

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, June 22, 1966.

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

QUESTIONS

FAUNA AND FLORA RESERVES.

Mr. RODDA: Concern is being expressed in my district about the Kangara Reserve in the hundred of Woolumbool, where the numbers of fauna have built up to such extent that they are encroaching on nearby pastured areas. Kangaroos are a hazard to motorists at night, and there is a heavy growth of salvation jane in this reserve. Can the Minister of Lands say whether his department has plans concerning the fencing and controlling of this reserve and the future employment of wardens and rangers?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Commissioners of Wild Life Reserves, who are responsible for the maintenance and administration of these reserves, have plans for the eventual fencing of all reserves. The reserves comprise about 500,000 acres, so the Commissioners face a mammoth task. Since the decision was made to fence the reserves an amount has been allocated annually and, depending on the finance available, the fencing will be completed. This will be a continuing job as these reserves are being added to throughout the State. I shall draw the attention of the Commissioners to the reserve referred to by the honourable member and to his questions about it. Also, I shall obtain from the Commissioners what information I can about the employment of wardens and rangers.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Mrs. BYRNE: Yesterday, the member for Onkaparinga asked that the Public Works Committee be given an indication of the priority on which works will be proceeded with by the Government during the current financial year. He said:

The committee is investigating many projects which may or may not be undertaken in the current financial year.

He further stated:

. . . it is often found later that certain projects are not proceeded with . . .

As that statement could be misleading, will the Minister of Works outline the Government's intention in relation to the report of the Public Works Committee on the Tea Tree Gully sewerage system, which was tabled yesterday?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: We would be happy to give what assistance we could to what we considered urgent and less urgent works, to facilitate the work of the committee, and to avoid its hastily investigating matters that were not considered urgent. Not all the programmes referred to yesterday come under my jurisdiction, but I point out that no matter how sincerely the Government makes plans, they are often changed, at least slightly, through circumstances, and it is therefore not always possible to undertake projects as one might expect. The member for Angas (Hon. B. H. Teusner) asked me a question yesterday about the Swan Reach to Stockwell main, and I can assure him now that financial provision has been made for that project and that work will be commenced in the coming financial year. That applies also to the following projects: LeFevre Peninsula to Taperoo water main; an Engineering and Water Supply Department depot at Elizabeth; reorganization of the sewerage system in the south-western suburbs (Blackwood, Belair, Eden Hills, and Flagstaff Hill areas); reconstruction of the south-eastern suburbs sewerage system; the Tea Tree Gully sewerage system (in regard to the specific matter raised by the member for Barossa); and, finally, the provision of water and sewerage at Ingle Farm (over \$1,000,000).

CONSTITUTION ACT.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: One noteworthy omission from mention in His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech yesterday was that of any legislation to amend the Constitution Act. (Honourable members may recall that such a Bill was introduced last session but did not pass both Houses.) Can the Premier say whether this means that the Government does not intend to introduce an amendment to the Constitution Act during the present session or, if that is not the case, what the Government intends to do in this matter?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Although I have not had an opportunity to catch up on all matters since my return from overseas, I believe that serious consideration will be given to this matter, probably by way of modifying certain provisions, and that serious consideration will also be given to seeing how soon legislation can be prepared.

OFF-SHORE DRILLING.

Mr. McKEE: Can the Premier say what stage negotiations on off-shore drilling have reached?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Permission has been granted to the Broken Hill Proprietary

Company Limited to engage in off-shore drilling. That company has been inquiring into the possibility of a partnership with Esso in relation to off-shore drilling, and I believe that such a partnership has done work off the Victorian coast. The present dispute with regard to the area in which this partnership might work could be ironed out this weekend when a conference will be held in Canoberra to decide on State boundaries off shore. Such a decision will be necessary before legislation can be framed.

GILES POINT.

Mr. FERGUSON: The announcement of the Minister of Agriculture that Giles Point would be added to the list of outports for the bulking of grain was well received by people on Yorke Peninsula. Not only the Government but many other interested parties will be involved in the ultimate success of this project. Others concerned include South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited, which will have to do extensive planning on the erection of a terminal, and primary producers, who will have to plan for the provision of facilities so that they can use the terminal. As the Minister of Agriculture suggested that work on the project would be commenced in the 1967-68 financial year, can the Minister of Marine give a definite undertaking that work will be commenced in that year?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: It would be dangerous to give a definite assurance at this stage, but I can say that, having decided that a bulk handling installation would be established at Giles Point, I had a discussion with the General Manager of the South Australian Harbors Board. The board is conducting all the necessary investigations and planning in the hope that finance will be available and that all the preliminary work will have been done so that the practical work can commence in the 1967-68 financial year, as part of a three-year programme. I cannot make any definite promise because the matter is in its preliminary stages, but I will keep the honourable member informed of developments.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: The Minister thinks that this may be a three-year project and that it may not start until 1968. If that is so, it takes us into 1971, which would materially affect the opportunity of C.B.H. to make finance available. Although the money could be made available, the co-operative could spend that money on silos somewhere else if the money for Giles Point was not required for three years. Can the Minister be a little more precise

in the matter so that the co-operative can frame its programme and its financial commitments in accordance with what it had set aside for Giles Point?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I appreciate the importance of this matter. However, as I indicated earlier, discussions have been very much of a preliminary nature. After discussing the matter with the Harbors Board soon, I will inform the honourable members for Yorke Peninsula and Ridley of the outcome at the earliest possible date. I can see the difficulty of the producers and the co-operative and, as we want to assist them in every possible way, we will continue consultations with them and give them up-to-date advice as it comes to hand.

WALLAROO INDUSTRY.

Mr. HUGHES: While the Premier was overseas making a study of natural gas, a Mississippi businessman (a Mr. Bridges), representing an American syndicate, visited my district and purchased about 1,000 acres for \$120,000, with the intention of building a petro-chemical works in the event of natural gas being piped from the north of Australia and a spur line being laid from Wallaroo. Has the Premier any knowledge of this matter?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: We were informed that somebody who had an option on land in the Wallaroo area had taken up that option, and apparently this is the option to which the honourable member has referred. We expect that a natural gas pipeline will be constructed and that, if this person wished to set up a petro-chemical or any other type of plant associated with natural gas and to create an industry in the area, it would be a successful project. I would hope that such an industry could go to Wallaroo, for it would be of real value to the people living in Wallaroo and the surrounding areas. I am not aware of any details, for no representations have been made since my return. However, now that the option has been taken up, I hope that early progress will be made with the establishment of such an industry.

WATERVALE WATER SCHEME.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: A few weeks ago the Minister of Works was good enough to inform me that he had completed the engineering survey for a water scheme for Watervale and that he was working on a costing for the programme. Would he be good enough to get me a progress report on developments?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Yes.

SCALPS.

Mr. CASEY: It was brought to my notice on a recent trip into the Far North that amounts owing by the Lands Department for wild dog scalps have remained unpaid for long periods in many instances. Will the Minister of Lands ask the Pastoral Board to see whether a more satisfactory administration of this matter could be arranged? I understand that if a person has a scalp or scalps he hands them either to an agent in the area or to the local police station and is issued with a receipt. Actually, two receipts are made out: one is posted direct to the Pastoral Board, and the other is given to the person concerned, who is also requested to post it to the board. In normal business dealings, a person merely receives a receipt for the goods he has handed in. I see no point in placing on the person who receives the receipt the onus of sending it to the Pastoral Board, and I think this administrative red tape could be overcome. Will the Minister of Lands take up this matter with the board to see whether a better method of administration could be adopted so that payment for scalps would not be held up for long periods, as is the case at present?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I am surprised to hear that red tape is involved in payments for dog scalps. The honourable member refers to a system that revolves around receipts being sent to the Pastoral Board, but I think the real receipt would be when the scalps were received in Adelaide for destruction. This is possibly the reason for the delay in payment. I believe that previously, when an agent collected the scalps, he was able to pay on the spot, but because someone was tickling the till this practice was discontinued. I shall have this matter investigated, as I do not believe it is desirable that long delays should occur in payments being made for dog scalps.

EGGS.

Mr. NANKIVELL: With the introduction of the Council of Egg Marketing Authorities plan, many farmers in the habit of keeping small flocks of poultry as a sideline reduced the size of their flocks either to fewer than 20 or to a number from which they could use the production. In the first year the price has been attractive, and some of these people have kept a few more poultry. In fact, some find it necessary to keep up to 50 birds to have an economic unit. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether any consideration has been given to making it possible for these

people to pay an annual tax for up to 50 birds instead of being required to furnish full details in returns every fortnight for such a small number? Most of the people who have spoken to me wish to keep fewer than 50 birds, and they consider that paying an annual tax, even if it were slightly above the present hen tax, would be preferable to having to prepare returns every fortnight. Will the Minister comment on this and say whether he will submit these suggestions to C.E.M.A., if they have not already been considered?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: The honourable member refers to a hen tax, but it is a levy, not a tax: a tax goes into the coffers of the State or Commonwealth, but this money goes into a fund. This matter has been raised at C.E.M.A. by South Australian representatives mainly with regard to having monthly instead of fortnightly returns. As the honourable member will appreciate, all States and the Commonwealth are involved, and all must agree to any change. As yet, this has not been agreed to. The South Australian representatives are still pursuing this line, although they have not gone as far as the honourable member suggests. Bearing in mind his statement, I shall take up this matter with the Egg Board and see whether it is willing to consider advancing the suggestion.

GRAPES.

Mr. CURREN: The recent report of the Royal Commission into wine grapegrowing and the winemaking industry contained 15 recommendations, one of the principal ones concerning the establishment of a grapegrowing industry advisory committee. Can the Minister of Agriculture say what action is to be taken on this important matter?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: In the Royal Commission's report the recommendation referred to by the honourable member states that this action shall be initiated by the Director of Agriculture and approved by the Minister. During the recess the department considered this matter, and I have now received a report from the Director of Agriculture recommending that such a committee be appointed. The Director has suggested that this committee should comprise six representatives of grapegrowers, six of winemakers, *ex officio* representatives of the Australian Dried Fruits Association and the Wine Research Institute, together with two or three departmental officers. Mr. Boehm from the Viticultural Section of the Horticultural Branch of the department, who has been making extensive inquiries, will be

the extension officer appointed to assist this committee. The objects of the committee are as follows:

(1) To ascertain the requirements of the winemakers with respect to quantity, quality and varieties of grapes for wine.

(2) To consider the relationships between the production and sale of dried wine and table grapes.

(3) To estimate quantities of the various varieties which will be produced.

(4) To determine the demand for types and varieties and consider the problems of over-production.

(5) To advise the industry on future planting policy.

It is hoped that this committee will considerably assist the industry by providing the necessary information so that the past mistakes will not be repeated. The committee is expected to meet periodically and will have expert advice to assist it. I believe that this committee should not be financed in any way by the Government but that each organization should bear the costs, as they will gain from the knowledge learned from this committee and must benefit from it. The Director intends to notify interested organizations of the intention to form this committee and to call for nominations by means of articles in the press. This will be done soon and, when we know something more about the nominees, I shall consult with the Director about the appointment of the committee.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: I refer to the debate on the Prices Act Amendment Bill in this Chamber on March 1, when the Minister of Agriculture said:

I can assure honourable members and all those interested in the industry that the Commission's recommendations will be considered soon.

Can the Minister say whether all the recommendations made by the Commission into the wine grapegrowing industry have been considered and whether any action is being taken on recommendations made by the Commission? Also, can he say whether any move is afoot for the stabilization of the industry on a Commonwealth-wide basis as advocated by many Opposition members when speaking on the Bill last session?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I assure the honourable member that all aspects of the report have been considered. At the moment it is thought that the most important recommendation concerned the establishment of the advisory committee, which involved two recommendations because the provision relating to the extension officer was a separate recommendation. Both matters are in hand. No

further consideration has been given by the Government as yet to Commonwealth stabilization, although I understand that interested grower organizations have further considered the matter. I believe that we should have a Commonwealth statutory body to control the industry. Of course, this involves not only all other States where grapes are grown but the Commonwealth Government as well, and a direct approach will therefore have to be made to the Minister for Primary Industry. When this has been done the matter will probably be discussed at Agricultural Council level, and by that time we will have had time to examine all aspects of it.

METROPOLITAN DRAINAGE.

Mr. CUMBE: Last session, although I asked a series of questions about the setting up of a metropolitan drainage authority, I was unable to get any satisfaction. Item 38 of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech states:

A Bill to provide for the prevention and control of floodwaters in the metropolitan drainage area will be laid before you.

I do not know the details of what is intended, but, in order to avoid my wasting the time of the House with unnecessary questions, will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Roads whether this legislation will provide for the control of floodwaters under the general principles that we understood were to be introduced under a metropolitan drainage authority?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall refer the question to my colleague, but I understand that the provisions of the Bill are basically as stated by the honourable member.

RESERVOIR STORAGES.

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Minister of Works information about present water storages, particularly as they compare with the holdings at this time last year?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I am pleased about this question because it was indicated yesterday that it might be necessary to have restrictions if rain did not fall. During the year 1965, the total natural replenishment of the reservoirs serving the metropolitan area was 10,600,000,000 gallons compared with an average annual stream flow of about 40,000,000,000 gallons. The reservoirs have a combined capacity of 23,821,000,000 gallons and the maximum reached with the aid of pumping was 16,500,000,000 gallons on September 22 last. Pumping in the Mannum-Adelaide main

commenced on July 30 last and is still in progress, the rate of pumping being varied from time to time according to the current situation. The quantity pumped to the metropolitan system to date has been 14,050,000,000 gallons and in addition 1,175,000,000 gallons has been delivered to Warren reservoir.

The combined storage receded to what was regarded as the minimum safe level of 5,250,000,000 gallons on May 2, and since that time pumping has been regulated to maintain the storage at a little above this level. There has been a slight improvement through natural flow, and the reservoirs now contain 5,660,000,000 gallons compared with 10,300,000,000 gallons at this time last year. I informed the Premier yesterday that pumping was to cease next week, but I find today that it is to cease tomorrow at 7.30 a.m., although if no rain falls we will have to return to pumping early in July. If there is no appreciable run-off, full-scale pumping will be commenced on August 1 to prevent restrictions from being imposed. To avoid restrictions it will be necessary to have the full co-operation of members of the public to ensure that they do not use water unnecessarily and that what is used is used with the greatest care.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Mr. McANANEY: As the Attorney-General may know, the chairmen of district councils and mayors of municipalities are often asked to offer themselves for appointment as justices of the peace when they retire from office. I point out that under the present quota system it would be extremely difficult in many areas for such appointments to be made within a number of years of retirement, particularly in the Victor Harbour area, because many justices retire to this earthly paradise in their declining years, with the result that at present there are about 40 residing in the area, few of whom are young and active in the office of a local J.P. Will the Attorney-General consider permanently appointing chairmen of district councils and mayors of municipalities as justices of the peace, as their valuable experience and service would overcome many difficulties that at present exist?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It has been the practice to appoint mayors of municipalities and chairmen of district councils to a permanent appointment with the Commission of the Peace upon their retirement from office and I think that the honourable member's suggestion is a good one, namely, that on their taking office as mayor or chairman they should

be given a permanent commission. I will certainly give serious consideration to seeing that it is done automatically.

Mr. CUMBE: Does the Attorney-General recall that in February of this year he said, in reply to my question, that he had three things in mind regarding justices of the peace? The first of these matters is being examined at the moment. The other matters were the publication of a handbook for the guidance of justices and the appointment of a special section of justices to sit in courts. The Attorney-General said in February that the handbook would probably be ready shortly, but as yet it has not come to hand. Can he say whether the handbook is in print and is likely to be available shortly, and can he comment on the special section of justices to be appointed?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The handbook is completed in draft and its printing depends on the Government Printer's time table, which is heavy at the moment. So far I have been unable to get a specific date but I hope a tentative date will be supplied shortly. How soon the Government Printer is able to print the handbook depends somewhat on members opposite.

Mr. Millhouse: Not to mention yourself.

Mr. Coumbe: It is a two-sided affair.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. I assure the member for Mitcham that, for my part, I shall be as brief as I can. It would be desirable to have a course for justices continuing for at least two years before we set up quorums of justices to preside at courts of summary jurisdiction.

NOVAR GARDENS DRAIN.

Mr. BROOMHILL: My question stems from recent complaints received from Novar Gardens residents, following the construction of an open stormwater drain through that new housing area, who have expressed fears for the safety of their children. The drain runs through an area that has been subdivided by the Housing Trust, and its boundary runs through land that has been reserved for a new girls' technical high school. As a dispute exists as to the responsibility for this drain, will the Minister of Education consider his department's responsibility in the matter and, if he finds that a responsibility exists, will he consider having the drain closed? I understand that the estimated cost of closing the drain would be about \$4,500.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Yes, I shall be pleased to have that matter examined.

PARA HILLS SCHOOL.

Mr. HALL: Part of a letter that I have received from the Secretary of the Para Hills Progress Association, concerning conditions surrounding the new Para Hills West Primary School, states:

(1) Approach roads are negative in the area around the school apart from one attempt by the Salisbury City Council to improve the situation in laying a rubble footpath from Bridge Road to the school boundary.

(2) Members demand that a bitumen playground be laid down immediately for the benefit of the children who during the winter months will find it impossible to play outside if this is not done.

(3) An assembly hall is badly needed and members feel that this should be provided for use during the winter months.

In further explanation, an excerpt from Councillor Plumridge's report which was given to the progress association, and which relates to access to the school, states:

The school has been located in the middle of a paddock and access problems can only be adequately solved by the education authorities at this time.

Has the Minister of Education received any requests along these lines, and will he consider the three points that have been raised?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I am not aware of these requests having been made to the department, but a letter may have been received which I have not seen. The matters will be examined and attention given to these requests.

SOFTWOOD FORESTS.

Mr. BURDON: Some time ago I read an article to the effect that the Woods and Forests Department had been active in trying to purchase certain land to continue the planting of softwood forests. As I understand that by the early 1970's the department may be running short of land for afforestation, and as the South-East's future is tied up in the further development of forests, can the Minister of Forests say how much land has been bought for afforestation purposes in the last 12 months, how much of it is in the South-East, and how the land purchases compare with those in previous years?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: As the honourable member was good enough to tell me earlier that he would ask this question, I have obtained some information for him. In 1964-5, no land at all was purchased for afforestation purposes, but in the last financial year we have either purchased or approved the purchase of 2,631 acres in the South-East and 1,384 acres in the Adelaide Hills. At present also in the

Adelaide Hills another 762 acres is under offer, and my colleague the Minister of Lands recently informed me that another 700 acres in the South-East could be available. I am already investigating whether this land could be purchased for the further planting of softwood forests. The Government, which is fully conscious of the need to acquire land to continue the afforestation programme, realizes the value of forests to South Australia as a whole, and particularly to the South-East. We are anxious to hear about any land that can be made available for afforestation, bearing in mind that the price is a major factor to be considered, because all potential purchases are referred to the Land Board for valuation. If suitable land is available, and if the board's valuation is favourable, we are definitely interested in purchasing further land.

TOW TRUCK DRIVERS.

Mr. RYAN: In yesterday's *News* appeared an article headed "Police 'Fear' Towing War: Many Fights", which stated (in part):

Police are worried about the seriousness of competition among Adelaide tow truck drivers. The long-simmering towing operators war has been gathering momentum with frequent outbreaks of brawling and poaching among drivers. . . . Some drivers believe strict policing of towing zones would ease the "tow truck war". The situation at present is frustrating for police, intolerable for motorists but "part of the job" for tow truck operators. Although it was not mentioned in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech, can the Attorney-General say whether there will be an amendment to the present legislation to cover the deplorable situation that exists in relation to this matter?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: A Bill for the registration and licensing of tow truck operators is currently under consideration.

INSECTICIDES.

Mr. QUIRKE: Recently I switched on the wireless and heard a damning indictment of chemical D.D.T., but I tuned in too late to hear who was the author of the report. I was concerned also with the growing distrust towards many insecticides and other commercial poisons. D.D.T. was wholly condemned and little is known but much suspected concerning other poisons used in large quantities today. If this matter is the concern of the Minister of Agriculture, can he say what action is being taken to have information made available to the public about safety in the use of these poisons? Also, can he say what cumulative dangers there are in the continued use of

these poisons which could constitute dangerous health hazards? Finally, what are his present intentions on promoting biological control of insect pests, as such methods have been used successfully in other fruitgrowing areas?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: The danger of pesticides has been discussed by the Agriculture and Chemistry Departments and at Agricultural Council meetings, and a committee has been appointed by the Agricultural Council to consider every aspect of the problem. The honourable member knows that, when the balance of nature is upset, other effects occur in different directions. For instance, the loss of bird-life has caused an increase in insects. We are conscious of the problems of pesticides. As the Agricultural Council will meet in Perth in July, I shall probably hear more on the matter then. Adverse criticism of pesticides has drawn attention to their dangers. We have a research centre at Loxton where biological control of red scale is being studied. Also, biological control of pome fruits is being conducted in the orchard at the Blackwood research centre. As yet, it is too early to report on the progress made but these matters are being actively dealt with by the Horticultural Branch.

OAKLANDS CROSSING.

Mr. HUDSON: Last year, following a fatal accident at the Oaklands railway crossing, I led a deputation to the Minister of Transport requesting him to consider the possibility of installing boom gates at the crossing. The deputation was informed that, because of the complicated system of roads leading into the crossing, an inter-departmental committee of the Railways and Highways Departments had been set up to consider the redesigning of the crossing and adjacent roads. Will the Premier ask the Minister of Transport what progress has been made by the committee, and ascertain whether finality has been reached on the design of the crossing and the surrounding road system?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I have no knowledge of the matter now, but I will refer it to my colleague and bring down the information as soon as possible.

POINT MCLEAY.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Included in a letter I received recently from the Minister of Works was a statement to the effect that Point McLeay was soon to be declared an open

village. Can the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs say when he expects that this might eventuate?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Our original intention was to proceed with the declaration of Point McLeay as an open village as soon as possible. However, when it was made clear to residents of Point McLeay that this would mean the removal of special uneconomic facilities at present provided for them, a different view was taken by those residents from that which they had previously expressed, and I received last year a petition from the overwhelming majority of residents asking for the postponement of the declaration of Point McLeay as an open village for a period of five years. I indicated then to the residents that the Government did not intend to do anything other than in consultation with them, and suggested that consideration of the question of the future of Point McLeay be postponed until after the creation of the Aboriginal Lands Trust, when the initial trust board members would negotiate with the council at Point McLeay about the development of lands there and the way in which land in Point McLeay village would be held. After that, we will be able to have further discussions as to the procedure to be adopted.

Mr. Nankivell: How will it affect the proposed water scheme?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The water scheme will go ahead regardless of what occurs.

SUPREME COURT CASES.

Mrs. BYRNE: Complaints have been made over a long period about the time it takes to get a case on for hearing before the Supreme Court. Can the Attorney-General say whether there has been any improvement in this matter?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I made a brief statement earlier this year about this situation, but I have since received a list from the Acting Master which shows a significant improvement in the situation in the civil list at the Supreme Court. As at August 11, 1965, the civil list contained 444 cases, and when it was called over in that month it was reduced, by settlements not previously noted, to 419. The list at February 1 contained 329 cases and, when it was called over, the settlements reduced it to 309. On May 19 it contained 211 cases and, on calling over, this was reduced to 185. Since May 19, 24 cases have come out of the list through being either heard or settled, leaving 161. From May 19 until early this month seven cases were set down, so that the effective

number in the list at that date was 168. During June it was expected that a further 41 cases would be called on for hearing and disposed of. Some cases listed for hearing in June were set down in mid-October, 1965. Therefore, it is clear that whereas a year ago the waiting time expected for most civil cases was at least two years, the period has been significantly reduced. The appointment of the seventh judge, the amendment of the Rules of Court requiring leave to set down before the cases are actually put in the list, and the present system of calling over the list: all these combined have resulted in the time for getting on of a case before the Supreme Court being significantly reduced, and in the foreseeable future I expect that this time will be as little as is the case in the Adelaide Local Court.

RESERVOIRS.

Mrs. STEELE: I believe that many reservoirs in other States are open for fishing, and that in fact stocking with fish is permitted and encouraged. Similarly, some reservoirs are used as venues for water skiing. These forms of recreation attract many people, and these reservoirs are developed as genuine tourist resorts and extensive beautification programmes are undertaken. Can the Minister of Works say whether the Government has considered similar treatment and usage of reservoirs in South Australia? If it has not, can the matter be investigated?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Government has not considered similar treatment and usage of South Australian reservoirs, and, as the Minister of Works, I can say that I would not look favourably upon any such move, other than to make reservoirs attractive for tourists. This water is for human consumption, and I do not think it would be right to allow water skiing or to create any chance of this water being polluted.

BOOK SALES.

Mr. HALL: I have here a whole series of documents that accompany one of the book sale contracts entered into at present in South Australia. I believe the Attorney-General would be familiar with this type of contract: it is a stock form used to evade the book sales legislation in this State, as it appoints an interstate firm as an agent of the purchaser. As this contract is not drawn up in the way provided by the law in this State, will the Attorney-General say whether it is a legal document and whether a purchaser is obliged to continue with its terms?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member has not shown me the contract, but from where I stand it looks like one of Collier's. In my view, contracts made by Collier's are illegal and unenforceable. The Managing Director of that firm came here last year to interview me and to seek an assurance that the Government would take a somewhat different attitude from that which it had taken previously about this legislation. I assured him that it would not take a different attitude and that the book sales legislation would be enforced. I was subsequently informed by his solicitors from Sydney that Collier's would cease door-to-door sales in South Australia but that it intended to endeavour to collect moneys under pre-existing contracts. The advice I have given to everyone who has been referred to me so far is that I consider these pre-existing contracts are unenforceable and that people should not continue to pay moneys under them unless they wish to do so. We have examined the possibility of prosecuting salesmen, but no recent cases have been brought to my notice of Collier's salesmen operating in South Australia. I believe they have ceased operations, so there is no case in fact about which we have any information in time for us to bring any prosecutions now. All the previous cases we had were not such that we found it easy to prosecute. Some further submissions have been made to me in the past few weeks about another organization in the State with contracts that are clearly in contravention of the Act. These have been referred to the Police Department for further investigation to see whether we can prosecute.

HARDWICKE SEWERAGE SCHEME.

Mr. RYAN: I have made many representations to the present Minister of Works and his predecessor about the installation of a sewerage system for parts of Rosewater, Ottoway and Wingfield. This is known in the department as the Hardwicke scheme. On practically every occasion on which I made representations I was told that this scheme would be considered and referred to the Public Works Committee when the Bolivar scheme was in operation. Now that the Bolivar scheme is in operation, will the Minister of Works say whether this matter will be referred to the Public Works Committee for investigation and report in the near future and what is the possibility of commencing the scheme?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: This scheme will be submitted by the Director and Engineer-in-Chief for consideration by the Government

early next financial year, 1966-67, with a view to referring it to the Public Works Standing Committee for investigation. The Director advised me that it had been hoped that funds for this work might have been provided on next year's Loan Estimates with a view to proceeding with it if recommended by the Public Works Standing Committee. However, as sufficient Loan money will not be available, I regret that it will be necessary to defer the work for a further 12 months. If approved, it will be programmed for construction during the financial year 1967-68.

PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I understand that the report of the Parliamentary Salaries Tribunal is in the possession of the Premier. Will he say whether this is so and, if it is, when it is proposed that it shall be published?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I was at my office this morning between 8.45 and 10 a.m. and, although the report may have been there, I did not see it. I should like to see it before it is presented to Parliament, but it will be presented as soon as possible.

INDECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Mr. BURDON: Last February I asked the Attorney-General a question about the publication of certain indecent literature and its distribution in South Australia. I know that he has been keenly interested in this matter, and I understand that certain negotiations on a Commonwealth-wide basis have been carried on. Can the Attorney-General say what has taken place in relation to censorship of books and whether certain papers can and will be covered by this State's legislation?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Negotiations have been proceeding between the Commonwealth and State Governments concerning a joint advisory board in relation to books for which literary, medical or scientific merit is claimed but which may otherwise be considered indecent or obscene. These negotiations have almost reached the final stage. A conference of officers was held this month, and a conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers is expected to be held next month to finalize arrangements. It has been decided that no further details shall be given until the Ministers' conference has been held. I should make it clear that the advisory board arrangement refers only to books for which literary, medical or scientific merit is claimed and not to periodicals or newspapers, in relation to which there is no agreement between the Common-

wealth and the States. The publication referred to me by the honourable member has been referred to me by others and I know it circulates in the State but, while it is vulgar and unpleasant, it is not in its content significantly different from some glossy magazines that have been on the bookstalls in South Australia for the last 20 years. Under the test that exists in the Police Offences Act in this State, I think it highly improbable that a conviction could be obtained. The only action taken by me has been to warn newsmen of the possibility of prosecution if children are given the job of selling the particular publication, as I have been told they do.

The Hon. T. C. Stott: Who decides the literary merit?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: At present the court does, and ultimately it always will. South Australia does not intend to go in for censorship, but the advisory board, as proposed under the joint arrangement, may advise the Commonwealth and States whether a work possesses literary, scientific, or other merit so as to warrant its release. If the board does advise that, the agreement contemplated between the Commonwealth and the States is that the Commonwealth will allow its importation, and if it is locally produced no State will prosecute it. That remains a safeguard, but people who do not get a clearance can take their risk before the court if they choose to publish, and the States may choose to prosecute. The court will probably decide whether it falls within the test or the exceptions contained in the Police Offences Act.

POULTRY CONFERENCE.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Has the Minister of Agriculture arranged for any of his officers to attend the World's Poultry Science Association's conference to be held at Kiev, in Russia, this year?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Mr. Chamberlain, of the Animal Husbandry Section, will represent the department, and Mr. Bray, a veterinary officer, will attend as an observer. Mr. Bray's expenses will be paid by the industry, and I understand an appeal has been made to poultry farmers to provide the money for Mr. Bray to attend for educational purposes. We have agreed to his going and will pay his salary as a contribution, because the information he will bring back will be of considerable benefit to the industry. We know that Mr. Chamberlain's interest in this field will be of extreme benefit to the conference and, in turn, to the State.

FLOODWATER DRAINAGE.

Mr. CUMBE: Some time ago the member for Enfield and I introduced a deputation from the Prospect, Enfield, and Hindmarsh councils to the Minister of Roads about flood-water drainage. Will the Minister of Lands remind his colleague that the councils are waiting to hear from him? Can the Minister indicate the outcome of this deputation?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be pleased to do that, but the delay may have occurred because several drainage matters were set aside awaiting consideration of the Bill to be presented to the House later. However, I shall consult my colleague and inform the honourable member.

RENMARK IRRIGATION.

Mr. CURREN: Can the Minister of Irrigation say what progress has been made on the work authorized for the Ral Ral Division of the Chaffey irrigation area?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The contract for replacement of earth channels with pipe mains at Ral Ral, let to R. M. Eastmond Proprietary Limited is progressing satisfactorily. Details of work carried out to date are as follows:

No. 7 Channel ..	} All pipes laid. Transition boxes in Channels 8 and 9 still to be constructed.
No. 8 Channel ..	
No. 9 Channel ..	
No. 9A Channel .	
No. 10A Channel .	
No. 13 Channel	1,500ft. of a total length of 2,500ft. laid.

Concrete lining of portion of Nos. 10 and 12 channels is being carried out by departmental labour under supervision of the resident engineer and about 70% of this work has been completed. It is expected that the whole project will be completed by mid-July.

STATE'S DEVELOPMENT.

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Premier an answer to the question I asked yesterday about the drop in expenditure on development and maintenance of natural resources?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The reference in the question is to the line in the monthly statement of Treasury finances entitled "Development and Maintenance of State Resources". It is shown in annual statements presented with the Budget that this includes provisions for roads, mines administration and investigations, agricultural, pastoral, and lands administrations, and assistance to primary producers. The question assumes from the May 1966 figures that expenditures on these lines are running very much short of estimate.

This is not the case, for reference to the figures of prior years shows that June recorded expenditures under this heading are normally much heavier than in earlier months. This arises substantially out of the end-of-year transfer out of revenue of the balances of collections of motor tax, etc., to the Highways Fund in accordance with Statute.

SOLDIER SETTLERS.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: Can the Minister of Repatriation say when the commission to inquire into the disabilities of soldier settlers at Loxton will be appointed?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I have received information from the Commonwealth Government about this matter but, as a result of this information, I am seeking further information. When that information is to hand, I hope I shall be able to make an announcement on the matter soon.

TEA TREE GULLY FIRE STATION.

Mrs. BYRNE: At present, as no fire brigade station serves the north-eastern suburbs which include the residential area covered by the District Council of Tea Tree Gully, the area concerned depends on the Emergency Fire Fighting Services, a voluntary organization which has done excellent work, mainly in combating grass and scrub fires, but which, because of its limited equipment and the voluntary nature of the work involved, is not entirely suitable for combating house fires (and, of course, it was never intended for that purpose on a large scale). Private dwellings in the area are rapidly increasing; for example, at June 30, 1961, 1,742 houses existed, as compared with 5,560 at December 31, 1965. In addition, many new public buildings have been erected, and existing ones enlarged beyond recognition. As all these buildings require adequate fire protection, will the Premier ask the Chief Secretary whether any consideration has been given to establishing a fire station in the north-eastern suburbs and, if not, whether such a proposal will be considered?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Seeing that the matter comes entirely under the jurisdiction of the Chief Secretary, I shall discuss it with him, and hope to have a report for the honourable member, probably next week.

HIGHWAY No. 12.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Will the Minister representing the Minister of Roads obtain from his colleague a report on whether or not reconstruction of Highway No. 12 east of

Moorlands will commence during the coming financial year and, if it will, precisely when the work will start?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes, I shall be happy to obtain that information for the honourable member.

PINE.

Mr. RODDA: The proprietors of a new hotel to be opened by the Premier at Penola next month have very properly decided to use *pinus radiata* in its construction, but the architects have found that some of the timber being used has been second-rate and has had to be rejected. Although I am not certain as to the source of the supply of this timber, I do not think it came from the Government mills. However, it has been found that during the timber's drying period a stain has occurred and that attempts to remove it have ruined the timber. As much of the timber has not been able to be used, and as it has caused considerable expense and much dissatisfaction, will the Minister of Forests investigate the matter?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I am sorry to hear that the timber used has not been up to expectations, although I commend the people concerned for using timber from the South-East which, of course, can be very attractive in its different uses. I will certainly have the matter investigated and try to ascertain whether anything can be done. My confidence was somewhat restored when I heard that the timber did not come from the Woods and Forests Department, but I shall try to ascertain its origin and to see whether any redress exists. In fact, the Minister of Forests recently moved into a new office in this building and members who care to see the partition wall of *pinus radiata* will agree that it is a very attractive timber indeed. When I move into the new Reserve Bank building I intend to have *pinus radiata* used in the partitions there, too, and I am sure that everyone will agree that this timber is pleasant to the eye.

MURRAY RIVER SALINITY.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: The Minister of Irrigation is no doubt aware of the fears expressed regarding the possible salinity of Lake Bonney and, if he will examine the correspondence on the matter, he will see that previous representations have been made on the matter, particularly from the Waikerie area. The problem of providing effective drainage, particularly in the Barmera and Loxton areas on the other side of the Murray River, is a vexed one and, as the salt content of the river

is probably rising, will the Minister have an examination made as to whether an alternative exists in eliminating the salinity in Lake Bonney as well as in the Murray River in the area concerned, so that the fresh water content can be preserved?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The problem of salinity in the Murray River has concerned the department for some time and, in fact, in November and December of last year we were extremely concerned that we might have to irrigate only at night because, strangely enough, the salinity then does not seem to be as high. That, fortunately, did not occur but the question of salinity, particularly in the river, is one of grave concern to the department. Letters have been written to the press recently, and I received a deputation only this morning in regard to the salinity that has occurred in Lake Bonney as a result of the drainage of seepage water into it. These matters are being investigated by the department, but I shall examine the honourable member's specific request more closely and ask my officers to ascertain whether some other solution can be found in regard to salinity in the river and its backwaters.

ADELAIDE-MANNUM ROAD.

Mrs. BYRNE: At present, the reconstruction and widening of the Adelaide-Mannum main road (No. 33) between Holden Hill and Grand Junction Road is almost complete. The work was necessary and welcome in the district. However, the proprietor of Bowman's Bus Service Limited has expressed concern about the possibility of a serious accident on the continuation of this road (on the Main North East Road between the intersection of Grand Junction Road and towards Tea Tree Gully) involving one of his buses because of the present width of the road and the lack of bituminized parking bays. In view of this, will the Minister of Lands ascertain from the Minister of Roads when this further section of the road will be widened?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will obtain the information for the honourable member as soon as possible.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: During the interval since the last session of Parliament, I raised with the Premier the question of the remuneration received by employees of the South Australian Railways Department who are members of the Citizen Military Forces. The position is that, unlike officers of the Public Service

(who now receive their normal pay while they are in camp with the C.M.F.), those employed by the Railways Department who go into a C.M.F. camp have their pay made up if there is a difference between the two sums. On the surface, this seems to be an injustice. The Premier referred my letter to the Minister of Transport and the Minister, having canvassed the position of those officers in the Public Service who were members of the C.M.F., stated in part:

To the present time these conditions have not been extended to other Government employees such as daily and weekly paid employees and, in the case of the South Australian Railways, this extension has not been granted, among other things, because of shortage of staff.

The implication there is that apparently it is wise to discourage Railways Department employees from being members of the C.M.F. However, I must not comment on that, although it makes me rather angry. The final sentence of the letter states:

I will refer this matter to Cabinet for further consideration and you will be advised of the decision in due course.

That was on April 21 and I have not been informed further, even though two months and a day has elapsed since then. I realize from the answers that the Premier has given since Parliament resumed that he is still out of touch with what went on in his absence abroad. However, can he say whether employees of the Railways Department will, in future, be paid (as are officers of the Public Service) while they are away on C.M.F. duty? If he cannot give me this information now, will he say when he will be able to do so?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I regret that the honourable member is angry and I trust that it is not because of anything I have done; I assure him that I am not responsible for his anger. He supplied the answer to his question when he said that my colleague would inform him of the position. It would ill behove me to instruct my colleague what he should do.

Mr. Millhouse: Aren't you the boss?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: To satisfy the House (I say that because I never seem to be able to satisfy the honourable member), I shall try to obtain a report on the matter from my colleague as soon as possible.

AUBURN-EUDUNDA ROAD.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Roads whether it is intended to have the remaining few miles of

unsealed road on the Auburn-Eudunda main road sealed during the coming financial year?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be pleased to obtain that information for the honourable member.

COMMENTS ON QUESTIONS.

The SPEAKER: I draw the attention of members to the fact that several questions today have contained comment. This practice is outside Standing Orders. I do not like having to call members to order as questions are asked, but this practice is not viewed favourably.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

The Legislative Council notified its appointment of Sessional Committees.

SUPPLY BILL (No. 1).

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

SITTINGS.

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

That during the present session, unless otherwise ordered, the House meet on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in each week, at two o'clock.

Motion carried.

BUSINESS.

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

That during the present session, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and after the six o'clock adjournment on Wednesdays, Government business takes precedence over other business, except questions.

Motion carried.

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

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

That three members of the House be appointed, by ballot, to the Council of the Flinders University of South Australia, as provided by the Flinders University of South Australia Act, 1966.

Motion carried.

A ballot having been held, Messrs. Hudson and Langley and Mrs. Steele were declared elected.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH (Premier and Treasurer) brought up the following report of the committee appointed to prepare the draft Address in Reply to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech:

1. We, the members of the House of Assembly, express our thanks for the Speech with which Your Excellency was pleased to open Parliament.

2. We assure Your Excellency that we will give our best attention to all matters placed before us.

3. We earnestly join in Your Excellency's prayer for the Divine blessing on the proceedings of the session.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from June 21. Page 18.)

Grand total, \$1,535,000.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Leader of the Opposition): I realize that the Government desires to have these Supplementary Estimates passed so that they can become operative for the current financial year. It will always be inevitable that, when the Treasury at the beginning of the year prepares a Budget of the size of our State Budget, there will be variations, since circumstances alter the grounds on which a Budget is prepared. So my comments will not be directed to the lines before us today. However, I want to make some general comments on these matters.

Over many years the Labor Party when in Opposition made a great point that the budgeting must be accurate. The budgeting by my Government was always subject to criticism about its inaccuracy. In fact, this went so far that it became a matter for a policy speech reference, and the Treasurer in his policy speech gave an assurance that, when he took charge of the Treasury, one of the features of his Government's work would be the accuracy with which the Budget was prepared. On that important occasion the Treasurer said, "Ours is not a policy for extravagance; it is one for accuracy in budgeting."

The expenditure this year shows an immense increase, very much greater than that ever contemplated in previous years. The increase was about 9½ per cent. When we consider that the rate of growth of Australia as a whole (and probably a similar increase would apply in South Australia) is about 5 per cent, we can appreciate that there has been a bigger increase in expenditure by the Government than had previously occurred. In fact, if recent Budgets were looked at, it would be found that the increased rate of expenditure would generally represent a much lower figure.

However, that is not of much consequence at the moment. The fact is that this was a much bigger percentage increase than anything contemplated previously.

In addition to that, provision was made in the Appropriation Bill for wage increases, to be paid irrespective of whether or not they had been provided for in the Budget, and for additional water pumping charges to be met, whether or not they were provided for in the Budget. So that the 9½ per cent was not the end of the increase: it was only the beginning. As well as that, there was a Government Appropriation Account, which gave the Government a free rein to spend \$1,200,000 in addition to the expenditure provided for in all the things I have mentioned. I am not aware (I do not think the figures have yet been given) of what is involved in recent wage increases, but we know from two or three determinations that have been made (and not only made but also back-dated, so that there is some accumulated expenditure) that they must have made a heavy impact on the State's resources. Only this afternoon during question time I heard of another outstanding matter that was receiving the Treasurer's attention.

I cannot give the exact figures, as they are not yet known. Indeed, a pending Arbitration Commission award, which the Government supported, could easily bring about some retrospective payments that would affect them. I think a fair estimate of the additional expenditure provided under the Budget and the special provisions of the Appropriation Act is that there has been an increase of not less than 11½ per cent. In the circumstances, the increases in the individual lines of the Supplementary Estimates are significant. I do not want my comments to be taken as criticism of the amounts; they are more a criticism of the budgeting in relation to the particular items. In the first item the increase is only \$30,000 on the \$1,310,240 provided, and this is not an abnormal increase. It arises from new appointments and not from increased award payments, so perhaps it could have been contemplated by the Minister who administers the department when the Budget was prepared, as he would have planned his new appointments some time ahead. However, the other lines relating to this department do not show up at all well. The budgetary inaccuracy in relation to "Windana" is of \$15,000, and as the original provision was for \$32,000, the mistake is of about 50 per cent. An extra \$15,000 is provided for Brookway Park, which is an increase of about 60 per cent on the original provision

of \$24,000. An extra 13 per cent is provided for children placed out, and an extra \$85,000 is provided for clothing, etc., for which the original provision was \$220,000. This does not live up to the Treasurer's promise to have accuracy in budgeting. I do not think that even in my worst days as Treasurer I produced figures as bad as these. This feature does not live up to the high hopes the electors had when they heard the Treasurer assert that one of the new features of the new administration, if he were elected, would be accuracy in budgeting. There are some variations in relation to other departments. The inaccuracies are of 11, 22, 6, 10, 40 and 25 per cent.

Mr. Heaslip: Are the inaccuracies all the same way?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Obviously they are, and they do not provide the accuracy that we would have expected of a Treasurer who made such a special feature in his policy speech of accuracy in budgeting. These increases are in relation to a Budget 11 per cent higher than the previous Budget, and as a result the Treasurer has had to introduce these Supplementary Estimates for \$1,535,000. This compares rather unfavourably with the worst attempts I ever made, as it does not come about because of any national calamity (for instance, an outbreak of fruit fly) that could not be anticipated; this is just run of the mill.

I realize the necessity for Supplementary Estimates, as I appreciate the difficulty of providing for all expenditures that may occur. However, I believe the increased provision for the Engineering and Water Supply Department arises not out of the necessity for extra maintenance, servicing, and so on, but from something totally different. I believe it arises because the department was short of Loan money, and rather than retrench any employees it switched to maintenance work people who would normally have been employed on Loan works. I support the Government in its desire not to retrench employees, but if this is the reason for the big increase in the department it is bad financially because it will react adversely on the State's financial position generally. It is necessary that Loan works be done with Loan money and that Budget expenditure be provided by Budget money. They should not be intermixed, because the moment they are, penalties are immediately incurred. These penalties are not temporary: they will continue and will hit the State in two extremely undesirable ways. Yesterday I listened with

interest to the remarks of His Excellency regarding financial matters, particularly when he said:

After allowing for a small balance of surpluses carried forward from previous years, the estimated net deficit at the end of this financial year, given the revenues intended to be raised, was \$1,859,000. The very dry season has had adverse effects throughout this State; it has reduced the earnings of the Railways and Harbors Board Departments and it has increased the costs of supplying water, while the general slowing down in the Australian economy has reduced a number of major Government revenues.

As a matter of interest and in order to see how well advised His Excellency was, I compared the earnings of the Harbors Board for the 11 months of this year with the earnings for the same period of last year. I also obtained similar figures regarding the Railways Department. His Excellency's statement cannot be justified: the figures do not support it. The Harbors Board revenue for the 11 months to May 1965 was about \$5,400,000. For the 11 months ended May, 1966, the Harbors Board paid into the Treasury \$5,593,000, and everyone knows that that is a cash figure, whereas the earnings are usually somewhat larger because all transactions are not immediately paid in cash.

I accept that some charges have been increased, but the increases were in relation to items that did not fall within wide scope as far as this matter is concerned. We also find that for the 11 months last year the earnings of the Railways Department were about \$35,000,000, and the amount collected up to the present this year is about the same. In fact, the wheat harvest last year was far above the average, as I had contemplated, and I have reaped the reward for that prognostication.

Regarding water, it is true that this year a little more has been pumped than was ever pumped previously. The Minister has topped the previous best figure but the increased charges imposed by the Government in relation to water have more than offset any increased pumping costs. The Government will show a much better return this year for the Engineering and Water Supply Department than was shown last year. The position that the Government finds itself in at present is caused not by the abnormally bad season but by the increased expenditures the Government has approved.

The Budget is an annual affair and commitments apply only to the year in which the Budget operates. Therefore, talk about

planning ahead does not relate to the Budget position at all. The Treasurer said, through the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech, in comment in the House and by press reports, that the deficit would be much higher than the sum provided for in the Budget. How is that to be met and what is the method of financing? I have looked at published Treasury figures and have made an unintelligent estimate based upon them, because one cannot do other than that, not knowing precisely what is the position. However, I consider that the deficit will be more than the \$4,000,000 that has been mentioned by the Treasurer. Assuming it is \$6,000,000, where will that sum come from? Only from Loan moneys provided by the Commonwealth in the manner prescribed by the Commonwealth-State Financial Agreement Act of 1927. It has to be funded in accordance with that Act, and has to be deducted from the Loan funds provided by the Loan Council. The Financial Agreement provided penalties for States that had deficits and it stated the method by which the quota for the allocation of Loan moneys in the future (provided there was not unanimous agreement) should be determined. Part 3 (i) of the agreement states:

If the members of the Loan Council fail to arrive at a unanimous decision . . . and subclause (ii) states:

Each State shall be entitled to have allocated to it a sum (being a portion of the balance of such amount) bearing to the balance of such amount the same proportion which the net loan expenditure of that State in the preceding five years bears to the net loan expenditure of all the States during the same period:

When Sir Henry Bolte became Treasurer of Victoria he decided that that State was getting an unfair share of the tax reimbursement moneys, and proceeded to budget for a deficit of £4,000,000 (\$8,000,000). He did that for three years but found that the effect on the Loan programme of Victoria was so calamitous that he became virtuous and stated that Victoria must have a balanced Budget. Every time a Treasurer uses Loan moneys to fund a deficit he impairs the formula for the future. So many transactions since 1927 have been excluded or included, that it would be a Privy Council case of some magnitude to decide the formula, but every year the formula is prepared. When it comes to sharing the Loan moneys, the Treasurer of each State sits tight on his formula because he knows he must get that. Our formula, which has not varied since the present Treasurer took office, is 13.71. It is a good one, and we get much

more than Queensland, which has 50 per cent more population than we have, because for many years this State has always scrupulously considered the formula and built it up by never impairing it. In some instances this State has paid Revenue money into the Loan Account to enable the formula to be built up. If members will consider the appendage to the Treasurer's statement they will see that in the past South Australia has used Loan moneys to balance a deficit that has accrued. In 1946-47 a deficit of \$120,000 had to be funded; in 1954-55, \$80,000 had to be funded; in 1955-56, \$1,176,000 had to be funded; but when we had a surplus of \$1,754,000 in 1957-58 that was paid into Loan funds. One deficit does not have as violent an effect on the Loan programme as does a series of deficits, but Victoria could stand only three deficits before it had to do something. South Australia and New South Wales obtained an additional sum because Victoria's figure decreased. If the Treasurer has found some other way of beating the gun on this matter, I shall be pleased to hear of it. However, the Financial Agreement stipulates that deficits must be funded and that they then cease to become a part of the Loan programme, and cease to form a part of the quota for future moneys. A penalty was deliberately inserted in the Financial Agreement to prevent States from budgeting for deficits. Section 3 of the Financial Agreement relates to the sinking fund for Loan moneys applied for Loan works. If members take the trouble to examine page 422, No. 3 of the South Australian Statutes, they will see that under paragraph (f) the Commonwealth Government undertakes to pay a certain contribution to the sinking fund of the State's Loans. The agreement states:

Subject to subclauses (h) and (j) of this clause, in each year during the period of 53 years from the date of raising after June 30, 1927, of any new loan by a State or by the Commonwealth for and on behalf of the State the Commonwealth and that State shall each pay from revenue a sinking fund contribution of a sum equal to 5s. for each £100 of the amount of the new loan.

A sinking fund is therefore immediately provided for Loan works. However, coming to the money borrowed and used for financing a deficit, an entirely new and drastic provision is inserted in the Financial Agreement as follows:

In respect of any loan raised after June 30, 1927, by a State or by the Commonwealth for and on behalf of a State to meet a revenue deficit accruing after that date no sinking fund

contribution shall be payable by the Commonwealth, but that State shall for a period sufficient to provide for the redemption of that loan pay from revenue each year during such period a sinking fund contribution at the rate of not less than four per centum per annum of the amount of that loan.

I know of no other way of financing a deficit but by using some of the Loan money provided, which means that the State has to pay for this money 5 per cent by way of interest (which will go to the debenture holder), and it will have to pay 4 per cent by way of sinking fund until the debt has been cleared. It becomes punitive to use money from the Loan Fund to finance deficits. I know from personal experience that a Treasurer today has a different set of circumstances operating from those that operated when the State collected its own income tax. Under the old system when the Treasurer made up his Budget, at the same time he had to provide for the rate of income tax that would be charged to finance his Budget and, immediately, there was a division in the House, not necessarily a Party division but a division as to whether the Treasurer was charging too much income tax and spending too much money, or whether he was not spending enough money and not taxing sufficiently. It was a division that balanced, but having listened to the questions asked of the Treasurer and Ministers this afternoon I am wondering whether most did not involve increased expenditure in some way or another. Frankly, if I had asked a question it probably would have excelled the rest. However, the utmost pressure is always on the Treasurer for increased expenditure, which applies not only to members on my side of the Chamber but to those on both sides.

The Hon. C. D. Hutchens: That is not new, though.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: That is the problem we have today, but whatever happens I should say it was disastrous to believe that we could continue to budget for deficits year after year, with the policy of making the deficit up out of our Loan Fund, because the immediate cost of that to the State is high. Of course, there is still a supplementary cost to the State which I have not mentioned, namely, the useful works which in many instances would be interest-producing and which are not carried out. His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor said:

My Treasurer found last year that the Government had been previously committed to expenditure in 1965-66 of Loan moneys in excess of those available for 1964-65 on works in hand or commenced, even without new works

being undertaken. Careful forward planning of Loan works in the long term has now been undertaken to ensure that this situation does not recur.

I doubt whether in the last 20 years that position has not been a feature of the Loan programme, because everyone knows that Loan works are not carried out within a matter of six months. Taking the Royal Adelaide Hospital, for example, the day the first \$60,000 is spent on removing some outbuilding is perhaps an expenditure ultimately of \$20,000,000, but it is a sum spread over some years. Indeed, that is necessary, because we could never have a Loan programme that started and stopped in the one financial year. That would be completely impossible, ineffective and costly. When the Railways Commissioner starts to re-lay a railway line the total expenditure might be \$10,000,000, whereas that sum is not drawn all in the first or second year but is a continuing process with Loan funds coming forward to meet it.

If it is suggested that my Government had committed the new Government to expenditures which could not be met then I say most emphatically that that is not the case. In the first place, my Government intended to continue in office. We did not carry out a policy on the assumption that we would lose the election; it was a fluke that happens once in 100 years and probably will not happen again in another 100 years. However, obviously no Government would commit itself to face an election knowing that it could not carry on. Of course, the Treasurer said in the House yesterday that when his Government took office he did not appreciate the position, and some of his Ministers did not understand the position either. As late as last December the Government had to send a circular, under Cabinet authority, informing departments that they must not commit themselves for expenditures ahead without getting Cabinet approval.

When I left office I obtained from the Treasury a statement of the financial position at that time. The original of this document is on the files at the Treasury and is available to the Treasurer to examine. The document was signed by the Under-Treasurer (Mr. Seaman) and sets out precisely the position of the Treasury at the end of February, 1965, a few days before the election. On Consolidated Revenue Account at that time there was a deficit on the current year of \$5,260,000. However, the surplus in hand for the previous year was \$3,844,000, leaving a net deficit of \$1,416,000. Members know that the end of

February is probably the worst accounting time of the year for the Budget and that the deficit is then at its maximum. The figures of the Budget that had been produced by my Government were more than sustained and the net result was a surplus. Therefore, the Budget was in a proper position. Regarding the Loan Account, at that time there was an unspent balance on account of the current year of \$1,136,000. The balance carried forward from the previous year was \$3,396,000, so that in the Loan Account at the end of February there was \$4,532,000, with a net balance, taking into account the two sums, of \$3,116,000. In this document, Mr. Seaman states:

The Consolidated Revenue Account would appear to be running very closely in accordance with the Budget approved by Parliament though, as usual, with a number of variations which broadly balance each other. The Budget forecast a final net deficit of \$1,140,000 after absorbing past surpluses, and the present outlook in relation to commitments and authorities for expenditure is that a small improvement on that forecast may be possible.

In fact, that improvement took place and instead of a deficit there was a surplus. Mr. Seaman continues:

Ordinarily over the last four months of a financial year revenues tend to exceed expenditures because the manner of receipt of Commonwealth grants favours the last four months. Borrowings on Loan Account to the end of February have been proportionate to the entitlement approved by Loan Council and expenditure to date rather less than proportionate to the estimated expenditure for the year. However, invariably works payments are relatively heavier during the latter months in the year, and the present indications are that full authorized provisions will be required to meet commitments. An over-run of Loan expenditure in engineering and water supply because of greater progress with works anticipated and for Loans to Producers through the State Bank mainly for co-operatives seems probable with some counter-balancing under-run in some other departments (for example, Harbours).

Therefore, we had a net balance of \$3,116,000 and a statement by the Treasury that the budgets of both the Loan and the Revenue Accounts were in a healthy condition and running according to the Budget estimate. Mr. Seaman continues:

Apart from funds for the ordinary operation of the Government finance the Treasury is responsible for trust funds and deposit accounts amounting to \$29,342,000 at the end of February, and these are held in fixed deposits of varying maturities at interest at the Reserve Bank of Australia. They consist of amounts deposited by various authorities and instrumentalities such as the Housing Trust, Highways Fund, Superannuation Fund, the university, and the like, and drawn on from time to time

for their own authorized purposes; certain Commonwealth moneys provided for the State to disburse in accordance with the relevant Commonwealth legislation, such as rail standardization moneys, the Home Builders' Fund, and war service land settlement provisions; and various Loan and revenue appropriations which have already been provided and committed for the Electricity Trust, for departmental stores and plant replacement provisions, and for comparable purposes.

Mr. Seaman then summarizes the position as follows:

The state of Crown funds at the end of February is shown hereunder—

	\$
Fixed deposits at Reserve Bank (\$38,000,000 less \$8,000,000 borrowed therefrom at 1 per cent to finance temporary lag of revenues and repayable by June 30 each year)	30,000,000
Less holding on account of Trust and Deposit Accounts	29,342,000
	<hr/>
	658,000
Current Account at Reserve Bank (\$5,808,000, less unrepresented cheques, \$4,744,000)	1,064,000
Bank deposits in London and at State Bank	1,084,000
Advances held by departments and minor departmental expenditures awaiting recovery or pending debit	310,000
	<hr/>
Funds held for those ordinary Crown purposes authorized through Revenue and Loan Budgets	3,116,000
	<hr/>

That was at the end of February, a few days before the election. The report continues:

I would add that it is not necessary or normal for an amount equivalent to the temporary borrowing (at present \$8,000,000) to be held separately from ordinary Loan and Revenue funds on deposit at interest. However, the State is entitled to borrow at the concession rate of 1 per cent to finance lag of current revenues. Late in February, until receipt of the Commonwealth grant for the month, this lag reached above \$8,000,000. It was not immediately necessary to borrow the amount because previous carry-overs of Revenue and Loan surpluses had not so far been used up, but it was profitable to the Budget to take up this entitlement at 1 per cent and hold corresponding amounts earning interest at higher rates.

If the Treasurer or any of his Ministers believe that the planning of the previous Government was in error, I invite them to get Mr. Seaman to produce a similar document setting out the figures as they now stand. Such a document would be interesting. Government members would then begin to see why I say it is necessary for us to carefully examine the whole financial structure of this State in order

to see that we do not drift into the position where we would be forced to use Loan funds for meeting a deficit, with the heavy penalty, equal to 9 per cent of the money that is being used. A special Sinking Fund payment of 4 per cent immediately has to be met, plus the interest charges, and there is no corresponding earning because it goes not into the Electricity Trust or the Housing Trust or the Engineering and Water Supply Department but purely and simply to meet a hole made in the Loan Fund by the previous Budget.

The amounts in the Supplementary Estimates are not unusual, except for inaccuracy in budgeting. However, I point out that in some instances they show an error in calculation up to 60 per cent. The Department of Social Welfare, as it is now called, gives amelioration to people in distressed circumstances, and it has never been tied down to a hard and fast budget because circumstances alter from time to time. Indeed, there has been some increase in unemployment in this State, and that in itself immediately affects this department, which has no control at all over the factors influencing unemployment. I believe Parliament has to be prepared to meet the exigencies of this department as they arise. While I do not criticize any expenditure for relief, I think perhaps the department might have done a little better in estimating its requirements. Be that as it may, the Opposition supports the Supplementary Estimates.

Mr. CUMBE (Torrens): I support the adoption of the first line. The leader has covered the ground fully, and I assure the Committee that I am not going to do the same. Some of the figures given by the Leader will be well worth studying, for I consider they will be of great significance in the coming year's finances and possibly for some years to come. These figures are now on record and can be quoted and studied.

Education is a topic of great public interest. We have had all sorts of public meetings, public arguments, protest meetings, teach-ins, deputations to members of Parliament, and even an unedifying controversy in the press between the Commonwealth Minister in charge of education and our own Minister, not to the benefit of anyone, I suggest. We have also had all sorts of public controversies over State aid, free books, subsidies, and the percentages being spent on education. However, these are things that can be better dealt with in the Address in Reply debate or when the Budget it presented. I merely point out now that this subject is becoming rather political, and only too often

the paramount interests of the parent and the student are being overlooked. It is on Commonwealth Grants, and especially research grants, that I want to speak under these Supplementary Estimates. The Commonwealth grants we have been receiving over the last few years have certainly conferred considerable educational benefits on the people of Australia; but, on the other hand, they have posed some fairly mighty problems to the various State Treasurers and Ministers of Education in that grants made by the Commonwealth under the auspices of various committees have been met by matching grants. Today, the Commonwealth in many ways is making financial contributions to assist the States in education, both in capital and in recurring costs, in the case of universities, technical schools, science laboratories for research, and university residential colleges. These are the main items in respect of which the State is receiving financial assistance from the Commonwealth. All these grants are being made on the recommendation of one type of committee or another, and the State has to make a matching grant to qualify for this assistance. If it does not meet the grant or part of it, in many if not in most cases the contribution from the Commonwealth is lost forever.

Another difficulty for the Ministers concerned is that this financing is done upon a triennial basis. The recommendations of the various committees are based on a three-year period, and the Treasurer has to find his money within that three-year period. If he does not spend it within that period, he sometimes finds that the grant is lost forever. He has to make a matching grant. I am the first to appreciate the difficulties that the Ministers and Treasurers are up against in this regard but we must realize that in education today the Commonwealth is playing a greater and greater role and is making a bigger and more significant contribution to education in the various States, especially higher education. Up to this day Commonwealth aid has been in the field of tertiary education, with the exception that in some cases it has made contributions to the cost of erecting and equipping science laboratories in secondary schools. This is greatly appreciated by those schools. I further believe that the Commonwealth Government will be called on to make bigger and bigger grants in successive trienna as we go along, and as a result the State Ministers will have to find bigger and bigger matching grants.

What I have said so far is obvious: I have been stating truisms. I know some of the

problems that the Minister here will have to face in the next few years, the heavier and heavier commitments he will have in his department and that he will call upon the Treasurer to support. However, if we do not make these grants, we in South Australia will lose some of the Commonwealth grants we are receiving. It is fair to say (I believe every honourable member here will agree with me on this) that it is to Sir Robert Menzies, in the first place, that most of the credit for the commencing of Commonwealth education grants must go.

The Hon. B. H. Teusner: That has been acknowledged by the Chancellor of the University of Adelaide.

Mr. CUMBE: It was Sir Robert Menzies, with his energy and drive, who in the first place set up the Australian Universities Commission that conducted the first inquiry (I believe it was by the Martin Committee), with the result that in successive years larger and larger grants have been made covering a wider field. The administration was carried out subsequently through Senator Gorton, the Minister in charge of education in the Prime Minister's Department, so I think it fair to say that but for the policies initiated by Sir Robert Menzies many of the new universities built in Australia up to the last decade would probably never have seen the light of day. It is also probable that the Flinders university would never have been commenced. We are all proud of this new university, which we hope will achieve all the things we desire. However, but for the grants which were made by the Commonwealth and which had to be matched by this State, possibly it would never have been started. It would not have been possible for this State from its own resources to build this university at this time. The research that is being carried out could never have been carried out, and this applies also to the research currently being carried out at the University of Adelaide. Therefore, the grants for research in the Supplementary Estimates we are now considering would never have been made.

Members should consider the history of research grants, and especially what happened late last year. I refer to discussions that took place in this House and the unfortunate controversies that have now been ironed out. In the *Advertiser* of October 20, 1965, under the heading "Research grants in doubt" appeared the following report:

All 70 members of the Adelaide and Bedford Park University staffs nominated yesterday for special Federal-State research grants worth

\$494,000 may not receive them. The State Government says it cannot afford to match the full proposed Commonwealth grant of \$297,000 on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

That was the first statement we heard on this matter.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: It was quite out of proportion to what we should have had to find.

Mr. CUMBE: I am coming to that; I am trying to be fair on this matter. When these grants were first announced, the Minister of Education expressed concern and some resentment at the way they had been announced and said that the South Australian Government could not match the Commonwealth grant for research to the extent of about \$120,000. His explanation was that in his estimate he had estimated receiving about 11 per cent of the total Commonwealth grant, whereas the total allocation was of about 16 per cent. He pointed out that our population then was about 9 per cent of the Australian population and said that through the Prime Minister he had asked the Commonwealth Government to relieve this State of the extra grant that it would have to match. As can be verified from *Hansard*, the Opposition at that time urged the Government to accept the extra grants or they would be lost. Further, it was considered that the allocation might be cut down in future years. The Opposition pointed out the importance of allocating every penny available to education, of which research forms a significant part, and the people are urging both political Parties to do this.

The Minister said flatly that his Government could not find this additional \$120,000, and refused to match the Commonwealth grant. However, he subsequently bowed to representations and agreed to make the matching grant for research that the Commonwealth Government had suggested. In other words, having received representations and after some pressure tactics, he agreed to pay the additional \$120,000, but on a condition: he warned the University of Adelaide that \$120,000 might be deducted from the general purpose grant to that university in the next year. The authority for that is in *Hansard* at page 2547, where the Minister said:

The Government has considered this matter, and I have discussed it with the Vice-Chancellor of the university. The university has placed a high priority on the research grants which have been made available, and the Government has decided, in view of that, to make the \$120,000 extra available for the research grants above the sum the State budgeted for. At the same

time, however, the Government has informed the university that, in regard to the university's recurrent expenditure for 1966, the Government may not be able to match the full Commonwealth grants that are made available during that year.

In addition, this report appeared in the *Advertiser* of November 10, 1965, headed "Varsity money may be pruned next year":

The Minister of Education said last night that the University of Adelaide might have to forgo \$120,000 of its 1966 Budget.

At that time, the Opposition was still urging that the Minister take up every penny offered by the Commonwealth Government and in the ensuing discussions in this place one member (I think it was the honourable member for Mitcham) suggested that possibly the University of New England, which was being formed, might receive this amount if we did not take it. Personally, I do not quibble about that. I cannot say whether it is correct but I emphasize that, if we do not take up these grants, we may lose them.

This brings me to the line Minister of Education on the Estimates, with an amount of \$770,000, and an amount of \$530,000 for the University of Adelaide. Of the amount of \$530,000, \$290,000 is for buildings and \$240,000 for research. The Treasurer's explanation suggests that the \$240,000 is this State's matching share of the latest Commonwealth distribution of the final \$4,000,000. I understand that the original allocation from the Commonwealth was estimated at about \$10,000,000, of which \$6,000,000 was the first share, and that this short payment of \$120,000 was part of that. Since then, there has been another allocation, one of \$4,000,000, and the Treasurer has suggested that the \$240,000 is our matching share of our total amount for these research grants. I assume that up to June 30 this year all Commonwealth grants for research that have been offered have been matched dollar-for-dollar by the State.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: With the exception of the amount in relation to the halls of residence at Flinders university.

Mr. CUMBE: That is a different subject and is not touched on in these Estimates. However, what happened to the \$120,000 that the Minister said he was taking out of the grant to the university to put into the research grant? Will that come out of the university grant next year?

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: No; I have been told that the university is satisfied with the present arrangements.

Mr. CUMBE: We may have to wait for the Estimates to see what has happened. I understood the Minister to say that he was taking the \$120,000 from the grant for next year to pay for the matching grant for research, and that \$120,000 might be taken from the general purpose grant next year. The Minister now states that the university is satisfied.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: It is on this point.

Mr. CUMBE: I want to ensure that we take full advantage of every penny offered by the Commonwealth Government for educational grants, whether for buildings, recurring costs, technical training, science laboratories, or research. It would be tragic for this State if we could not match Commonwealth grants, because we are obviously saving money by doing so. We receive an asset after contributing only half the capital cost. The Opposition considers that we should take advantage of every penny we can receive for education in this State, and that it should be spent in the best possible way. I support these Estimates.

Mr. McANANEY (Stirling): I support the Estimates. The Leader has referred to the excuses made by the Treasurer in explaining why the increases are necessary. Indeed, the Treasurer maintained that the lack of revenue was the result of drought conditions in South Australia, but I point out that our last wheat crop was the fourth largest on record and that in the last 10 years we have had at least three, if not four, substantially worse years than this year. No justification exists for claiming that the increases are the result of natural conditions. Rather, they are the result of the over-spending of money that we do not have and of the brakes not being applied quickly enough. If we do not reduce the public undertaking next year we shall only find ourselves in more strife.

Wool and meat production in South Australia have been quite high this year; lamb prices have been lower in the last few months than they have been for a number of years. Indeed, it has been a comparatively good year. It has been claimed that railway revenue has been substantially down because of the lack of produce to be carried, but I point out that South Australian exports for the nine months ending March 31 amounted to \$10,500,000 above the figures for the previous year, the result of a record crop in the previous months. I point out, however, that railway revenue may drop considerably as a result of a possible drop in transport of wheat for the coming period.

June to December. We have not heard the reason for harbour dues being down; a rash estimate may have been made, although with \$10,500,000 in exports it is difficult to see how estimates have not proved more accurate. The general tendency towards increased costs is the result of the Government's endeavouring to increase such charges as water rates and land tax.

Mr. Hudson: Rubbish!

Mr. McANANEY: Our academic economist should get down to the real facts of how a business runs.

Mr. Clark: Is that what you are doing?

Mr. McANANEY: At present 6,714 people in South Australia are unemployed, whereas in March, 1965, the figure was 1,129. Our employment figure has dropped from second best to next to worst.

Mr. Rodda: We are on the skids!

Mr. McANANEY: Yes. I worked in the National Bank when the last Labor Government was in office and when no confidence existed on the part of the community. Nobody came in then to ask for a loan for developmental works; people would come into the bank and say, "We can't pay our interest, and we want a loan to cover it." Fortunately, now, with a Commonwealth Government doing the right thing at the right time, we do not have that trouble. At present a person can go into a bank and borrow money. However, there is a lack of confidence in South Australia because the Government has increased charges, and that is what is responsible for a greater slowing down in the economy of South Australia than in the economy of other States. Of the other States, two had major droughts whereas South Australia had only a slightly less than average year: in many cases it was above average.

Mr. Hudson: Do you mean to say that the motor car production in South Australia is not dependent on demand in other States?

Mr. McANANEY: The honourable member should support the Treasurer rather than start an academic argument. I disagree entirely with the reasons the Treasurer gave for the Supplementary Estimates. The need for extra money is not because of natural causes but rather because of the Government's actions which mean that there will be a deficit this year that must affect the progress of the State in the years to come.

Mrs. STEELE (Burnside): In his speech the Treasurer referred to the Governor's Appropriation Fund about which the Leader commented that the Government would have a "free

rein" to spend up to \$1,200,000. It is from this fund that the Government can meet contingencies that it does not have to show on the Estimates at all. It is probably from this fund that the cost of the various Royal Commissions now taking place will be met. Although it is not usual for the Treasurer to give information on this, I appeal to him, because of the great public interest, to inform Parliament of the cost of the various tribunals. Currently there is a Royal Commission on the Licensing Act and another on State Transport Services. From the time the Royal Commission on the Licensing Act has taken already, we can see that the inquiry will be prolonged. Because of the many important legal luminaries that are engaged in presenting cases on behalf of clients, expenses will be high. In addition various people connected with the Commission will have to visit other States. Great public interest is shown in this matter because it is a social matter, and members know that the public takes more interest in social questions than in any other type of question.

Much time and travelling will be occasioned by the Royal Commission on State Transport Services. Recently, the Parliamentary Salaries Tribunal concluded taking evidence and, although members of the public seemed vocal in their comments, few showed interest by attending the hearings. All these inquiries involve much expenditure and the public is interested in this. The Government has set up a Local Government Act Revision Committee, and I read in the press (and I think it was stated here by a Minister) that this committee could continue meeting for two years. I know that the Government has engaged an eminent Queen's Counsel from another State, who is considered to be an authority on these matters. He will advise the Government and, in examining the whole position, he will probably travel throughout the length and breadth of the State. We know that a Queen's Counsel's costs would probably be about 100 guineas a day or more.

Another matter of great public interest is the trip recently undertaken by the Treasurer and the Minister of Mines, together with the Director and Deputy Director of Mines. We believe that this trip will be of great value to the State, and that what accrues from it will mean much to the security and prosperity of the people in the future. While I presume that these are all items the figures for which the Government probably does not need to disclose, I suggest that Parliament and the people of

South Australia are entitled to know what these various inquiries of great public interest are costing.

The amount shown for public buildings is nearly four and a half times more than it was last year. Being fair, one can only take the items as a whole, and the only item to appear last year was service pay—payment due to employees of the Public Buildings Department. However, this time we have a great list of new items such as maintenance, minor additions, alterations, furniture, furnishings, equipment, services, etc., on education buildings, police and courthouse buildings, and other Government buildings. We are very proud of our public buildings such as schools, courthouses, and police stations, but I suggest that in a time of financial stringency and shortages the Government could be more restrained in the furnishings and amenities that it puts into these buildings. I believe we have the most magnificent schools, but I really think we spend too much on the buildings and perhaps not enough on the recruiting and the training of teachers, and that we could perhaps economize on these schools.

The difference between last year's Supplementary Estimates as it concerns public buildings alone and this year's Estimates is most marked. I think that at this time, when the State is running so much behind with its finances, we should show a more austere attitude towards money that we spend on these things. Here in this place, for instance, we have seen evidence of lavish expenditure on furniture. Probably new furniture and furnishings in Ministers' rooms was overdue but, having been interested recently in the cost of furniture, I know that it must have cost thousands of pounds to put the chairs, lounges and carpets and other furnishings in those rooms. Again, I suggest that at a time of financial stringency more economy and austerity should have been observed.

Mr. Heaslip: What about the lift?

Mrs. STEELE: That is another topic. My point was that in future the Government should try to keep costs down in order to devote money to more necessary things. With those remarks, I support the Supplementary Estimates.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH (Premier and Treasurer): I wish to say a few words in reply to the criticism levelled against the Government. It appears that the policy speech that I delivered in 1965 is still fresh in the minds of Opposition members, and I do not object to that. Expenditure on behalf of the Department of Social Welfare has been

criticized. The home at Glandore is a remand home. It was opened by Sir Lyell McEwin when he was Chief Secretary. It had not even the staff to fill the place when we came into office. We were left with something to carry. I do not think that any person with the best of management in the world could have done better than we have done in that regard. The same applies to Brookway Park. We find that more and more children are being placed out in the care of foster parents and that more and more children are coming under the care of the State Government. The number has almost broken records. I have already spoken about the Minister of Works and his department.

The Leader of the Opposition said that in 1964-65 the previous balance of Loan Account money carried forward was \$3,396,000. Apparently, something had happened somewhere along the line for that amount of money to accrue under Loan Account from one year to the next. I do not understand the reason for the manipulation, but I accept what the Leader said, that he expected to continue in office; but he did not. The Supplementary Estimates show a further \$770,000 is required for the Education Department as a result of what the universities are asking. We cannot complain about these things. They have been mentioned, and we have to accept the responsibility of making our task a little more difficult than it normally would be. Heaven help us if we do not accept our responsibilities! I have discussed these matters with Senator Gorton. Before the Universities Commission makes public what it intends to do, both the States and the Commonwealth will want to know its intentions. The relevant provision in the Act has never been implemented. It appears from discussions in the Loan Council that Senator Gorton will insist on the rights of the States being observed and on the Commonwealth giving the States an opportunity to appraise whatever extra expenditure is involved. There will be further opportunities to examine general application of Loan moneys and the Budget. I ask the Committee to agree to these Supplementary Estimates.

First line (Attorney-General, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Minister of Social Welfare, Department of Social Welfare, \$185,000)—passed.

MINISTER OF WORKS.

Engineering and Water Supply Department, \$400,000; Public Buildings Department, \$180,000—passed.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

Education Department, Miscellaneous,
\$770,000—passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1).

The Supplementary Estimates were adopted by the House and an Appropriation Bill for \$1,535,000 was founded in Committee of Ways and Means, introduced by the Hon. Frank Walsh, and read a first time.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH (Premier and Treasurer): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It is based upon the Supplementary Estimates which have been dealt with by the House. Clause 2 authorizes the issue of a further \$1,535,000 from the general revenue. Clause 3 appropriates that sum and sets out the amount to be provided under each department or activity. Clause 4 provides that the Treasurer shall have available to spend only such amounts as are authorized by a warrant from His Excellency the Governor, and that the receipts of the payees shall be accepted as evidence that the payments have been duly made.

Clause 5 gives power to issue money out of Loan funds, other public funds or bank overdraft, if the moneys received from the Commonwealth Government and the general revenue of the State are insufficient to meet the payments authorized by this Bill. Clause 6 gives authority to make payments in respect of a period prior to the first day of July, 1965. Clause 7 provides that amounts appropriated by this Bill are in addition to other amounts properly appropriated.

With one exception, all clauses are in the general form which has been followed for Appropriation Bills for many years. The exception is clause 6, which previously included the wording in the Bill now before you and also the final phrase "at a rate in excess of the rate which, during the period in respect of which the payment is made, was in force under any return made under the Acts relating to the public service, or pursuant to any regulation

or any award, order or determination of a court or other body empowered to fix salaries or wages".

On October 5 last (see *Hansard*, page 1942) the Leader of the Opposition said that he could not see the need for the additional authority given by the final phrase. The Bill was passed in the form in which it was presented but I undertook to get a report on clause 6. The Under Treasurer examined the matter and found that clause 6 was first inserted in an Appropriation Bill in 1936 when it was apparently thought desirable to secure appropriation authority for certain salary and wage increases made retrospective into the previous financial year. The Under Treasurer has expressed some doubt as to the necessity for clause 6 and considerable doubt as to the necessity for the final phrase.

I then sought the opinion of the Crown Solicitor, who reported to me that he saw no legal necessity for the insertion of clause 6. However, he saw no harm in the continued inclusion of the clause to cover some situation which could conceivably arise in the future. I decided that the best course would be to retain the first part of clause 6, which makes quite clear the Government's right to use appropriation to make retrospective payments, but to omit the final phrase which seemed to add nothing in authority, to be open to misinterpretation, and thus was likely to cause confusion. I informed the Auditor-General of my proposals and he indicated that he had no objection.

Clause 6 in its shorter form is therefore included after full consideration by the Under Treasurer, the Crown Solicitor, and the Auditor-General. I commend the Bill for consideration of members.

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

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.58 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, June 23, at 2 p.m.