

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, July 7, 1966.

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

QUESTIONS

GAS.

The Hon. Sir **THOMAS PLAYFORD**: In the absence of the Premier, can the Minister of Works say whether the report the Government obtained concerning the supply of natural gas to the metropolitan area will be made available to the House and, in view of its importance, whether the Government will have it printed?

The Hon. C. D. **HUTCHENS**: The Government is as anxious as it can be to make as much information as possible available to members. This project concerns not only one Party but all Parties, and I am sure that everyone, irrespective of his political allegiance, wants to see the best possible result achieved. However, I think the Leader will acknowledge that when negotiations on such a large project as this are taking place it is not wise to communicate all one's thoughts on the subject to all the people with whom one is dealing. Therefore, I am not able to give an assurance that the report will be tabled. However, I will take the matter up with the Premier and the Minister of Mines and try to answer the question next Tuesday.

The Hon. Sir **THOMAS PLAYFORD**: The Minister said that the Government was undertaking active negotiations about the pipeline, but that this was not the appropriate time to table the report received. A similar report to that referred to by the Premier has been obtained by two other Governments in Australia on this matter, and in both instances the report was made available immediately to Parliament and to the public. Can the Minister say whether it is a good thing for the Government to undertake negotiations like this without first (in view of the tremendous importance of this matter) submitting a motion to Parliament so that the type of negotiation could be debated? I believe this job should be done by the Government and, when the Minister says that negotiations are proceeding, it is obviously something about which the Opposition would like to know more. Will the Minister ask the Premier whether this report could be made available to Parliament? Will he ensure that negotiations are not finalized until Parliament has had outlined to it the nature of the negotiations intended to be entered into?

The Hon. C. D. **HUTCHENS**: I apologize for my unfortunate use of language. If I said negotiations were proceeding, that is incorrect. Work has been done toward preparing for future negotiations. I assure the Leader (and he will appreciate this) that before anything substantial can be done it will be necessary to introduce legislation, and therefore all particulars will have to be disclosed to Parliament. Nevertheless, I shall ask the Premier what further information should be made available.

ELECTRICIANS.

Mr. **LANGLEY**: Last session this House passed an Act providing for the licensing of electrical workers and electrical contractors. When I recently asked the Minister of Works when the names of the members of the committee to be appointed under that legislation would be published, he said the matter would be brought before Cabinet. Can the Minister now tell the House the names of the members of that committee?

The Hon. C. D. **HUTCHENS**: I indicated to the honourable member yesterday that I thought I would be able to give him the names today, but owing to the unfortunate and somewhat unexpected illness of the Premier I am not yet able to do so. However, I can say that Executive Council this morning approved of the submissions that had been made. Each responsible body submitted names of persons (which have been approved accordingly) as well as alternative names. I will have those names on Tuesday and shall be happy to give them to the honourable member then, unless he is informed by other means in the meantime. I assure him that the names have been approved. I have had discussions with representatives of the Electricity Trust who have certain proposals to put before the committee, and I am confident those proposals will be acceptable. The committee will commence its work, and I am sure that the necessary regulations dealing with licensing will be brought down soon.

PUBLIC SERVANTS.

The Hon. D. N. **BROOKMAN**: Will the Minister of Works, in the absence of the Premier, in order to preserve the well-deserved reputation of public servants for impartiality in Party-political affairs, make a comprehensive statement of the circumstances leading to the appointment of two public relations officers, as recently announced, and will he give the House the full story on their political activities with the Australian Labor Party?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I shall certainly take this matter up with the Premier with a view to getting a statement. As far as I personally am concerned, I have never asked a public servant what his politics are, nor have an officer's politics entered my mind when his promotion or any other aspect of his career has been considered. It would be unjust and unfair to ask a public servant questions on this aspect, or to be swayed by his answer to any such question. A man's allegiance to and activities in a political Party, are his individual right and freedom. However, I shall take the matter up with the Premier to see whether a further reply is warranted. As these two officers are now employed in the Premier's Department, I think it would be wrong for me to go into a detailed explanation at this stage.

LOXTON SETTLERS.

Mr. QUIRKE: Some settlers at Loxton have now been placed on the annual budget system. This is a good system and has worked wonders on Kangaroo Island, but there are major differences in relation to Loxton. The living allowance is to be basically \$1,600, which is not more than the present basic wage and which will be less, probably, after tomorrow. This is not good enough for any settler, whatever his position. The allowance was \$1,600 for Kangaroo Island settlers three years ago and the King Island settlement has recently been offered management at \$2,690.

Mr. Calwell has recently said the \$40 or less weekly for a husband and wife with three children is a poverty income, and I agree with him. I hope that \$32 will not be the basic rate for the soldier settlers. The budget system requires an estimate of income and this can be fairly accurate when returns from a known number of sheep are being estimated, as is the case on Kangaroo Island. However, even Nostradamus could not guess a fruit crop 12 months ahead.

A related problem is the new land tax assessment, which is loaded against the fruit blocks up to an average of 120 per cent, as against zero to 5 per cent on broad acres and, in the case of a 10-acre poultry farm, 300 per cent (from \$160 to \$500). Loxton is progressing now, and we hope that this will continue, but it is still suffering from price depression. Will the Minister of Agriculture convey to the Minister of Lands my views on this matter, and ascertain what is intended as an up-to-date basic living allowance for the settlers at Loxton?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I shall be happy to inform the Minister of Lands of the very descriptive way in which the honourable member has described the plight of the Loxton settlers. I have no doubt that the honourable member for Ridley must have enjoyed listening to that discourse.

DEEP DRAINAGE.

Mrs. BYRNE: On several occasions my attention has been drawn to instances where, deep drainage having been installed in an area, some residents do not wish to connect to this system. Can the Minister of Works say whether residents are compelled to connect to the deep drainage system and, if they are, what time is allowed for the connection after the deep drainage is installed?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Although a sewer main is laid past a property, it is not compulsory for the property holder to connect to the sewer, nor is there a stipulated time for this to be done. However, the Department of Health can, in certain circumstances, compel a sewer connection to be made. Although a property may not be connected to the sewer, the property is rated, and the owner is liable for payment of sewerage rates in accordance with the provisions of the Sewerage Act.

EYRE PENINSULA ELECTRICITY.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question of last week about the electricity supply on Eyre Peninsula?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The General Manager of the Electricity Trust reports that the construction of the transmission line from Whyalla to Port Lincoln is proceeding to schedule. Bases for towers are now being erected and the line should be completed by March, 1967. It is intended to continue with the proposal to erect a spur line to Lock to provide power for the pumping station at Polda, and Engineering and Water Supply Department officers have discussed with Electricity Trust officers the expected date of installation of plant for the Lock-Kimba main.

SHRUBS AND TREES.

Mr. BROOMHILL: Recent reports indicate that rhus trees contain a dangerous poison. I know that some councils prohibit the planting of oleanders on footpaths because they contain dangerous properties. Recently, I had a castor oil tree growing in my garden, and members may be aware that this tree produces many seeds that scatter over a wide area. A friend of mine, a chemist, has told me that these

seeds are particularly dangerous and, if a young child eats only two of them, the child can become violently ill. Will the Minister of Agriculture supply the House with the names of shrubs and trees grown in home gardens which contain dangerous properties?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I shall obtain a report on this matter. The comment in the press a few days ago about rhus trees being a danger to people was brought to my notice, and I spoke to the Director of the Botanic Garden Department. I understand that the usual procedure in matters of this kind is for the Botanic Park Governors to report to the Weeds Advisory Committee for the purpose of declaring a tree, plant or shrub under the Weeds Act if a danger exists. In fact, I understand that that happened some years ago in regard to poison ivy. As the Director of the Botanic Garden comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Lands, I have asked the Minister to arrange for a report on the rhus tree to be made through the Director of the Botanic Garden, so that we can determine whether its banning is warranted.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE LIFT.

Mrs. STEELE: As all honourable members know, technicians worked on the lift in Parliament House all through the last recess, and indeed in the last few days worked overtime—

Mr. Millhouse: Night and day!

Mrs. STEELE:—to have the lift ready for use before Parliament opened two weeks ago. Yesterday and today I timed the period that elapsed from pressing the button until the lift door closed (and the button always has to be pressed twice to be effective), ascertaining that it took 10 seconds for the mechanism to function. With the legislative programme about to commence, probably more need than ever will exist for members to use the lift in a hurry. I was once delayed in it and arrived in the Chamber only by the skin of my teeth. As this is most unsatisfactory, will the Minister of Works have further investigations made in order to remedy the position?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: True, much work was done on the lift but I think the honourable member will realize that the lift is rather old—

Mr. Shannon: A vintage piece!

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: However, the Public Buildings Department has spent much time and money (over \$6,000) on the lift, far more than I expected when the job commenced.

As I am aware that the door takes a long while to respond to the pressing of the button, I shall take up the matter with the department to see if something cannot be done, although I point out that I have had many discussions about it in the past; the lift had to comply with the law, and the alterations were difficult. I appreciate what the honourable member has said regarding divisions and the necessity for members to be quickly transported from their rooms to the Chamber.

BERRI HOSPITAL.

Mr. CURREN: The Chief Secretary recently announced that a pathology block and possibly a radiology centre would be constructed simultaneously at the Berri Hospital to cater for the needs of the whole of the Upper Murray region. Can the Minister representing the Chief Secretary say when tenders for that work will be called and whether, if the radiology centre is built, the equipment will be supplied and installed by the Hospitals Department?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I shall refer the matter to my colleague and bring down a report.

STURT GORGE.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: My question concerns the Sturt Gorge. I have several times asked questions of the Minister of Lands, both in this Government and in the previous Government, about it. On Tuesday I asked the Premier, in the absence of the Minister of Lands, whether he could get a reply during this week to a question I asked a fortnight ago whether the Government would in any circumstances make any offer for the purchase of the Sturt Gorge property because, if an offer is not made this week, it looks as though it will be lost to the community as a reserve and possibly be sold to a private person or organization. Has the Minister of Works an answer to the questions I have asked?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The land referred to by the honourable member comprises 533 acres in sections 1424 and 1425, hundred of Noarlunga, south of Flinders university. This matter has been the subject of correspondence since June, 1964, when the then Government indicated it had no interest in purchasing the property. More recently my colleague the Minister of Lands, in response to representations from the honourable member, has further considered the matter, which would involve an expenditure of approximately

\$130,000. My colleague has advised that the Government cannot contemplate purchase, and there is no change in this situation.

NORTHERN ROADS.

Mr. CASEY: During the past few weeks heavy rains have deluged vast areas of the Far North, much to the delight of the landholders in that area because in many of these areas over the last 10 years very little rain had fallen. In fact, it was recognized as one of the greatest droughts ever. Recently, however, a big transformation has come to pass in those areas, which of course brings with it certain problems, including the construction and maintenance of roads. As the department of the Minister of Works controls the roads in these areas, can he tell me the overall position there regarding the roads after the heavy rains of the past few weeks? I can appreciate the enormous task confronting road gangs, which have my wholehearted sympathy.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I must congratulate the honourable member on his persistence about northern roads and the number of questions he has asked recently. Following his question of a few days ago, I took up the matter with the Director and Engineer-in-Chief, who reports that the grading and road repair work on the outback roads by road workmen working under the control of the Regional Engineer, Crystal Brook, is a continuous job on the 6,500 miles of roads to be maintained, and all roads are kept in good, trafficable condition. Difficulties are experienced after the infrequent thunderstorms, which cause damage to the earth roads when it is impossible to undertake the repair work at every location at the one time.

In such cases the worst damage in the areas covered by each particular gang is first repaired but in no instance are roads that require attention left for anything like six or eight months untouched. If the locations of the roads mentioned that have been neglected are advised, the department has a better chance of investigating and correcting any complaints, but it may be stated that complaints received by the department are few and far between. A statement has been prepared showing the lengths of the various categories of road outside district council areas maintained by the department and the total expenditure and cost a mile during 1965-66. These figures, which will be interesting to the honourable member and probably to all members, are as follows:

Type.	Length in miles.	Expenditure 1965-66. \$	Cost a mile. \$
District roads . . .	4,746	182,400	38.50
Beef cattle roads .	1,000	146,800	147.00
Main roads	516	149,500	290.00
Federal aid roads	112	83,100	742.00
Access roads from Delhi-Taylor and French Petroleum	89	26,600	300.00

This brings me to a question asked by the honourable member the other day about a reduction in registration fees for people who use these roads.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: Do people in these areas pay council rates?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: No, they are exempt; yet the cost for each vehicle using these roads is far higher than the cost for each vehicle using made roads, which are used by people who pay, so there is no possible case for any reduction.

OIL.

Mr. HALL: A report in this morning's *Advertiser* headed "Petroleum Policy Warning" stated:

Any reversal of the existing policy in relation to petroleum discoveries in Australia would destroy the overseas concept of Australia built up over recent years, the chairman of directors of Santos Ltd. (Mr. John Bonython) said last night. Mr. Bonython was commenting on the decision of the Federal Labor Caucus on Tuesday to make Government control over natural gas and oil found off-shore and in Federal territories a major issue at the Federal election later this year . . . "Federal Labor seems still to suffer from an old-fashioned depression attitude of 'share the existing national cake.' The real task is to make a bigger cake, and then there is more to go around," said Mr. Bonython.

As we are conscious of the need for gas and oil in this State as fuel for industry and domestic purposes and of the need for a continuous exploration programme, will the Minister of Works, in the absence of the Premier, comment on the significance of the Commonwealth Labor Party's policy and say whether this presages a change in policy by the State Government that will inhibit private exploration in this State for fuel resources?

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister can reply, but I think I must limit his reply to that portion of the question that refers to any change of policy as far as this State is concerned.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I have watched this matter closely and can say without fear of contradiction that there is complete co-operation

and understanding between the Mines Department and the bodies doing the exploratory work. In addition, the exploring companies (irrespective of which companies they might have been) have received appreciation from the Walsh Labor Government in the same way as they received it from the previous Government. Indeed, I am confident that the attitude of the present Government towards these people has been no different from the attitude of the previous Government. We appreciate what these companies have done. As the honourable member knows, negotiations are presently taking place concerning the supply for a prospective pipeline. As I know from talks I had this morning, all sections concerned in this project have adopted a friendly and co-operative attitude.

LOXTON TO SWAN REACH ROAD.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: My question concerns road No. 34 from Loxton through Wunkar to Swan Reach. Some time ago, provision was made in the Budget for portion of this road to be sealed. Consequent upon the breaking up of the main interstate highway from Waikerie through Kingston and into the Eastern States, the money allocated for work on Road No. 34 was taken for work on the interstate road. I have said before that this was an injustice to the area concerned. I noticed in the press that the Minister of Roads did not refer to work on this road when he published another schedule recently. In the absence of the Minister of Education, will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Roads to see that this road is included in the next allocations because of the injustice caused by money provided for work on this district road being used for work on the interstate highway?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I shall be happy to take up the matter with my colleague and obtain a reply for the honourable member as soon as possible.

SCANTLING TIMBER.

Mr. BURDON: As I have spent several years in the investigation and development of cutting techniques for the production of quality scantling timber from radiata pine, and as there has been further development, and modern saw-milling equipment has been installed in the Government sawmills in the South-East, can the Minister of Forests say (if not today, at an early date) how much radiata pine scantling is used, and how it has been received in the building industry?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: As the honourable member requires some details, I will obtain a full report. Speaking generally, I can say that scantling timber from radiata pine has been well received in the building industry. This week a New South Wales Select Committee is in South Australia inquiring into all aspects of softwood planting and into the use of softwood. The committee was most impressed with the work of the Housing Trust at Ingle Farm, where radiata pine is being used for the timber frames of brick-veneer houses. The use of this timber, which is lighter to handle than the hardwoods previously used, has made the work easier and has proved to be a tremendous success. The Housing Trust uses pine exclusively in flooring. Radiata pine is certainly well accepted in the building industry. I know that, because of his activities in the sawmilling industry before he became a member of Parliament, the honourable member is well informed on these matters. To obtain a detailed report, I will refer the matter to the Conservator of Forests, and bring down a reply for him.

HARBOUR CHARGES.

Mr. McANANEY: I was told this week that a considerable amount of cheese from the hills area is being exported through Melbourne, the reason being, I understand, that it is cheaper to pay the additional transport cost rather than the high wharfage dues in South Australia. Will the Minister of Marine inquire into this position and, in view of the unemployment at Port Adelaide at the moment and the possible loss of much South-East trade through Melbourne ports, will the Government consider the question of the high level of our harbour dues compared with the exemption from export dues in Victoria?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I find it difficult to accept the statement made by the honourable member that a greater proportion of cheese is going to another State than was the case previously.

Mr. McAnaney: My question concerned export cheese.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I appreciate that. Following a statement made the other day by the Leader of the Opposition, I had investigations made and I was assured that there had been no falling off in the tonnage, except the falling off that could be accounted for because of the dry season. Nevertheless, I will have the details of the honourable member's explanation examined, and if what he says is correct I will have investigations made.

TRADING STAMP ACT.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The Trading Stamp Act, 1929-1935, has been drawn extremely widely so as to avoid any possibility of evasion of the purposes of the Act. Incidentally, I fully agree with the purposes of this Act. However, section 5a contains provisions which are so wide that they would include any person who advertised any goods whatever, and certainly they would include a large amount of advertising that is carried on from day to day in this State. To deal with that problem, section 5a (7) provides:

No prosecution for an offence against this section shall be instituted except with the consent of the Attorney-General for the time being, signified by a written document under his hand.

Obviously, the purpose of that is to stop a prosecution that may actually infringe the wording of the Act but not the intention of Parliament. It is well known that certain companies in South Australia for many years have been flagrantly breaching the provisions of this Act. I noted with some concern yesterday that one of these companies had been singled out for prosecution.

The SPEAKER: The Leader will know that he is not in order in asking a question in respect of that case, for the matter would be *sub judice*.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am not questioning whether the prosecution should take place: I am asking a question regarding the exercise of the Attorney-General's power under an Act of Parliament. Will the Attorney say whether, in connection with an Act containing such wide implications in its wording, it would not be advisable (as is done in one or two other similar Acts of this nature) to see that the person who is committing an offence that is repugnant to the department is first issued with a warning before the prosecution is proceeded with? If the warning is issued and not heeded, obviously the person concerned is infringing the Act intentionally, and in those circumstances I would not object in any way to the prosecution. However, in view of the wide nature of this provision, will the Attorney-General look at the question of the advisability of issuing a warning before action is taken under that section?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The only undertaking I can give in this matter is that each case will be judged on its merits, and where it seems to be an appropriate case for a warning, a warning will be issued. I have authorized several prosecutions under this Act

in the last 12 months where flagrant breaches of the Act have occurred. Although it appears that in some cases where prosecutions were authorized the person concerned did not seem to be aware of the provisions of the Act, it was thought necessary in some cases to launch prosecutions to bring home to people in South Australia that they should not flagrantly breach the Act. In some other cases in which I had authorized prosecutions the persons concerned knew perfectly well that they were in breach of the Act and did not care.

It is not normal for prosecutions to be undertaken unless serious complaints are received as to the activities of certain individuals. Certain of the prosecutions have been undertaken as a result of questions in this House arising from advertisements quite clearly in breach of the Act, others as a result of representations from certain chambers of commerce as to acts which are not countenanced by members of those chambers but which have been countenanced by some people who were prepared flagrantly to breach the Act, notwithstanding the fact that they knew they were doing wrong. The discretion must be exercised properly in every case, and I make no apology for any of the occasions when I felt constrained to authorize a prosecution.

SMALL CRAFT.

Mr. McKEE: The Minister of Marine was good enough to indicate to me that he had a reply to a question I asked recently regarding the survey of small craft. Can he now give that reply?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I have a good deal of detail on this matter, and I propose to have a fairly lengthy discussion with the honourable member (who has asked questions), the honourable member for Port Adelaide (who has shown a good deal of interest in this matter), the Minister of Lands, the Minister of Agriculture and any other persons interested in this question of survey. Some people operating vessels over 25ft. have requested that the survey be extended to other vessels, I think in the hope that the charge for the survey of the larger boats might be reduced. After a lengthy and intensive inquiry, it was found that if the survey were extended to all sea-going vessels the charge would not be reduced to any great extent (possibly 10c a foot), and with the expected increase in the basic wage I would think that this slight decrease would be offset and that the present charge for survey of \$2 a foot would have to be continued. For

the information of the honourable member, if we did this on the West Coast, 506 boats would be under survey and fewer than 100 would be 25ft. in length. This is about the average of all areas which are subject to survey or to which the survey may be extended. I repeat that I shall be happy to make the file available to the honourable member and to any other honourable member concerned, because the Government wants to do the right thing if it makes a change.

NARACOORTE ELECTRICITY.

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked last week regarding electricity extensions in the Naracoorte district?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The General Manager of the Electricity Trust of South Australia reports:

Planning and design of extensions in the Naracoorte district are in hand but no construction work can be done before the trust takes over the supply of power in Naracoorte. The first extension that is planned from Naracoorte is an 11,000-volt line from Naracoorte to Frances. It is hoped that this line will be built during the latter part of the 1966-1967 financial year but this will be dependent on the amount of finance that can be made available for the record capital works programme which must be carried out this year.

SHEEP INSPECTION.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: My question relates to one of South Australia's important export industries, the sale of sheep to Western Australia. I understand that more than 500,000 sheep are exported each year by rail to that State from South Australia and that another 500,000 are railed from the Eastern States. Agriculture Department inspections take place at Kalgoorlie in Western Australia. A few days ago one of my constituents railed a large consignment of sheep from Saddleworth to Western Australia, and the South Australian Agriculture Department inspectors passed the sheep so far as health and other requirements were concerned but, when they arrived in Kalgoorlie, they were condemned by the Western Australian inspectors. Although all these sheep had been shorn fairly recently (in fact, some were only six days off shears), the whole consignment had to be reshorn.

It seems that the Western Australian quarantine requirements are becoming somewhat onerous on South Australian exporters and that South Australia's trade with Western Australia is likely to be affected. As it is estimated that the business of selling sheep

to Western Australia could last for at least 20 years and in view of the future importance of the industry, will the Minister of Agriculture obtain a report from his department regarding the chief difficulties at Kalgoorlie?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Yes, I shall get this information for the honourable member. If he will give me the names of the people concerned, that may help to pinpoint the particular issue he has mentioned. My information is that there has been the utmost co-operation between the departmental officers in South Australia and Western Australia on this matter. Western Australia relies on South Australia for the stocking of big areas of country recently opened up and, although they naturally want to be sure that horehound and certain diseases are not brought in, we act as a buffer for all stock coming in from Victoria, and the South Australian inspection has been much appreciated by Western Australia. For that reason, there has been good liaison between the two States.

KEITH SUBSTATION.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question regarding the progress of the work on the substation at Keith?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The General Manager of the Electricity Trust of South Australia reports:

The substation at Keith is expected to be completed by October 1, 1966. The delay in the completion of this substation has not affected the construction of extensions in the Padthaway-Keppoch irrigation area. Work on the extensions from Padthaway is in progress and will extend over the next 18 months. People to be supplied from this extension will be connected progressively as construction proceeds. It is planned to supply those in the area immediately to the north of Padthaway during the coming summer.

SUBSIDIZED HOSPITALS.

Mr. CURREN: Can the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Health, say what basis is used to assess the compulsory contribution by local government authorities to subsidized hospitals?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I shall obtain the schedule from my colleague and bring it down for the honourable member.

POTATOES.

Mr. McANANEY: Yesterday the Minister of Agriculture said that only 33 tons of potatoes had been rejected this year. Although I do not doubt the Minister's word, I know that many loads of potatoes have been rejected.

Can the Minister say what is the basis on which rejection is determined? Would a total load of, say, six tons be rejected merely because the contents of one bag were not acceptable?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I shall have to refer the matter to someone with more knowledge of the matter than I have. My information is that many people are confused regarding rejection. Many potato growers request that their potatoes be washed. They are washed through agents, and it is there that the rejection takes place. When potatoes have the dirt on them, marks are not evident. These marks are not bad marks but they can be seen when the potatoes are washed. The rejection is not by the department or the board but by the buyers. I understand that the percentage of rejection is as high as 38 per cent. All that the growers can do is feed them to stock.

This is a cause of much concern to the growers and to the board, but there is no control once the grower asks that the potatoes be washed. One of my constituents had potatoes rejected by the buyers because of black marks, although there was nothing wrong with the potatoes. He was upset, because he had been expecting the higher price for winter-washed potatoes but had his consignment returned to him and had no way of disposing of it. There seems to be much misunderstanding amongst growers about who is causing the rejections.

FISHERIES ACT.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Some time ago the Minister of Agriculture told members on this side that he was contemplating amendments to the Fisheries Act to restrict fishing. Can the Minister say whether these amendments have been decided on, when they will be drafted, and whether the restrictions will operate before next summer?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I did not intimate to members opposite only that it was intended to amend the Fisheries Act: I suggested that, because of a reasonable request from professional fishermen, who fear that various areas will be fished out, some protection should be given to them. Recently, I received deputations from the Big Game Fishermen's Association expressing the same fear, and stating that in South Australia there was a dangerous risk that certain areas would be fished out. This association claimed that, in areas where certain fish had been abundant previously, they were now scarce. It is a genuine concern of professional fishermen that there should be tighter control. I approached

this matter on an industry basis and without thoughts of politics. The honourable Leader may laugh, but this was a genuine attempt to obtain unanimity among members who represent areas concerned with this matter. I invited any member to discuss this matter with me without prejudice, with a genuine desire only to have a frank discussion to see whether improvements could be made. However, the Opposition decided to boycott this meeting.

Mr. Hudson: They are incapable of believing anyone is genuine.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: They did so because of another happening, apparently venting their spite by boycotting this meeting. I regret this happened because I genuinely tried to help the fishermen. My previous intentions have been thwarted and now I do not intend to do anything about the overall position, although there may be amendments about crayfish (and the House will be told of these). Nothing can be done to affect anyone during the coming summer.

MODBURY SEWERAGE.

Mrs. BYRNE: Today, the Health Inspector of the District Council of Tea Tree Gully told me that he inspected a septic tank disposal problem at Modbury and found it to be the worst instance of this kind he had seen, as the south-western corner of the house had cracked because of water from the septic tank seeping under it. At present deep drainage is being installed in the area and is being connected to the Modbury High School. Although not passing this particular property, it is only two blocks away at the corner of Loch Lomond Drive and Pompoota Road, Modbury, so that about 90ft. of sewer main would be required. Because of the circumstances, and as the Engineering and Water Supply Department machinery is in the area, will the Minister of Works ask the department to consider connecting this house to the sewerage system immediately, as well as another house nearby, if I give him the particulars?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: If the honourable member supplies particulars I will investigate the matter.

UPPER MURRAY BRIDGE.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: As the Minister of Works is aware, people in the Upper Murray are anxious to know when construction of the bridge across the river at Kingston or at some other locality will start. Can he say whether this matter has been referred to the Public Works Committee and, if it has, when?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I am pleased to say that the matter of a bridge across the Murray River near Kingston was referred to the Public Works Committee today by Executive Council.

RAILWAYS PUBLIC RELATIONS.

Mrs. STEELE: As it is becoming fashionable lately to appoint public relations officers, can the Minister of Works say whether consideration has been given, or will be given, to the appointment of a public relations officer in the Railways Department? I have asked this question many times without result. It may be some solace to me if the Minister would commend me for my persistence as he commended the member for Frome because of his continual questions. When visiting other States, I have noticed the publicity given to railway transport for the benefit of tourists, and to excursions arranged by railways departments to visit tourist resorts, and this seems to have been done with some effect. Honourable members receive the journal, *Network*, the publication of the Railways of Australia, which contains many more articles from other States in the Commonwealth than articles from South Australia. In fact, some issues do not refer to South Australia at all. As I believe that a public relations officer would be a great asset to the Railways Commissioner, can the Minister say whether such an appointment is likely to be made?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: This matter has received much consideration. The difficulty apparently is to find a public relations officer without political allegiance!

Mr. Nankivell: That's an honest statement of fact!

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I shall have the matter investigated by the Minister of Transport and let the honourable member know his views.

TAXI METERS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: My question should be addressed to the Minister representing the Minister of Transport, but not many Ministers are about today: in fact, the front bench is only at half strength. Therefore, I presume I should address the question to the Minister of Works. It relates to the positioning of meters in taxi-cabs. Since about March much controversy has arisen about the directive of the Metropolitan Taxi-cab Board that meters be placed higher on the dashboard, ostensibly so that they can be better seen by passengers. In addition to the controversy, there has also

been much discontent amongst taxi-cab proprietors and drivers at this directive. I made representations to the Minister of Transport during the recess about this and received a reply that I passed on to those in the industry who had been in touch with me. I know that, under the regulations, this is a matter for the board, but because it is an important matter, and because there are arguments against raising the position of the meter (two of them being that it reduces the retail value of the vehicle because the dashboard is cut into to place the meter in position; and, secondly, the safety factor, because it makes a big projection in the front seat), will the Minister ask his colleague to use his good offices with the board in an effort to have the board's decision on the matter reviewed?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I think all honest people would agree that the Metropolitan Taxi-cab Board has made every endeavour to give the utmost protection to the public but, nevertheless, I shall refer the question to the Minister of Transport and inform the honourable member of the outcome in due course.

SHIPPING.

Mr. HALL: This morning's *Advertiser* contains an article headed "New bid to speed ships, cut costs", and stating:

A major re-organization to cut shipping costs between Australia and Europe and to speed services is being completed in Sydney . . . the new programme would be ready by the end of July and would take effect from September 1. . . . Mr. Johnson said the rationalization programme was a renewed attempt to hold costs in check by programming the use of ships as well as the flow of cargo . . . to achieve this the rationalization plan meant a reduction in the number of Australian ports at which ships would load and also of European ports at which they would unload.

The article goes on to say that the goods affected would be 50 to 60 per cent of all liner-type cargoes, including 50 per cent of the wool. In view of this intended so-called rationalization, can the Minister of Marine say whether it means that fewer ships will be calling at Port Adelaide and Outer Harbour and, if it does mean that, whether the savings in the oversea shipping freight will compensate for the extra freight borne by importers and exporters in sending goods to a port in another State?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: This is a complex matter. I think I recently informed the honourable member, following a question from him, that the Chairman of the Harbors

Board (Mr. Verco) and the General Manager (Mr. Sainsbury) attended a conference called by Mr. McEwen (Deputy Prime Minister), who is also concerned about this matter. The use of containers has also been discussed. I pointed out to the best of my ability that it was expected that there would be one or two major ports at which larger vessels would call, that vessels trading interstate would call at other ports, and that smaller ports would be feeder ports. With the development of the use of containers, the wool industry will undoubtedly save much money and time in transporting the product, because a container will be brought into the wool stores on a trailer, and I believe that 54 or 57 (or a similar number) dump bales of wool will be loaded into a container, taken to the port, and loaded quickly. This will reduce the turn-round considerably, and I think it will be economically advantageous to the people concerned. I do not think any less wool will go over the wharf at Port Adelaide and Outer Harbour, but that it will go over in hours, as against days under the present system.

PRICES ACT.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Can the Minister of Works, acting as Minister in charge of prices, say whether negotiations are at present proceeding for the purpose of introducing amendments to the Prices Act to provide for the establishment of minimum prices by order?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: As far as I know, no.

GOVERNMENT COSTS.

The SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received the following letter from the honourable the Leader of the Opposition:

Dear Mr. Speaker, I desire to give notice that this afternoon I will move:

That the House at its rising do adjourn until 10 o'clock tomorrow for the purpose of debating a matter of urgency, *viz*, the refusal of the Government to make information available to the House in reply to a question on notice.

By virtue of Standing Order No. 43 and previous Speakers' rulings thereon, I am obliged to rule that the motion for the adjournment of the House on a matter of urgency, as proposed by the honourable the Leader of the Opposition, cannot be accepted until the Address in Reply has been agreed to. A

similar motion may be accepted by the Chair on a sitting day immediately after the adoption of the Address in Reply.

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Adjourned debate on the motion for adoption.

(Continued from July 6. Page 348.)

Mrs. BYRNE (Barossa): I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. It is 12 months since I spoke in a similar debate. On this occasion I should like to express my thanks to and commend all members of the staff of Parliament House—the *Hansard* staff, the Clerks, the Library staff, the typists, the messengers, and so on—for the courtesy and assistance they have shown me in the past year.

Mr. Freebairn: What about members opposite?

Mrs. BYRNE: Also, I should like to mention members of the Public Service whom I have had to contact in that time. Always they have shown me courtesy and I commend them for their efficiency. I refer now to the speech of the member for Gouger. I listened intently to his speech but, unfortunately, it contained nothing constructive: it was full of criticism and was destructive. The honourable member criticized the stipulation placed by the Premier "upon companies involved in an agreement with the migration authorities to bring migrants out from the United Kingdom". His statement to the effect that the Premier had to capitulate was incorrect. The press at that time gave this matter great publicity and exaggerated the Premier's proposals. He did, of course, put certain proposals to the builders sponsoring migrants, and there was no significant difference in the arrangement reached from the substance of the original proposal. I repeat that no capitulation took place.

For the benefit of the House, I should like to state exactly what did take place at that time. The Premier reviewed the existing arrangements in March of this year and conferred with all parties concerned, including the private builders. Whilst in general the scheme had operated efficiently and the builders had ordinarily carried out their obligations satisfactorily, there had been several cases where the experience had not been satisfactory. The main trouble had appeared to be that the obligations of the builders towards the migrants they had nominated had not been sufficiently clearly defined. The Premier decided, therefore, to set down the arrangements more clearly.

Broadly, the arrangements require that the builder undertake to provide accommodation at approved standards for his sponsored migrants for a short period after arrival in the State; to assist them in finding employment and otherwise settling in; and to see that adequate financial arrangements are made to cover the purchase of any house the builder may sell to them. The requisite financial arrangements include necessary temporary finance at rates not exceeding 7½ per cent per annum effective interest pending the securing of permanent long-term finance from a regular institution, or providing as an alternative rental arrangements on a comparable basis whilst awaiting permanent finance. They also extend to arranging for second mortgage finance, where necessary, to cover a proper margin beyond the amount of first mortgage finance available.

The Premier has indicated that the working of these arrangements will be again reviewed later this year. Earlier, the minimum financial requirement from migrants seeking sponsorship by private builders was £1,500 sterling, but experience has shown that this was ordinarily not adequate, and the minimum has been raised to £2,000 sterling. The minimum financial requirement in respect of sponsorship by the Housing Trust is rather lower. The Premier has made arrangements for the Agent-General in London to be given periodic reports on the employment situation in South Australia and upon the terms and availability of housing finance, so that prospective migrants may be kept fully informed upon up-to-date employment and financial prospects.

Why did the Premier make this arrangement? Because reports of hardship were given to him by the welfare officers of an organization active in dealing with migrants; also, because he received many personal complaints from persons concerned. Some of these people came from part of my electoral district, the Modbury area. All of them complained of hardship because they had had to wait for loans. I again refer to the speech of the member for Gouger. This is what he said about unemployment:

The position is brought home to me by the many people in my district who have heavy commitments. They have recently arrived in this country and have purchased houses and furniture.

The honourable member is referring to the Para Hills area. He is pointing out, of course, that people arriving there from overseas sponsored by building companies are suffering hardship. What the Premier has done by making this arrangement with these

building companies is to try to correct this position and eliminate this problem. Yet, the honourable member criticized the Premier for correcting a position that he himself states was wrong.

The honourable member stated that he was concerned about unemployment, as did some other members opposite. I was pleased to hear him and his colleagues mention this matter, as it is something about which they should be concerned. This position can, of course, be corrected by him and all other honourable members opposite, plus their colleagues in the Upper House, by their supporting legislation to enable the Government to expand its works programme by raising more money. The honourable member also claimed that overtime was being cut out. We all know that one reason for this is that the effects of automation are already being felt. This problem can be solved by reducing the 40-hour week to 35 hours, so I can presume now that the honourable member and other honourable members opposite who do not want unemployment will be prepared to support a reduction of the 40-hour week.

Mr. Freebairn: Will automation affect the railways?

Mrs. BYRNE: Referring again to unemployment, it is interesting to note that the number of migrants coming to South Australia is in fact increasing, which means that this Government has to absorb more migrants than hitherto into the work force. For the benefit of the House I will now give figures of the arrivals of migrants in this State through the assisted passage scheme. In 1963, there were 9,557 arrivals; in 1964, 14,583; and in 1965, 17,206. These figures prove conclusively that more migrants are coming to this State than came in the past.

The member for Gouger also said that the Government should pay more attention to the vital portion of our community—that is, the primary producing industries. At no stage during his speech did he say one constructive word in favour of primary producers, or anything that would benefit them. He referred to the Attorney-General's public relations officer being in attendance at a meeting in the Adelaide Town Hall that was addressed by Mr. Fairhall, and went on to speak about public protests having forced the Attorney-General to change the mode of operations of that officer. I have never heard any protest from members of the public about the appointment of this person to either position, and I doubt whether any member of this House has, either. I know of one instance of a member of the Liberal Party

working in a Government department. I know this man personally, and I cannot see any reason to object because he is a member of that Party. He is a most conscientious and efficient public servant, and I am sure there are many other public servants who, unknown to me, are members of the Liberal Party. I presumed, from the attack he made on this officer because he was a member of the Labor Party, that if the member for Gouger eventually obtained a responsible position in his Party as a member of a Government there would be a repetition in this State of the Dr. Patterson issue in Queensland.

Before I refer to the opening Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, I wish to refer to some of the activities of the Government over the last 12 months. The member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) said that most members on this side had made speeches of apology, but I certainly do not intend to do that. The member for Gouger said this Government would be known by its deeds, so I now propose to tell honourable members of the deeds of my Party over the last 12 months. Judging by the remarks of some members of the Opposition, one would presume that nothing had been done and no valuable legislation had been passed, despite the fact that the Opposition left the Treasury virtually bankrupt and prevented the Government from obtaining any additional finance. I think it worth mentioning that the first session of this Parliament comprised 82 sitting days and that 110 Bills were dealt with, 84 of these originating in this House and 26 in the Legislative Council. Of the 84 originating in this House, 18 did not pass, for various reasons, and two of the 26 introduced in another place did not pass, for various reasons. Therefore, 90 Bills passed both Houses out of the original 110. There were 12 conferences between the two Chambers, and I think that speaks for itself.

Regarding the Government's achievements, I wish first to deal with education. It was decided to grant equal pay to women teachers over a five-year period, and continuity of service for teachers transferring to the service of the South Australian Government from the South Australian Institute of Technology, the South Australian School of Mines and the Townsend House for Deaf and Blind Children, or from the service (as a teacher or otherwise) of the Commonwealth or of any State. Provision was made that the person appointed to hold the office of Professor of Education at the Flinders University should at the same time hold the position of Principal of the Bedford

Park Teachers College. Autonomy was granted to the Flinders University of South Australia. A new system of certification and classification was introduced, increased payments were made to trainee teachers, regulations were approved to provide more attractive conditions to potential trainee teachers by granting unbonded teachers' scholarships, and scholarships were provided for graduates to enter teachers training colleges. Additional assistance was given to students attending university or the South Australian Institute of Technology. Provision was made for granting concession fares to all students travelling on privately owned transport, salary increases were granted to all members of the teaching profession, and a committee was set up to investigate certain aspects of the Martin Committee Report, and a committee will inquire into all aspects of secondary education. Continuity of service was provided for women teachers who married and returned to the profession.

Mr. Casey: That was a very good provision. For many years we tried to get the previous Government to do this, but it would not budge an inch.

Mrs. BYRNE: That is so. Since I became a member many complaints were made to me, and I was not able to understand why the previous Government did not remedy the situation. In all schools, primary and secondary, free school books are now available to the children of indigent parents. The training conditions of trainee teachers have been relaxed, and special school facilities have been provided.

I now leave education matters and will deal with the housing field. The Government took action to prevent rent increases by the South Australian Housing Trust, and later took action to ensure that future rent alterations be first authorized by the Minister of Housing. The Excessive Rents Act was extended to provide extra protection for tenants, and the Housing Improvement Act was amended to facilitate slum clearance and protect tenants of houses unfit for habitation. Provision was made that, under the Building Act, building inspectors would be required to possess a certificate of competency before being permitted to carry out duties with councils, and that regulations prescribing qualifications for building surveyors would be drawn up. The Government also provided for uniformity of registration of architects and it provided for other associated matters.

The portfolio of Minister of Transport was established to co-ordinate all forms of transport in South Australia. Some powers of the Railways Commissioner were transferred to the Minister of Transport. A Royal Commission has been established to investigate and report to the Government on all transport services. Effect was given to the proposals of the Road Traffic Board by a major review of the Road Traffic Act. The area in which the Municipal Tramways Trust or its licensees can operate has been extended.

Service pay was introduced for all daily-paid employees in South Australian Government departments. Substantial improvements were made to the Workmen's Compensation Act. A full-time Apprentices Commissioner was appointed and the Apprentices Commission was reconstituted. Full daylight training for apprentices is to be progressively introduced. Also, two Commissioners were appointed to the State Industrial Commission. Licensing of electrical workers and contractors to protect the public and the workmen in their handling of electrical equipment was also enacted. Continuity of service was ensured for employees of private hospitals who were engaged by the Group Laundry and Central Linen Service of the Hospitals Department. The Country Factories Act and the Scaffolding Inspection Act were extended. Also, a tribunal was established to hear public evidence and fix the salaries of Parliamentarians, thus taking the power away from Parliament.

The staff of the Social Welfare Department was increased to provide for a better service in this field. The Government facilitated the provision and enforcement of maintenance orders. The Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board was abolished and control of the State's welfare department was vested in the Minister. The means test on public relief was relaxed. Provision was also made that pensioners should receive concession travel on the railways and on Tramways Trust vehicles regardless of whether they were resident in the country or the metropolitan area.

Mr. Hughes: That was much appreciated.

Mrs. BYRNE: It was. Land has been purchased by the Government at Modbury and Bedford Park on which two new hospitals will be built. Improved facilities were provided for patients and staff at some existing hospitals, and provision has been made for two additional members on the Nurses Registration Board. Other matters associated with health and hospitals were dealt with.

Amendments were made to the Marketing of Eggs Act and the Government agreed to the stabilization of the marketing of eggs. Stricter controls were provided over activities of certain itinerant hide, skin and wool dealers. The Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Fund Act was extended to include other diseases. The Government also provided for the fixing of minimum prices for the 1966 grape vintage. Greater powers were given to the Veterinary Surgeons Board over the profession, and other matters associated with primary production were dealt with. Further land was purchased for conservation, and about 5,000 acres (which exceeds the average purchased for the last 10 years) was purchased for additional plantings.

Provision was made for the appointment of two additional company investigators. Protection afforded to firms engaged in noxious trades was limited to prevent their becoming a nuisance. A committee was set up to inquire into alleged anomalies in shop trading hours, and the Premier's Department was established by the Government, primarily to attract industries and assist in decentralization. All principal public building works commenced before March, 1965, were continued and many are now completed. Since March, 1965, major works have begun on hospitals and school, court and police buildings. Other important projects have been referred, as is constitutionally required, to the Public Works Committee and, if recommended, will be proceeded with as soon as possible. Some of the larger buildings or additions commenced since the election are the Magill Reformatory building at a cost of \$1,300,000; work on the Libraries Department costing \$3,000,000; work on Government offices costing \$6,400,000; and work on the Royal Adelaide Hospital (which includes an out-patients theatre, boiler house and dental hospital) costing \$18,400,000. In all, nearly \$30,000,000 was expended, including the purchase of land for future works.

In addition, vast expenditure was incurred by such semi-governmental institutions as the Electricity Trust and the Harbors Board, which were helped or encouraged financially by the Government. In the metropolitan area, sewer and water supplies were approved for eight new subdivisions, and eight new country water schemes were approved. A record sum of \$38,500,000 was spent in providing these essential services. The Government increased the limit of the cost of public works that are exempt from the principal Act to save the time of the Public Works Committee. Provisions were altered whereby land needed for public

works could be compulsorily acquired by proclamation without depriving owners of their rights to compensation, and the Electricity (Country Areas) Subsidy Act was brought into accord with requirements of the Electricity Trust.

The Wills Act was altered in such a way as to assist migrants and Australians who travel abroad. The Aged and Infirm Persons' Property Act was amended to enable the Supreme Court to obtain a report from the Director of Social Welfare on the affairs of aged or infirm persons. The appointment of a sixth puisne Judge to the Supreme Court Bench was made. The Juries Act was amended to permit women to serve on juries, and the jury franchise was extended to include House of Assembly electors. Also, the law relating to the powers of the courts to deal with neglected and uncontrolled children and with certain offences by young people was consolidated and improved. A special committee was appointed to investigate the Local Government Act.

A Royal Commission was appointed to recommend any needed changes to the Licensing Act, and a referendum was held on the establishment of a lottery, which was subsequently carried. A ninth Minister was appointed, and, of course, the holder of this portfolio is the Minister of Lands. In addition, the Government attempted to alter the Constitution Act, but this Bill was totally rejected by the Legislative Council. In my opinion, the Government's activities over the last 12 months speak for themselves, and I consider that it will definitely be known by its deeds.

Mr. Casey: It is a progressive Government.

Mrs. BYRNE: Yes, a most progressive Government, when we consider all that has been done by legislation, by regulation, and by other means in that time. It is obvious from His Excellency's Speech that the next 12 months will be as busy as the preceding 12 months. I was pleased to notice in the Speech that a Bill would be introduced to enable water and sewer rates to be paid in quarterly instalments. I consider that this is a great improvement, especially for pensioners, couples with families, and others with limited means. Electricity Trust accounts are payable quarterly and gas accounts monthly, so there is ample justification for this action. If this Bill is passed, as I am sure it will be, it will be of great benefit to people to be able to pay these rates quarterly.

The Hon. C. D. Hutchens: And at a bank.

Mrs. BYRNE: Yes.

Mr. Curren: It will be of great assistance to the low-income groups.

Mrs. BYRNE: Yes. Great hardship has been suffered by these people in the past. Many people, when they receive an annual account, find it difficult to pay. I notice, too, in the Speech that legislation is to be introduced to continue the operations of the Prices Act. I was pleased to see that. However, I think the Prices Act in this State does not go far enough, and I should like to see more control in this direction.

Mr. Freebairn: Over what items, particularly?

Mrs. BYRNE: Since being elected to this House I have received complaints and I have referred them to the Minister in charge of prices. The answer is, of course, that the matter will be investigated, but invariably we find that the item in question does not come under price control. Although the complaints are dealt with, it is not always possible for the Prices Commissioner to obtain satisfaction.

Mr. Freebairn: What about giving us a few specific examples?

Mrs. BYRNE: I can give two that I have had complaints about in the last two months: dentists and insurance companies. A Bill is also to be introduced to provide that the Government may bring cases to court to have declared void contracts designed to avoid the Housing Improvement Act and the Excessive Rents Act, and for consequential orders to protect exploited tenants. This interests me very much, because the widespread exploitation of occupants of substandard houses continues. I do not know how far this Bill will go, but I should like to see control over holiday rooms, holiday flats and holiday houses. It was brought to my attention recently that some rooms were being let as holiday flats. On inspecting those premises, I found them to be very dirty, and obviously if a health inspector had visited them they would have been condemned for health reasons, yet the rent being charged was very high indeed. I should like to see the Government introduce legislation to control holiday flats and rooms in the interests of the public generally, for I consider that many people are being exploited in this direction.

I also note that the Government will continue its policy of setting aside further land for native fauna and flora reserves. This is very pleasing. In the new residential areas, particularly, most of the land is being swallowed up by subdivisional activity and by housing,

and, if immediate action is not taken, either the land will be lost or that which has to be purchased later will then cost much more.

I also read with interest that the Housing Trust expects to complete about 3,150 houses during the current financial year. It also expects to provide for a substantial programme of rental-purchase houses on a minimum deposit of \$100, and I commend the trust for this. Such a programme is most necessary, especially for young people starting out with little capital, for this is often the only opportunity they have to purchase a house. The trust will also complete during the forthcoming financial year the first group of houses designed specifically for handicapped people. This is heartening news, and most welcome to the people concerned. I hope that policy continues. However, it is hard to understand why here in the year 1966 this type of house is being built for the first time for these handicapped people: one would think that such houses would have been built many years ago.

I should now like to comment on some of the omissions from His Excellency's Speech. It has been said already, in the form of a question in this House, that the Constitution Act Amendment Bill is not listed to be introduced; although this does not mean that that will be so. I hope that Bill will be brought down this session, because I consider that the alteration of the electoral boundaries in this State is long overdue, and that something must be done in this direction as soon as possible. I should also like to see legislation introduced to abolish another place.

I noticed, too, that nothing was said in His Excellency's Speech regarding the Building Act. As I have said before, probably more housing development is taking place in the area I represent than in any other part of the metropolitan area. Also, a greater incidence of problems is associated with building and buying houses. Therefore, the need for effective protective legislation for house builders is something that requires immediate attention. I have pointed out previously that some house purchasers, on studying their agreements, find that there is no reference to what has been agreed. Other purchasers are promised finance at bank rates, only to find that they have to continue with temporary finance for some months, sometimes longer, and then later, when they expect to receive their bank loan, find that the house is not passed for bank finance. Therefore, I consider that a full-scale inquiry into all aspects of the building industry is necessary and I hope that the

Bill will be introduced during this session. I did notice in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech that a Bill regarding land agents was under consideration. I shall be interested to see what this Bill provides, as it may to some extent remedy the position to which I have referred. I certainly hope it does.

I now wish to comment on other matters, some of which affect the State as a whole while others refer to the district I represent. I have mentioned the difficulties in the outer suburban section of the Barossa District at Modbury and Tea Tree Gully associated with house building. Such difficulties as cracking walls, falling plaster, improper ventilation, inadequate woodwork and leaking roofs and windows have been referred to me. Some of these arise because incorrect foundations were provided for the type of soil on which the houses were built. We all know that the soil around Adelaide is particularly bad as far as building is concerned and in some places it is known as Bay of Biscay soil. The existence of this type of soil can be checked with the Mines Department, which suggests the footing required in the area, but these recommendations are not always carried out, unfortunately, because in terms of the Building Act only minimum requirements have to be complied with. Houses are often built with inadequate foundations for the type of soil in the area.

In April last I attended a field day demonstration of foundation techniques by a building contractor at Athelstone. This particular foundation, which is known as the grillage-raft, is as yet little used in domestic housing. I consider this matter worth mentioning because all these foundation techniques ought to be investigated. One of the biggest problems facing the building industry in this State is cracking walls and this cracking is caused, in most cases, by inadequate foundations.

Mr. Freebairn: Does the Housing Trust use the grillage-raft system at all?

Mrs. BYRNE: No, it does not at present. I am coming to that matter. There was a representative of the Housing Trust at the demonstration. This particular technique was designed by Adelaide consulting engineers to take the cracking worry out of building on Adelaide's troublesome clay soils. It has been pointed out that deep-beam footings are not necessarily sufficient for these soils. The grillage-raft design is basically a grid of narrow, very deep concrete beams, topped by a reinforced concrete floor.

Deep beams have two functions. They inhibit changes in moisture under the house and also give structural rigidity to the footing so that, if movement takes place, the whole house rather than a small part of it starts to move. Some cracking may take place but of a much more reduced order than that normally expected on such soils.

To accommodate a grillage-raft, a site must first be levelled by bulldozing, or by filling and compacting. That is, of course, if the particular site is on sloping land. A mechanical trencher then cuts footing trenches to a recommended depth, and pattern, to provide for 6in.-wide beams. No formwork is required for the beams, and this is one reason for the economy of the method. Reinforcement in the form of high tensile, deformed bar is then placed in the trenches and supported by steel hangers. At this stage the first pour of concrete can be made. It is carefully compacted into the trenches. The whole trenching and concreting operation is usually completed in a day and a half.

Following this, the ground beneath the floor area is given a thin covering of sand, which is then compacted. Tops of beams are left exposed so that the floor deck may be brought into intimate contact with the beams. Polyethylene sheeting is placed over the filling, between the beams, and securely held down. This provides a moisture barrier that will protect the future floor coverings over the concrete decking. After this, and usually within 24 hours of the pouring of the beams, the floor deck itself is poured. This contains hard-drawn wire fabric reinforcement and makes the concrete topping not only a floor but an integral part of the footing construction.

The floor is finished to a fine surface suitable for floor coverings chosen by the future occupants of the house. Brickwork for the walls can normally be started within seven days of the floor deck being completed. Walls are set directly on to the floor. This saves build-up, thus providing another economy. Experience has shown that the grillage-raft increases the cost of a house that could otherwise be built on a normal site by \$6 to \$8 a square more than the cost of the normal type of strip footing.

Of course, cost is the main thing in which people are interested in connection with a house. I asked an engineer to work out the details of the cost of a grillage-raft and was informed that on level land the lending institution accepts a recommendation for 17in. x 15in.

footings (external walls). The cost of this, including timber floors and dwarf walls, is \$850 for a 12-square house up to floor level. In respect of a similar house on level land with a grillage-raft foundation, the cost is \$1,050, which is an increase of \$200, or \$16 a square.

The alternative is a so-called deep beam footing based on a 12-square house, for which the cost would vary from \$40 to \$10 a square more than the \$850, depending on the soil type. The total cost would be from \$1,330 to \$1,570, up to floor level. The concrete floor is generally recognized as being more expensive, as it is necessary to have floor coverings, whereas timber floors can be polished.

However, it should be pointed out that floor coverings last longer on cement floors, as these floors do not move; they are stable. However, timber does move and this movement sometimes ruins vinyl tiles, linoleum coverings, and so on. At this demonstration the foundation technique called a cut-off bearing curtain was demonstrated, and it is used where rock is near the surface. This foundation was designed by the same consulting engineers, but was adopted two and a half years ago. This technique has a narrow application where rock or hard material not affected by moisture changes is within 6ft. of ground surface. It involves pouring un-reinforced concrete into trenches similar to those for the grillage-raft. The curtain trenches, however, go down to rock and are set below normal strip footings. Their purpose is to keep water out of soil under the house and to carry footing loads down to rock. The cost would be \$12 a square more than the conventional footing, the extra cost depending on the depth of rock and the digging time involved.

Another foundation technique used in South Australia is the W & G foundation preparation. Five years ago, after years of experimenting and at a cost of over \$40,000, a particular firm launched to the building trade a new and revolutionary foundation technique. This firm does not build or sell houses. Its sole business is specialization in house foundations on bad building soils, in order to give the best and most economical footing to suit the problem. Its technique has been widely used by engineers, architects, and builders throughout the trade, and is now known as the W & G No. 1 foundation preparation or treatment. For this technique, it is necessary to excavate a 6ft.-deep trench with the inside trench face in a position so that the outside edge of the foundation wall will overlap the polythene sheeting, giving the

best possible moisture barrier when excavation is completed, then placing a 6ft. 6in. sheet of polythene on the inside trench face, starting 6ft. before one corner and continuing around the house, and finishing 6ft. on the other side of the same corner.

Mr. Freebairn: Aren't they still experimenting with different polythene thicknesses?

Mrs. BYRNE: I do not know about that. Six inches of the original clay is placed in the bottom of the trench and then topped up to within 1ft. of the bottom of the proposed foundation with filling sand. The filling sand is then thoroughly consolidated by inundation with water and termite mixture. The trench is then filled with a mixture of eight to one cement mortar to a minimum depth of 1ft. On completion of the cement topping, surface footing can be proceeded with immediately. The cost for an average house of 10 to 12 squares is about \$250. I have this foundation in my house, which was built about 20 months ago, and there are no cracks in any walls. Although the W & G No. 1 technique gave excellent results on soil for which it was designed, that is, Bay of Biscay soil, it was decided that it was by no means the complete answer to every problem, and experiments were continued. This further research led, within a few months, to the first installation in this State of the second type of foundation treatment known as the W & G No. 2 foundation preparation or treatment. In this treatment, the position of the main external foundation beam and the main internal longitudinal and transverse beams is set out.

The trench is excavated under all walls for 6ft. to support the foundation, and to form a T-beam upon pouring of the main surface strip. The position of these beams will be centre of the internal walls and slightly off centre of the external walls. On completion of the trenches, polythene sheeting is placed on the external face of the external trench to form the best of moisture barriers, and the trench is filled with 2,500 a square inch concrete 6in. slump, which forms a continual 6ft. deep beam of concrete around and under external footings, and also under the main sections only of the internal foundation beams. Immediately on completion of concrete being poured, 7ft. by $\frac{1}{2}$ in. cogged rods are placed at 4ft. centres, and left to protrude 12in. into the main strip footing, and upon pouring of the surface strip gives a total foundation depth of 6ft. plus the depth of the surface strip in the form

of a T-beam. The cost of this technique is \$2.10 a foot and the average length of a house foundation is 230ft.

On completion of this design, further experiments were carried out to give the house building industry in South Australia a far greater and more economical coverage of foundation design on the poor building soils in this State than had ever existed before. A third technique was developed, suitable for the worst soils where foundation treatments Nos. 1 and 2 were not adequate. This technique set out the position of the external foundation beams and the main internal longitudinal and transverse beams. The W & G trench was excavated in a position under these walls 6ft. deep to support the foundation in a position underneath the wall loading and to form a T-beam upon pouring of the main surface strip. On completion of the trenches, polythene sheeting is to be placed on the external face of the perimeter trench to form the best possible moisture barrier; steel fabric is then placed in position in the trench, left unjoined at the corners, and then back-filled with 2,500 a square inch concrete, 5in. slump, which forms a continual 6ft. beam under the external footings, and 6ft. deep support sections under the internal footings. The reinforcing fabric is left protruding from the top of these beams, so as to tie both the underground and surface beams together upon completion. The cost of specification No. 3 is \$2.50 a running foot and I repeat that the average length of a house's foundations is 230ft.

At present the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization is experimenting in this field, and I await with interest the result of its experiments. When I attended the demonstration of the grillage-raft, I was pleased to notice the presence of a representative of the South Australian Housing Trust. I was given to understand that the trust's engineering section has been closely watching for some time the research taking place into house footings. In fact, I should like to see the trust set an example in this field, because a solution to the problem of cracking houses must be found and acted on as soon as possible, for the benefit of all concerned.

Naturally, house purchasers would prefer to make an initial payment instead of paying continual maintenance and repair costs; most cracks continue to open, resulting in depreciation in the value of the house. I should also like to see more private builders pay closer attention to this problem, and incorporate

these types of foundation in their buildings. This is at present undertaken only on a limited scale. I understand that the Mines Department, when requested to give a soil test, at present suggests particular footings for the area concerned, but that the recommendations are mainly of the pier-and-beam type. The type of foundation to which I have referred is not mentioned. This is not meant as a criticism of the Mines Department: the department gives service in this field, but I should like more advice to be given to the public in this respect, including advice and recommendations on the type of foundations that I have outlined.

Turning to a problem affecting my own district, I point out that last December, as honourable members are aware, the Government gave Friendly Societies Medical Association chemists the right to expand in new areas. That expansion occurred, the first new pharmacy being opened in Modbury. Since then I have received complaints from constituents about this shop's refusing to dispense Government prescriptions, the reason given being that F.S.M.A. chemists, because of Commonwealth Government legislation, are unable to dispense Government prescriptions. In 1964 the Commonwealth Government made it illegal for these chemist shops to dispense Government prescriptions for persons other than their own members. This applied to those in excess of the 26 pharmacies the association then controlled. The Commonwealth restriction still applies to the five new approved shops.

The shop at Modbury can, of course, assist with non-Government prescriptions and can also supply all shop requirements such as cosmetics, toiletries, cough medicines, films and baby requirements, etc. Of course this is a Commonwealth Government matter, and the question of permitting F.S.M.A. chemists to prescribe to people other than members under the National Health Act is governed by regulations. I have asked a South Australian Sena-

tor to take this matter up with the Commonwealth Minister for Health, which I understand has been done. However, I should like to see our Minister of Health take the matter up on a State level, so that approval can be given to the Modbury and other approved shops.

After the Government was elected, it realized that the site for the hospital on Golden Grove Road was not suitable, and immediately acquired an excellent site consisting of 18 acres at the corner of Smart and Reservoir Roads, Modbury, for the establishment of a Government hospital. The Chief Secretary then asked the Director of Medical Services to take the necessary steps to form a planning committee, in conjunction with officers of the Public Buildings Department, and this committee was formed and is functioning. It is pleasing to the people of the outer north-eastern suburbs to see that progress has been made in this direction, despite remarks by members of the Opposition to the contrary.

I recently witnessed an accident at the intersection of the Gawler by-pass road and Redbanks Road (where the road to Roseworthy College continues on), in which a man was killed. There have been many serious accidents at this intersection, four resulting in death.

"Give way" signs have been placed on both sides of the Gawler by-pass road but I would like to see the Road Traffic Board replace these with "stop" signs, as I believe that this would help to reduce accidents. I am sure that the Government's activities this session will be of benefit to all sections of the State. I support the motion.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.23 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, July 12, at 2 p.m.