coming period is an imponderable. I live in a catchment area of the metropolitan reservoir system, and I know that all the rain we have had this season is enough to wet the surface. We have not had a really good "subsoiler" rain, which is essential if we are to have an adequate run-off from the catchment area. The subsoil must be wet to prevent any percolation of the rain into the surface soil. I think the Minister of Works is well aware of that.

It appears that if we happened to have a really heavy rain now there would not be a decent run-off. The people who depend on reticulated water are of necessity depending on the Government to supply it, and an obligation is imposed on the Minister by an Act of Parliament to do so. I fear that if we do not have a decent precipitation during the coming summer months in the area that feeds these reservoirs we may have to put up with some form of restriction, which we have been able to avoid hitherto. I do not know whether the Government has considered the practicability

or the desirability of round-the-clock pumping, perhaps a little ahead of what would normally be the policy adopted by the Engineering and Water Supply Department. I know that our major reservoirs serving the metropolitan area are badly supplied at present; anyone has only to drive around the hills to see the very poor storages that exist. I do not think it would be proper to suggest to the Government that it start to fill the reservoirs by pumping from the Murray River, as a certain loss would occur. However, there is a point at which I think the Government's obligation to the people who are supplied with water should be met.

I do not oppose this Bill, and I hope that my comments are taken in the spirit in which they are offered, for they are not critical. I appreciate the Government's position in this matter, for obviously it had no control over the sort of rainfall we have had. So far the rain has come in dribs and drabs and has only just wet the surface.

Mr. Rodda: We think that Government members are bone-shakers.

Mr. SHANNON: The honourable member does not have to worry about the rain: he gets all he wants—and so do I, generally speaking.

Mr. Clark: It falls on the just and the unjust.

Mr. SHANNON: Only just, this year. I am not unmindful of the Government's problems, but I think there should be in this estimate some provision to take care of a possible increase in pumping costs to maintain essential services in the metropolitan area. The Leader made the point regarding the final bill of costs through which members will have to go *seriatim*. I think it is undesirable that a blank cheque should be prepared and presented to us, and I do not think it is necessary. Fundamentally, Governments are responsible for finance, and one thing that everybody knows is that we are all limited financially. I endorse what the Leader has said: it is desirable that we have a detailed statement setting out why the moneys are required and by which departments the money will be spent before we are asked to vote the total amount, and I hope that that procedure will be adopted in the future. We know the total amount, but where it will be spent nobody knows at this stage. I know the Government's problems and I am not being unduly critical, but if the Government took the House into its confidence, there would be no criticism: the Government would have all the answers.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH (Premier and Treasurer): Following the procedure and custom over many years, we are doing today what has been done in the past, particularly when I was a member of the Opposition. Members will have ample opportunity to consider the Supplementary Estimates, so we should pass this legislation immediately. I am sure the Opposition does not wish to deny the Public Service, or any other service within the ambit of this legislation, any benefits from it. With respect to the pumping of water to reticulated services, I do not want to cross bridges until I come to them, as I have much faith that the Good Lord will be generous in His attitude towards South Australia in regard to water supplies for the coming season. My colleague, the Minister of Works, informs me that he has just received a telephone call from his department indicating that it could cease pumping for an unspecified time, and this position may pertain from next week. I do not know the quantity involved but, in view of that information, there is no need to make special provision immediately. I ask members to pass this Bill so that it can be sent to another place.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by message, recommended the House of Assembly to make appropriation of the sum set forth in the Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure by the Government during the year ending June 30, 1966.

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 Supply.

Motion carried.

In Committee of Supply.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Before dealing with details of the Supplementary Estimates I shall briefly summarize the present position of the Consolidated Revenue Account. In September last I presented to the House a Budget which anticipated a deficit of \$3,082,000 for the financial year 1965-66. After allowing for the carry-over from previous years of a small balance of surpluses of \$1,223,000, it seemed that the cumulative deficit at June 30, 1966, would be \$1,859,000. During the year several factors have had adverse effects on the Budget, which will mean a deficit considerably greater than

that originally forecast. The season was particularly dry: this had a direct impact on railways and harbour revenues, as the volume of produce handled was less than estimated. There was a further direct unfavourable effect, as the Engineering and Water Supply Department incurred additional costs for pumping water. The indirect effects, also unfavourable, have been evidenced mainly by reductions below estimate in a wide range of Government revenues.

The failure of many revenues to reach the estimates as presented to Parliament has been due in part to two other factors, namely, a general slowing down in the Australian economy and the rejection or amendment by Parliament during the last session of several of the Government's revenue-raising proposals. At this stage it appears that revenue receipts could fall below estimate by as much as \$4,000,000. In addition to the sharp decline in railways and harbour earnings that I have mentioned, there have been very heavy shortfalls in receipts from succession duties and stamp duties. For payments in total the net variation from estimate is likely to be relatively small, but within the net figure there have been a number of variations, some above and some below the provisions included in the Estimates of Expenditure.

As members are aware, the movements above and below estimate may not be offset one against the other for appropriation purposes. The appropriations approved by Parliament are for individual departments and, where excesses above the departmental provision are incurred, it is necessary for the Government to rely on other sources of appropriation authority. One of these sources is the section in the main Appropriation Act which gives additional appropriation to meet increased costs due to awards of wage fixing bodies and to meet any upward movement in costs of pumping water through the two major pipelines. This special appropriation authority is being called upon this year to cover the costs of a new award for teachers in the Education Department, a number of smaller award variations, and the increased cost of pumping through the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline. Another source of appropriate authority is the Governor's Appropriation Fund, which in terms of the Public Finance Act may cover the expenditure of up to \$1,200,000 in addition to that otherwise authorized. The appropriation available in the fund is being used to cover a number of smaller excesses above departmental provisions but it is not sufficient to provide for the larger excesses,

and therefore it is necessary for me to ask the Committee to consider Supplementary Estimates in which the appropriations sought are as set out hereunder.

The Estimates of Expenditure included appropriation of \$2,287,000 for the Department of Social Welfare, but a recent estimate indicates that total expenditure will exceed that figure by about \$185,000. The excess is due to higher numbers of children under the department's care, to higher numbers in receipt of State public relief, and to increased costs of care and accommodation.

Regarding the Engineering and Water Supply Department, the Estimates included an appropriation of \$10,498,000. It is expected that the provision will be exceeded due to increased costs of pumping water and to higher costs of operation and maintenance. The probable excess cost of some \$80,000 for pumping water through the Mannum-Adelaide pipeline will be covered by the special appropriation section in the main Appropriation Act to which I have referred. However, it is necessary to provide in the Supplementary Estimates the appropriation of a further \$400,000 to cover increased expenditure in several districts for repairs, maintenance, water treatment, and some minor pumping.

The Estimates of Expenditure included a provision of \$5,988,000 for the Public Buildings Department. The general costs of maintenance, repair, and furnishing of Government buildings have been greater than expected, and further provisions of \$100,000 for education, police, and other Government buildings are proposed. Additional provisions of \$80,000 for power, telephone services, and various rates are also necessary. The total excess is thus estimated to be \$180,000.

The Estimates of Expenditure included \$12,532,000 in total for miscellaneous items under Minister of Education—Miscellaneous. Additional appropriation of \$770,000 is now sought, \$530,000 being for grants to the University of Adelaide and \$240,000 for grants to the Institute of Technology. For the University of Adelaide further grants are required primarily for two purposes, \$240,000 for research and \$290,000 for buildings. For the triennium 1964 to 1966 the Australian Universities Commission recommended grants totalling \$10,000,000 for research purposes at all universities in the States, and at the time of preparation of the Estimates the distribution of the first \$6,000,000 was known. Subsequently, a special committee set up by the

Commonwealth Government made recommendations for the distribution of the remaining \$4,000,000. Projects at South Australian universities attracted a high proportion of the final \$4,000,000, and from the total of \$10,000,000 the final share of South Australian universities was about \$240,000 more than earlier anticipated. Because of the timing of quarterly grants to the University of Adelaide research payments will require additional appropriation to this extent this year. Also, progress on buildings at Bedford Park, now known as the Flinders university, has been more rapid than earlier expected and additional grants are required accordingly.

For this financial year all grants for Flinders university are being paid directly to the University of Adelaide. The legislation which established the Flinders university gives authority for such financial transactions as may be necessary between the two institutions. The research and building grants are each financed dollar for dollar by State and Commonwealth. The gross payments are appropriated under Minister of Education—Miscellaneous, and the Commonwealth grants are credited to revenue as received, and accordingly the additional net impact on the State accounts will only be half the gross figures appropriated.

For the South Australian Institute of Technology additional grants of \$240,000 are required, \$120,000 being for recurrent purposes and \$120,000 for buildings. Enrolments have increased rapidly in all the technical courses, and the Government has agreed to make recurrent grants at a higher level than previously estimated. Also, additional grants are required to meet payments for a new building being erected for the institute on its Frome Road site. Subsequent to the presentation of the Estimates negotiations were conducted with the Commonwealth Government for the provision of funds for institute buildings under advanced education arrangements on a dollar-for-dollar basis, as well as under university arrangements.

Agreement between the State, the Commonwealth, and the institute was reached and a contract let for the new Frome Road building. As with the university grants there will be a partial offset to these excess expenditures by receipt of Commonwealth assistance. I expect to be able to give more information about university and advanced education arrangements when the 1966-67 Budget proposals are under discussion. The total additional provision sought for all the purposes I have explained is

\$1,535,000. Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the first line of the Supplementary Estimates.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

QUESTIONS

LOAN ALLOCATION.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Has the Treasurer had prepared a report on the discussions that took place at the Loan Council meeting last week? If he has not, will he inform the House of the transactions that took place at the meeting and the effect they will have on the Loan moneys available to the State this year? Although I understand that income tax reimbursement was not discussed, will the Treasurer, if it was discussed, say what effect this will have on the sum available to South Australia?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I do not have anything prepared on the subject at this stage, but I assure the Leader that tax reimbursement was not discussed. I believe I have said that a five-year agreement was made at last year's meeting on this matter and this agreement still has four years to run. The Loan allocation to South Australia is \$88,430,000, an increase of \$5,480,000 on last year's allocation; the semi-governmental allocation is \$14,110,000, an increase of \$766,000. Of course, these increases will help the Government to continue with its works programme. I do not want to complain about what occurred and the effect on this State. I readily admit that the Government made it known to the people of South Australia that whatever public works were in hand when it took office would be completed or continued. I frankly admit that I did not know what was involved, but I assure the Leader that the thought uppermost in the minds of Government members was to avoid unemployment: we did not wish to curtail expenditure at a certain level and, consequently, we have overspent. That over-expenditure is almost half the sum of the extra allocation received from the Loan Council. With a careful and commonsense approach I expect that we will do as well this year as we did last year, but we will not be extravagant in any way. Unfortunately, therefore, our programme will not measure up to what we desire. We will have to look carefully at Loan expenditure, and I know that the Public Works Department will have its problems. The position may be clarified later when I introduce supplementary financial measures.

At the 1965 Loan Council meeting certain controversies arose concerning New South

Wales, which was granted an extra \$3,000,000 to construct silos. The New South Wales Premier complained bitterly about the treatment he was receiving in relation to income tax disbursement and said that New South Wales was down about \$40,000,000 compared with Victoria. He implied that Victoria was only a pocket handkerchief in size compared with New South Wales, and he referred to the drastic drought in New South Wales. Both Queensland and New South Wales have been particularly hard hit by droughts, which have cost them more money than they have in reserve. Because of this a special allocation of \$2,000,000 each was made by the council to New South Wales and Queensland this year. This arrangement has not really harmed the welfare of the other States. I said that we had had droughts in South Australia and that one in the northern areas had lasted almost 10 years.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: Was the \$2,000,000 to which the Treasurer referred excluded from the formula?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Queensland and New South Wales are each to receive \$2,000,000, and these sums are entirely excluded from the formula, which is not affected; the sums were granted as semi-governmental loans. Therefore, a general allocation of about \$267,000,000 was made for this purpose. The allocation did not interfere with the formula agreed to last year in relation to income tax disbursements. Although we did not get all we sought, I consider we came out reasonably well, and we will try to manage with what we have obtained.

UPPER MURRAY BRIDGE.

Mr. CURREN: Some weeks ago I noticed a report in the *Sunday Mail* that the Highways Department report on investigations into possible sites for a bridge across the Murray River had been forwarded to the Minister of Roads for consideration. Can the Minister of Lands, who represents the Minister of Roads in this Chamber, say what action has been taken by the Government following Cabinet's consideration of this report?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Cabinet considered this report, which was received yesterday from the Highways Department. The report has now been forwarded to the Public Works Committee for consideration.

BARLEY.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: The Minister of Agriculture will no doubt be aware that this year there has been considerable trade in barley

over the border and that this means that it is not going through the Australian Barley Board. Negotiations have taken place between the board and the State Governments of Victoria and South Australia in an attempt to get a higher first advance, as this would contribute towards barley coming back to the board instead of going over the border and being traded outside the board. The board negotiates with the Commonwealth Reserve Bank to get the first advance, and the bank will advance only 80 per cent of its estimate of the value of the barley, which includes railway freight and the board's administrative charges. I do not know why that should be, as the growers pay that money. Will the Minister of Agriculture consider asking Cabinet to guarantee the amount of freight and administrative charges to the Barley Board? If this were done, no cash would be involved. If the Reserve Bank were prepared to guarantee up to 80 per cent of the value and the Government were prepared to guarantee the cost of freight and administration, the bank would have an added security of about \$4,000,000. The board would then be able to advance about 10c a bushel more in its first advance payment. This would considerably help the board, the grower would get a higher first advance, and this would stop the trade over the border, which is to the detriment of the South Australian grower.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I am aware of the problem of trading across the border, which has been going on for some time and which has probably been accentuated this year because of the smaller harvest. As the honourable member's question involves Government policy, I will discuss the matter with my colleagues and bring down a reply as soon as possible.

CLARE HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. QUIRKE: A proposal to build a new high school at Clare was recommended in 1965 by the Public Works Committee, but there is doubt about when the school can be built. Although it has been said that this work is not urgent because there are already facilities at Clare, those facilities are very crowded, as was recognized when the proposal was put forward. Land is available for this project, and I suggest that land adjacent to the school land be bought and that a teacher's residence, which is badly needed, be constructed. If something is not done to obtain this land, it may easily be lost, as I understand that it will shortly be available because some obstacle regarding a closed road has been removed.

Will the Minister of Education say when it will be possible to commence building the high school and whether any arrangements have been made to buy land for a teacher's residence?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: On May 11, 1965, the Public Works Committee recommended the construction of new buildings for the Clare High School at an estimated cost of \$630,000. As the evidence presented to the committee indicated, the case for a new high school at Clare rested on two main needs: (1) to expand the accommodation provided for Clare High School in order to house a steadily increasing enrolment, to provide specialist facilities, to broaden curriculum offerings, and to replace wooden rooms with a solid construction building on a less restricted site; and (2) to provide additional accommodation for Clare Primary School, which would add to its present building and one acre site the land and buildings now occupied by the Clare High School. While it is highly desirable to improve the accommodation for the high school and the primary school at Clare, it is considered that both schools will be able to carry on for the next few years in their present buildings. Because of the urgent need for high school accommodation in other places, it has been necessary to allot a lower priority to the proposals to move Clare High School to new buildings on a larger site, and I cannot at present say when this work will be carried out. The pressure in areas of population explosion is continuing, and we are obliged to vote most of the money available for school buildings to those areas to ensure that there will be a roof over the heads of children who present themselves for school at the beginning of the year. I shall be pleased to consider the matter with a view to securing land for a teacher's residence as soon as possible.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Mr. HUDSON: Last year the Attorney-General told the House that he would conduct a survey of the number of justices of the peace in all areas of the State, that quotas would be established for all areas, and that when the survey had been completed he would consider appointing justices. Can he now say how this survey is progressing?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The survey was completed some time ago, and several attempts were made to establish areas in which quotas would apply. The surveys had to be taken in police districts. Originally, we tried to establish quotas for these districts, but this task presented problems, particularly as in

some police districts several members of Parliament were involved. We then attempted a new method of establishing quotas, and finally chose the method set forth in letters that most members of the House have already received. I regret that the honourable member has not yet received his. However, all members should have theirs by the end of this week. In these letters members will see set forth areas or towns in respect of which quotas are proposed, and members are asked to make representations for any alteration in the quota that they consider is desirable before quotas are finally fixed. When the quotas have been agreed, all existing remaining applications for justices can be speedily dealt with as against the vacancies shown on the quotas. The survey has been very useful in revealing that in some areas there is a grave lack of justices indeed; many areas are inadequately served with Justices of the Peace, whereas in other areas the number of justices far exceeds a reasonable relationship between the number of justices and the number of people in the area.

Mr. Quirke: Do you consider age?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. There will be cases where the quota cannot be adhered to as an absolutely hard and fast rule because some people will no longer be able fully to carry on with the work of justices.

Mr. Bockelberg: Is mileage considered?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. Basically, as members will see from the letters they have received, the quota in the city areas or in the country cities has been fixed on the basis of one justice to every 250 people. In the country towns it is one justice to every 150 people or so. There is a further departure in the case of sparsely settled areas, where it is obviously necessary, because of distance and sparsity of population, to have more than one justice to 150 people, and we have tried to allow for that wherever we can. I should be grateful for members' advice whether they think the figures tentatively set in letters sent to them are suitable for their areas and, as soon as I have their representations and the quotas have been set, all outstanding applications for justices can be speedily dealt with.

Mr. HEASLIP: I have received a memorandum from the Attorney-General as follows:

Following on the recent survey of justices of the peace in South Australia, it is proposed to establish quotas for the appointment of justices of the peace residing in the various districts of the State. Broadly speaking, these quotas are based on a ratio of one justice to every 250 people in the metropolitan area, and

one justice to rather fewer than 150 people outside the metropolis, special consideration being given to rural settlements and sparsely settled areas. A certain number of justices will be appointed outside the quota. These are appointed to meet the needs of State and Commonwealth departments and authorities, and certain banks, and to provide a sufficient number of justices readily available during working hours in the city of Adelaide.

Why are these additional appointments to be made in city areas whereas rural people, who do not work ordinary working hours but are prepared to work any time of the day, will not have extra justices? Under the quotas to be fixed, in many parts of my district there will be only one justice in a town. As many applications, such as those for liquor permits, require the signatures of two justices, it will be necessary to travel up to 15 miles to another town to obtain the extra signature. As the appointment of justices will not cost the Government or the taxpayer anything, will the Attorney-General alter the quota so that each country town will have two justices of the peace to sign permits and other documents?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I think if the honourable member reads the letter carefully he will note that I asked for the comments of members on the proposed quotas and for representations to be made by July 15 so that we could agree to quotas by that date. I shall certainly be prepared to listen to any case put by him for additional justices in country areas, but I point out that a quota of one to less than 150 people (it will be more than one to 150 in some areas, particularly in some parts of his district) was fixed to give service. The quotas tentatively fixed are on the basis of the numbers formerly appointed by the previous Government. I do not think the city of Adelaide is being unduly favoured in any way by the proposal. The aim in suggesting quotas for country areas has been to see that justices are readily available. In proportion to population, many more justices are provided in the country than in the city.

Appointments in Government instrumentalities and in certain banks, which are outside the quota, are made in the country as well as in the city. Certain people other than those employed in Government departments and banks need to be appointed in the city because it is the place to which people from all over the State come to conduct business, and it is therefore necessary to have justices readily available. In the city area, some places appear to have more justices than the quota provides. If the member for Burnside, for instance, looks

at the number of people listed for appointment in her district she will see that there are far more than the quota provides, but this is so because some of these people work in the city and their appointment is sought by their employers.

SWAN REACH TO STOCKWELL MAIN.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Can the Minister of Works say whether the Public Works Committee has furnished its report on the advisability of laying a main from Swan Reach to Stockwell in the Barossa Valley? If it has, and if the recommendation is favourable, will the Government provide a sum on the Loan Estimates to enable the work to be commenced during the coming financial year?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: A report is to hand but, if I remember correctly, it is not the final report. However, as the Government treats this project as urgent, provision is being made for its early commencement.

PORT PIRIE INDUSTRY.

Mr. McKEE: I understand that, while the Premier and the Minister of Mines were overseas recently, they contacted many people associated with the chemical industry. Can the Premier say whether he met anyone who was interested in the Port Pirie chemical plant that was formerly used for the production of uranium oxide?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: When we visited the Kaiser organization in San Francisco we discussed at length the question of trying to use the Port Pirie plant. The people of this organization are also interested in the manufacture of refractory materials. The indications were that they had investigated this matter fully, but that they were unable to take up any leases or negotiate in any way on the Port Pirie plant. They indicated that they were about to purchase land near Port Adelaide for the early manufacture there of their refractory materials. However, Port Pirie is out.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

Mrs. STEELE: Thirty children aged between three and a half years and 16 years travel from Roseworthy, Gawler and Elizabeth daily to attend special schools in the metropolitan area, namely, occupation centres, the North Adelaide Speech and Hearing Centre, and the Oral School. To do this, the children from Elizabeth leave home between 8.15 and 8.30 a.m. and do not return to their homes until 4.30 each afternoon. I emphasize that these children are very young. The ones from

farther afield leave earlier and arrive home about 5.30 or 5.45 p.m. Even leaving at this very early hour, the senior of the children often miss part of the first lessons at their schools. The so-called buses by which they travel are Combi panel vans converted to buses by fitting makeshift seating, and each bus accommodates 15 children. Not unnaturally, these children's parents are most concerned with the conditions under which they travel to school, from the point of view both of health and of safety. I understand that the transport section of the Education Department has approved the buses and, although I personally appreciate that the department is doing its best to bring these handicapped children to metropolitan centres of education that are suited to their disability, I consider that the conditions under which they travel are hazardous in the extreme, and it is to be hoped that at no time do these buses with their precious cargoes become involved in an accident. Is the Minister of Education aware of this situation, and can he say how long it will be before appropriate special schools will be established in these northern towns? Alternatively, will he investigate whether better transport facilities can be provided, bearing in mind, of course, that parents contribute one-third of the cost of such travelling expenses?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I shall be pleased to examine these points, but I do not agree that our school transport is in any way hazardous. We take the utmost precautions to see that drivers are efficient and have responsible characters and, in addition, the vehicles are closely examined at regular intervals.

Mrs. Steele: These are private vehicles, and have not been seen.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Private vehicles have to be examined and maintained at a proper standard. I recently read correspondence from a transport association that admitted that our examination of all vehicles (including private vehicles) was most thorough, and I cannot agree that any of our transport facilities are hazardous. However, I shall have the matter examined.

JERVOIS BRIDGE.

Mr. RYAN: For some time I have asked when a long-overdue project, the new Jervois bridge, would be commenced. Last Sunday week the *Sunday Mail* contained an article that gave the impression that the information emanated from the Acting Minister of Roads, but on investigation that was not so. As I could not obtain the information that was

published in the *Sunday Mail* a fortnight ago, will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Roads when this project will be commenced?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Concerning the article that appeared in the *Sunday Mail* under my name, the reporter contacted me but did not obtain from me any details referred to in the article. Apparently these details were obtained from another source, although it seemed from the article that I had given this information. The members for Port Adelaide and Semaphore, who have been vigorous in their representations about the construction of a new Jervois bridge, will be pleased to know that tenders will be called for a new bridge by the end of this month. I cannot give the actual work commencement date, but will obtain that from my colleague.

KIMBA WATER SCHEME.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: This morning's newspaper reported that work on the Kimba-Polda water scheme was not likely to be started this year. Can the Minister of Works say whether there is any truth in that report and, if there is, when a start will be made on this much needed water scheme?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I saw the report in this morning's *Advertiser*. The Government appreciates that all works, and particularly that referred to by the honourable member, have a degree of urgency. However, as the Premier explained, I have been worried about money over-spent from our Loan programme last year, and the amount available for public works. It will be necessary to defer several projects, some of which I promised would be started. Every member can argue that his project is the most urgent, but the Government has the responsibility of determining the degree of urgency with respect to various works. Unfortunately, there is good reason to believe that what was stated in the press will happen. Although I have every desire to honour the promises I have made, I shall unfortunately be unable to do that. I shall make every effort to do something this year so that an early start can be made in the next financial year.

GOATS' MILK.

Mrs. BYRNE: The owner of a goat stud who sells milk to those people requiring it on a doctor's order has informed me that one of her clients has cancelled an order because imported dehydrated goats' milk can now be obtained free under the Commonwealth Health Scheme on presentation of a form, signed by the person's doctor, to the Commonwealth Department

of Health. This is for specified diseases and has to be renewed. As it is obvious that if further clients cancel their milk orders not only this goat stud owner but other sellers of fresh goats' milk and the industry generally will also suffer, will the Minister of Agriculture obtain a report from his department?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: The honourable member was good enough to inform me that she would like this information. I commend her for the interest she has taken in this industry. Anyone visiting agricultural shows today realizes that the keeping of stud herds of goats is important in South Australia, as people require the milk on health grounds.

Mr. Heaslip: This is not primary production.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I would like to know what it is if it is not primary production. A report from the Chief Dairy Officer (Mr. A. G. Itzerott) states:

Analyses of Goats' Milk: "Dale" brand was the only brand which dairy officers found to be freely available in Adelaide. The following is the result of the analyses of a sample of goats' milk powder delivered to Northfield on May 6, 1966.

Description of the sample: U.S.A. origin, pasteurized, spray dried goats' milk, made from fresh, whole goats' milk by "Dale" and distributed by Cutter Laboratories, Berkeley, California, U.S.A. The Australian agents, Cambridge Laboratories Pty. Ltd., 45 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne.

Physical Examinations: This powder appeared to be in small coherent lumps without free flowing characteristics, its odour was not objectionable, but slightly oxidized and tallowy aroma was noted. Dispersion and solubility in water at 25°C. was fairly good. Some difficulty was found in combining it with water without a mechanical stirrer. Organoleptical test showed a pronounced oxidized (cardboard) flavour often associated with high fat powdered milk. Sediment and extraneous matter tests proved the sample to be fairly clean. Initial acidity of reconstituted powder in a ratio of 10% milk solids was only .12% calculated as lactic acid. After six hours' incubation at 30°C., negligible increase in acid production was recorded, that is, .03%. Fat (ether extraction method) was 25.9% average of three determinations, and the moisture (oven dry method) was 3.2% average of three determinations.

Bacteriological Examinations: as described in A.P.H.A. for dry milk.

Total count examination using Plate Count Agar, incubated at 32°C. for three days was 26,000 organisms/gram of powder. Coliform examinations using B.G. 2% B.B. and solid media D.L.A. at 37°C. and 44.5°C. for 48 hours result = Nil/gram of powder. Staphylococcal examinations using Staph. 110 medium showed sparse growth, there was no evidence of coagulase positive species. Yeast and mould examination using P.D. Agar (acidified) at 21°C. for five days was negative.

Summary: Apart from slight excess in moisture which would explain the coherent lumps instead of free flowing powder characteristic, the milk powder examined conforms with the U.S.A. Standard for Dry Milk, that is, for grade "A" "shall at no time have a bacterial plate count over 30,000/g. or exceed 90 coliform per gram." From the examination of the product which purports to be dehydrated goats' milk, it can be concluded that this product reconstituted would not be quite as palatable as fresh goats' milk produced under hygienic conditions.

Because of this question, I shall again ask my Cabinet colleagues whether an approach can be made to the Commonwealth Minister for Health for protection to be given to keepers of goat stud herds.

STATE'S DEVELOPMENT.

Mr. McANANEY: When the last Budget was presented the Opposition expressed disapproval of the fact that, although many departments had received substantially increased allocations, the sum allocated in relation to South Australia's development of natural resources had not been much increased. I notice on the 11-month figures produced so far by the Premier that the sum spent in this regard in South Australia was substantially below the allocation, a factor contributing to the air of gloom that is at present spreading over South Australia. Does the Premier think it is a wise policy that the allocation in relation to the development of South Australia's resources should be reduced to a figure even below the sum spent in the previous year?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Although I accept the honourable member's question more as a criticism of the present Government's administration, I shall obtain a report on the matter.

STURT GORGE.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: My question concerns a matter that I raised with the Minister of Lands and with his predecessor, the member for Burra, over a number of years, namely, the reservation of the Sturt Gorge. Since I was last in touch with the Minister of Lands, I have been in touch with the DeRose family, who own 514 acres of the area and who offered the whole of that area both to the previous Government and to this Government at a figure that I will not disclose, because the Minister knows it. I have also been handed a letter written to Mr. DeRose, of O'Halloran Hill, dated September 20, 1948, and signed by the late Sir Douglas Mawson, who was then the Professor of Geology. In a letter apologizing

for taking students on to the property without obtaining permission, Sir Douglas Mawson said:

Obviously, I should have written advising you of our intended excursion when, I am sure, you would not have raised any objection, since there is no reason whatever to harm your property or livestock; and the occurrence of an extremely ancient glacial deposit on your property makes the locality of outstanding interest to scientists. It is one of those few areas in any country that should never have been alienated from the State but preserved as a national reserve.

Quite apart from the area's possibilities as a park for recreation, it obviously has scientific importance as well. Because I understand from the family that it would be prepared to reduce the price, as it, too, is anxious that the land should be used as a reserve, I ask whether the Government is prepared to consider purchasing the property at a figure lower than that at which it has already been offered to the Government?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I appreciate the family's attitude in this matter, as well as the information made available by the honourable member in quoting from the letter in his possession. I have visited the area with the honourable member and agree with him that it would be most desirable, indeed, if the Government could purchase it and set it aside as a reserve. The honourable member is aware, of course, that the Commissioners of Wild Life Reserves are vitally interested in such matters and are, in fact, the people who examine the possibilities and place a priority on an area in regard to its purchase. It may be of interest to the honourable member to know that only the other day the purchase of 734 acres, I think to extend the Morialta reserve, was authorized, involving a considerable sum. In view of the honourable member's information, I shall be happy to take up the matter again, to consider the points raised, and to discuss them with the Commissioners, and I will inform him of the outcome.

OUTBACK ROADS.

Mr. CASEY: As long ago as 1963 I raised in the House the advisability of the Engineering and Water Supply Department's relinquishing its road-making undertakings outside local government areas (including plant and equipment) in favour of the Highways Department. I have always considered that all road-making should come under the one body in this State, as I think it would have many advantages, which I have often enumerated during debates in the House over the last three years. Can the Minister representing the Minister of Roads say whether my proposals have been discussed

and whether the Government will decide to place all the roads concerned under the Highways Department?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: While I was Acting Minister of Roads my attention was drawn to this matter, and I approved the Highways Department taking over from the Engineering and Water Supply Department the maintenance and construction of roads out of hundreds. As the honourable member states, he has advocated that this course should be adopted for the reasons to which he has referred and, for those reasons, I considered it desirable that the Highways Department should in future be responsible for the maintenance and construction of those roads. The Highways Department has not yet taken over from the Engineering and Water Supply Department because both departments are trying to determine a date when this can be done. I will ask the Minister of Roads when this will be done, and I will inform the honourable member accordingly.

OFF-SHORE BOUNDARY.

Mr. HALL: The latest review of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited contains a report on the extent of the Otway Basin in Victoria, South Australia and the off-shore continental shelf area. By his recent oversea excursion the Premier has highlighted interest in oil exploration. Recently he conferred with the Premier of Victoria (Sir Henry Bolte) concerning the off-shore boundary between Victoria and South Australia. Can he say whether this boundary has been delineated and whether, if oil were found in the South Australian section of the continental shelf, it would be of economic value to South Australia?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I had a discussion with Sir Henry Bolte in my office before my departure for overseas. I was accompanied by the Minister of Mines and the Director of Mines and he by his Solicitor-General. No decision was arrived at, and consequently South Australia cannot agree to any alteration of its present intentions on this matter, as we have nothing upon which to arbitrate.

Mr. HALL: Will the off-shore boundary go straight out from the present border?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: If the sea dried up temporarily in some way, the boundary between Victoria and South Australia would extend into the sea on the same line as it now follows. However, Sir Henry wanted the border to turn at right angles at the shore,

whereas we considered that the boundary should be extended straight out indefinitely. A conference will be held in Canberra this week between the Mines Departments of the various States, at which an attempt will be made to arrive at a decision on these boundaries. The legislation to be introduced cannot be finalized until all States agree on the boundaries. Further, royalties are involved. Although I do not wish to forecast the outcome of the meeting, I have every reason to believe that South Australia will retain its rights and that the boundary will be as I have already indicated.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Mr. SHANNON: The Public Works Committee has much work before it and, to facilitate this work and to enable the Government to carry out its programme of work as it desires, it would be desirable if the committee could be given an indication of the priority of the works to be proceeded with by the Government during the current financial year. At present, the committee is investigating many projects which may or may not be undertaken in the current financial year. If they are not undertaken, it would obviously have been wiser for the committee's time to be spent on projects that the Government desired to undertake. I believe the Minister of Works is the appropriate Minister from whom we could receive these intimations. Each Minister seems to think a project for his department is of paramount importance. Indeed, from time to time Ministers come to me and say that their project must be investigated and reported on because they think it is important. However, it is often found later that certain projects are not proceeded with, and the committee's time would have been better used in dealing with a project that the Government thought was more important. A list of priorities would be helpful because the committee does not want to waste its time on less urgent matters while not investigating more urgent matters.

The SPEAKER: Order! I do not want to curtail the rights of members to ask questions, but I must ask members to assist me by putting questions as briefly as possible. Questions have still to be asked by some members who have not yet had an opportunity to ask even one question, so I ask members to co-operate with me.

Mr. SHANNON: I appreciate that, Mr. Speaker, but this matter is of prime importance to Government policy.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I deeply appreciate the splendid spirit of co-operation shown by the Public Works Committee since I have been Minister of Works. The Public Buildings Department, by negotiating with the various Ministers for whom it does work, has been able to set out what is virtually a five-year programme, and the Engineering and Water Supply Department is investigating a similar programme. Accordingly, I hope that I shall soon be able to give the honourable member, who is Chairman of the Public Works Committee, the list he requires and the order in which the Government requires the work to be done.

GAS.

Mr. COUMBE: We were delighted to hear last week of the discovery of additional gas supplies in the north of this State, which was highlighted by the comments of the Minister of Mines and the Premier on their return from overseas last week. We are all aware of the importance of this discovery. I know that the Premier will agree that the fullest possible information should be made available to members as soon as possible so that the importance of this discovery can be assessed before legislation is introduced. Is the Premier aware that, when similar finds were made in Queensland and Victoria recently, both Governments had reports prepared by Dr. Hetherington, an oversea expert, and that these reports were laid on the table of the Houses in those States? As the Premier is having a report prepared by the Bechtel Pacific Corporation, will he say whether the Government intends to produce a report in this Chamber in the form of a recommendation so that members on both sides can be fully informed of the importance of the discovery and of the details of the recommendations, as this will assist them in considering the legislation to be introduced, to the advantage of this State?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I would be the last person to comment on the Hetherington report. As I have made known publicly, the Bechtel Pacific Corporation has made a recommendation to the Government, indicating that it is economically feasible to construct a pipeline from Gidgealpa to Adelaide, although there may be some dispute about whether it should go east or west of the ranges. The gas strike at Gidgealpa is a fact. Let me assure members that it is not for the purpose of gaining personal kudos that I say I am involved in this matter. When we were speaking in Dallas with the Delhi representatives, I mentioned the financial procedures operating

in Australia—uniform taxation, taxation disbursements, etc. The day after I spoke of that, they asked whether I would agree to the suggestion that they remove the drill from No. 1 well, before it was properly explored, to No. 2, where they had commenced operations. They considered it would make my case on behalf of South Australia a little stronger when I made representations in Canberra. We have not a proven gas supply at the two wells yet. To my knowledge, they have not finished drilling at No. 2. So far, they have not been able to get complete proof of gas at No. 2. They are going back to No. 1 to prove it, which will take some weeks. That is the present picture.

I am convinced that South Australia is ahead of any other State in investigations into natural gas and associated matters. I do not need to mention that, wherever gas has been found, Adelaide, except for the supply on the Victorian coastline and for a little in Queensland in some country areas, though not in Brisbane, is the capital city nearest to a supply. I do not want to mislead members in any way but they will appreciate that the gas is there at Gidgealpa. There is such a thing as a pipeline and there is such a thing as a consumable commodity, even if the Government of the day cannot get the major commodity, oil. I can foresee difficulties. We do not yet know the quantities available. Cabinet is seriously considering all matters associated with natural gas. Beyond that I cannot go at this stage, other than to say that Cabinet's present thinking is that we cannot get it out of the ground quickly enough to suit the Government. There will be no avoidable delay. We shall do everything we can, as a Government, to release whatever information we can from time to time. We are determined to get the gas into economic use as quickly as possible.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS.

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

- Renmark Primary School,
- Karoonda Area School Additions,
- Port Adelaide Girls Technical High School Additions,
- Reconstruction of the South-Eastern Suburbs Sewerage System,

- Swan Reach to Stockwell Pipeline,
- Engineering and Water Supply Department Depot at Elizabeth,
- Augmentation of LeFevre Peninsula Water Supply (Semaphore Road to Taperoo),
- Roseworthy Agricultural College (Science Block and Farm Engineering Centre),
- Ingle Farm Water Supply and Sewerage System,
- Tea Tree Gully Sewerage System.

Ordered that reports be printed.

SOUTH-WESTERN SUBURBS SEWERAGE.

The Speaker laid on the table the progress report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on Reorganization of South-Western Suburbs Sewerage System and provision for Sewerage at Blackwood, Belair, Eden Hills and Flagstaff Hill Areas.

Ordered that report be printed.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

Sessional Committees were appointed as follows:

Standing Orders: The Speaker, the Hons. J. D. Corcoran and B. H. Teusner, and Mr. Lawn.

Library: The Speaker, Mrs. Byrne, Messrs. Clark and McAnaney.

Printing: Mrs. Byrne, Messrs. Ferguson, Langley, McKee and Rodda.

JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEE.

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

That it be an order of this House that, in view of the creation of the Joint House Committee under the Joint House Committee Act, 1941, a Sessional House Committee be not appointed under Standing Order No. 404.

Motion carried.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

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

That a committee consisting of the Hon. D. A. Dunstan, Messrs. Broomhill, Curren and Hughes, and the mover be appointed to prepare a draft address to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor in reply to his Speech on opening Parliament, and to report on the next day of sitting.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.41 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, June 22, at 2 p.m.