

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, July 21, 1966.

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

QUESTIONS

ABORIGINAL OFFENCES.

Mr. HALL: My question is directed to the Premier in the absence of the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. This morning's *Advertiser* contains the following report (dated July 20 at Port Augusta):

Since they have been given full drinking rights the number of offences committed by Aborigines in the No. 17 Far Northern Police Division has increased . . . over the past financial year, the number of offences at Port Augusta by Aborigines totals 620 against 431 for the previous year. At Oodnadatta the rise is even greater. . . . Throughout the division the number of charges brought against Aborigines has risen from 556 in 1964-65 to 1,002 in 1965-66. The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs (Mr. Dunstan) said last night that Inspector Lockwood's figures did not surprise him and did not contradict his own reports.

Later, the article states:

However, more recent figures have shown that in some areas, the number of offences caused by drinking had reduced considerably. As the House is considering measures associated with the future of Aborigines in South Australia, and as the Minister has apparently referred to more recent figures, will the Premier obtain those figures and bring them down to the House for members to peruse?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: As the Minister is away in Western Australia today on Government business, I shall make representations on the matter. If the Minister is not here next Tuesday to answer the question, I hope to have a reply for the Leader.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. HUGHES: Can the Minister of Works say, in view of the rains that have fallen during the last week or so, whether the reservoirs have received any appreciable intakes and whether it is necessary to continue pumping?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I think, rather than refer to a report that I have in regard to figures, I can say that pumping is continuing at off-peak periods. Because of the limited intakes resulting from recent rains (I think the two intakes each totalled about 100,000,000 gallons, which is negligible when compared with the overall capacity of the reservoirs), I am afraid that unless we receive substantial rains soon (and that does not seem

likely) it will be necessary to start pumping at full capacity within a few weeks.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Many of my constituents in the Barossa Valley are market gardeners and vegetable growers, and the metropolitan area is to a great extent supplied with vegetables, particularly carrots and cauliflowers, from that area. The Warren reservoir, which supplies water in the main for the growing of these vegetables, is at present holding only a very small quantity compared with its capacity of 1,401,000,000 gallons. As the Minister of Works has said it will be necessary to commence pumping to the full extent soon, does he expect that restrictions are likely to be imposed on those market gardeners and vegetable growers in the Barossa Valley? If he does, will he make available, as has been the practice in the past before restrictions have been imposed, an officer of his department to discuss with the Barossa Valley Branch of the Market Gardeners Association the effect of such restrictions on the production of vegetables so that market gardeners can arrange their plantings accordingly?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I draw the honourable member's attention to a statement I made in the House in reply to questions asked by the members for Rocky River and Wallaroo. It was decided last week to commence pumping on a limited scale in the off-peak period to supply water to metropolitan reservoirs, and to the Warren reservoir in which the honourable member is interested. At that time I acknowledged that we could have delayed pumping in the hope that it would rain. However, we considered this unwise and we have now started pumping. If we receive good rains, this will be our good fortune and our pumping will have been unnecessary. With a view to avoiding the imposition of restrictions of any kind, we commenced pumping earlier. We shall continue to make every effort to avoid the imposition of restrictions, because we consider it essential for the efficient functioning of both primary and secondary industry to have a continuous supply of water available.

SWIMMING POOL.

Mr. COUMBE: My question concerns the proposal to establish a swimming pool in the north park lands. Can the Premier say whether he is to confer soon with representatives of the Adelaide City Council in an effort to solve the financial problems restricting progress on this proposal? If a conference is to be held, when will it take place?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Recently I attended a swimming carnival at the Adelaide City Baths with the Lord Mayor, who is also Chairman of the South Australian Amateur Swimming Association. I said publicly then that as soon as possible a conference should be arranged, and that I would issue a further invitation to other councils so that we could see what could be done. I am willing to adhere to what I said then. When I have an opportunity, that conference will be held, and I will inform the honourable member of any results.

LYNDOCH SCHOOLHOUSE.

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question of July 19 about a new schoolhouse being erected at Lyndoch?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The Housing Trust states that this residence is nearing completion and that painting has now commenced. When painting is completed, an inspection will be made and any minor work found necessary completed. The Public Buildings Department will then furnish the house with blinds and kitchen linoleum. It is expected to be ready for occupation at the commencement of the third term this year.

HILLS FREEWAY.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: A few days ago I asked the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Roads, a question about the extension of the hills freeway and the possible inconvenience this would cause to people living to the west of Waverley Ridge. As I understand the Minister now has a reply from his colleague, I should be pleased if he would give it to the House.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague, the Minister of Roads, reports that at this location poor visibility and heavy fast flow on the main road render all traffic movements associated with Charlick Road hazardous, while the crossing of the road by pedestrians—some of them young children—is extremely dangerous. This applies whether or not the section of road is designated a freeway. Considerable investigations, together with pedestrian and vehicular traffic counts, have been carried out over a period of many months, and it has been decided, with the advice from American highway traffic consultants, not to provide access for vehicles or pedestrians at Measday Corner.

Suitable vehicular interchange facilities on Measday Corner would be impracticable and

extremely costly and, in view of the relatively small number of vehicles involved, it has been decided not to provide them. The permitting of bus-stops at this location would necessitate pedestrians, including small children, to cross the road which is extremely hazardous even under the present conditions; the anticipated natural increase in traffic on the main road will worsen this condition. Bus bays with acceleration and deceleration lanes would be required on both sides of the main road to obviate the blocking of one lane of traffic in each direction by buses stopping, and to protect the buses from rear collisions.

A pedestrian underpass or overpass would be required to permit pedestrians to cross the road safely. The high cost involved cannot be justified for about six pedestrians in the morning and 12 in the evening. Charlick Road will be improved giving direct access to the Crafrers interchange *via* Hillcrest Avenue. The same dangerous conditions will apply at the location in question, irrespective of whether the freeway is temporarily terminated above or below Measday Corner.

Mr. SHANNON: I do not know whether or not the highway across the main Mount Barker Road on the freeway itself will need to be referred to the Public Works Committee because of its cost but, if it needs to be, first, will the Minister of Lands inquire of the Minister of Roads when construction of that crossover on the freeway across the existing main Mount Barker Road is desired and, secondly, will the Minister be sure to give the committee ample time in which to submit a report so that the work is not delayed?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be happy to obtain that report from my colleague.

MOUNT GAMBIER HOSPITAL.

Mr. BURDON: Last year, during a visit to Mount Gambier by the Chief Secretary and the Director-General of Medical Services, an inspection was carried out of Boandich Lodge and the Mount Gambier Hospital. As representation had previously been made to the Minister for the provision of suitable accommodation for a geriatric centre there or a centre for aged inactive people in Mount Gambier, will the Premier, through the Chief Secretary, obtain a report and inform the House of the present position in regard to this matter?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I will take up that matter with the Chief Secretary.

ISLINGTON SCHOOL SITE.

Mr. JENNINGS: I and several other honourable members who were interested in the transfer of the sewage farm from Islington to Bolivar asked many questions of the Minister of Works about the future use of this valuable land. When the Minister eventually answered about how that land was to be used, I think his answer met with almost universal approval. However, I now find that an honourable member in another place has rather trenchantly criticized the Education Department for its proposal to have a high school on part of this site. Can the Minister of Education comment?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: It has been suggested that the Education Department intended to accept this site because it was cheap. The fact of the matter is that a recommendation that a site be acquired in the sewage farm area was first made on May 3, 1963. However, when the Premier publicly announced the proposed use of this land in August, 1965, it was discovered that no provision had been made for a high school site. The need for a high school was re-stated on August 13, 1965, and a recommendation made that the Minister of Education be informed of this need. On December 10, 1965, it was stated that the State Planning Office estimated that in 1968 about 4,000 high school students would be living in the zones appropriate at that time to Woodville and Enfield High Schools. It was noted that this total enrolment would be too great to be accommodated at Woodville and Enfield High Schools, and a recommendation was made that the site for the proposed high school in the sewage farm area be delineated. So far, no high school site has been delineated in this area. No other land between Woodville and Enfield High Schools is suitable for a high school site.

It was also stated that there would be a freeway on the western boundary and this would be a traffic problem. The fact is that the freeway would be in the middle of the area, and not on the western side of the railway reserve. The site proposed would mean that the school would be able to draw students from a 270 degree sector; it would be almost centrally placed between Woodville High School, Angle Park Technical High Schools, Enfield High School, Nailsworth Technical High Schools and Croydon Technical High Schools.

REYNELLA SOUTH TRAFFIC.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Some time ago I asked the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Roads, a question relating to the traffic problems at the shopping centre at Reynella South. Has he now a reply to that question?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Minister of Roads states that following the deputation on June 2 arrangements were made as promised for the Traffic Engineer to meet a deputation of shopkeepers and council representatives at the Pimpala shopping centre site. At this meeting the Traffic Engineer explained the reasons why a median opening could not be provided opposite the shopping centre. As a result of this explanation the shopkeepers, together with the council, will examine the possibility of providing a two-way service road in front of the shopping area extending to the crest in the vertical alignment of the South Road north of the centre. If this proposal for a service road is feasible, a median opening could be provided with access to the service road and the opening at Taylors Road closed. When traffic conditions have become reasonably settled, the traffic section of the Highways Department will investigate the speed zoning of this section of the South Road. At the moment there is no restriction on speed other than the *prima facie* 60 m.p.h. limit. At the moment an additional median opening has been agreed to on South Road between Sherriffs Road and Hilliers Road, and arrangements are being made for this opening to be constructed.

ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL.

Mr. LAWN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked last week concerning air conditioning at the Royal Adelaide Hospital?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Following the honourable member's inquiry, I took this question up with the Public Buildings Department. The department has reported to me that the efficiency of the air-conditioning plant in the east wing of the Royal Adelaide Hospital to a large extent depends on the correct distribution of conditioned air in each area. The air-conditioning system is divided into large zones, and the type of air register installed has an effect on the balance of the air distributed within these zones. Any adjustment to an air register would therefore affect the whole zone. The complaint by the honourable member has been investigated and certain tests have been undertaken which have proved

inconclusive and do not justify the replacement of all air registers throughout the hospital. However, further investigations and tests of the air flows and air balances are being undertaken, and the Director will report to me immediately those tests have proved conclusively that any action should be taken. It is pointed out that the air-conditioning system is at present providing warm air heating and should not be a discomfort to the patients. The question the honourable member raised will be given further attention, and it is hoped that if there are any difficulties they will be resolved quickly.

Mr. LAWN: Obviously, I did not make myself clear when I asked the question last week, because the departmental report, in referring to air-conditioning tests, states:

These do not justify the replacement of all air registers throughout the hospital.

I wish to make it clear that I did not desire to have any installation in the east wing of the Royal Adelaide Hospital altered. The air-conditioning in the single rooms, particularly in ward 5D, blows straight from the ceiling on to the patient, whereas in the wards it blows down into the centre space and away from the patients. Baffles have been installed in the ceilings of the new building now under construction, which spread the air as it comes away from the ceiling. Similar units could be simply fitted to the ceilings in the rooms to which I have referred, which would not involve altering the whole air-conditioning system. Can the Minister refer my remarks to the department when it undertakes a further investigation of this matter?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I understand that the honourable member is now suggesting that baffles be fitted to the outlet channels so that air may be spread rather than flow in a direct blast. I shall take up the matter with the department and ascertain whether something can be done.

DRUG ADDICTION.

Mr. CASEY: I am sure that members realize the serious implications that could result to the community in general from the smuggling of certain drugs, which has become extremely prevalent. I am referring to opium and heroin. It is becoming increasingly difficult to detect this smuggling from the customs point of view and we read press reports that large quantities of these drugs are being seized in the Eastern States and, more recently, in South Australia. Will the Premier ascertain from the Minister of Health whether there is

an increase in drug addiction in this State and, if there is, will he say how many known drug addicts are listed and receiving treatment?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I shall take up the matter with my colleague, the Minister of Health, and bring down a report for the honourable member as soon as possible.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE LIFT.

Mrs. STEELE: A few days ago I asked a question regarding the lift in this building. Although we all know that great improvement has taken place, has the Minister of Works information further to the reply that he has given me, which contains some items of technical information?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I have supplied the honourable member with a type-written reply but, as that is somewhat out of date now, I am sure she will not mind if I bring it up to date. Following the honourable member's question, an examination was made of the lift door and it was found that there was a delay of eight seconds between the time the button was pressed and the time the doors closed. Because of the representations made by the honourable member, a change has been made and the door now commences to close immediately the button has been pressed. I know that quick-action lifts create some disadvantage for the aged. However, the department and I acknowledge that it is necessary that the lift operate quickly so that every member will be able to get to the Chamber as quickly as possible when divisions take place. The department has agreed to place instructions in the lift so that members will be informed how to use it to the best advantage.

WHARFAGE CHARGES.

Mr. McKEE: Recently, the member for Gumeracha asked a question about the increased shipping of wool from Portland, Victoria. As he said that the people of Portland would be happy to give the Minister of Marine the freedom of that city, has the Minister any comment on this statement?

Mr. Nankivell: Has he received the freedom of the city?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: To answer the last part of the question, I have not received this freedom nor have I been approached to accept such an honour.

Mr. Jennings: Wait for 20 years and you may be Warden of the Cinque Ports.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: As Portland is the only deep sea port near the South-East

of South Australia, for years there has been a steady flow of products to it from Naracoorte and the area south of that town. For that reason, I understand that the member for Gumeracha had been approached to accept the freedom of the city because he had not built a deep sea port in South Australia, thus making the trade to Portland possible. However, he was sadly disappointed when it was discovered that, under the Local Government Act, citizens of Portland were not permitted to grant such an honour to the honourable member.

Mr. Clark: He would have to wear a flash uniform!

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The member for Gumeracha would not look forward to wearing a flashy uniform, as that is not in his make-up. I had investigations made and studied a report of trading operations at Portland, and I was amazed to find, according to the last annual report, that the financial position for the 12 months' trading had worsened by about \$1,358,000. The General Manager of the Harbors Board reports as follows:

(1) The increase in the wharfage rate on wool was only 5c a bale and could not be described as a "very big increase". (The old rate was 15c a bale and the new rate is 20c a bale.) It was equal to a 33½ per cent increase, but the total charge of 20c a bale is a very small fraction of the cost of the bale.

(2) It is not thought that the increased wharfage charges will divert traffic from Port Adelaide to Portland.

(3) Inquiries have been made of two leading wool brokers, with the following results:

Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Limited, which handles 60 per cent of the State's wool, states that there has been no drift of its wool from Port Adelaide in favour of Portland. As a point of interest, Elder Smith received a large quantity of last season's wool from Victoria for shipment through Port Adelaide, which was brought about by industrial trouble on the waterfront in Melbourne and Geelong, and for this particular season its exports of wool through Port Adelaide tended to rise.

South Australian Farmers' Co-operative Union Limited, which is the next biggest wool broker and shipper in South Australia, states that there has been a drift of South Australian wool from the eastern section of the State and last season, 1965-66, 6,008 bales were sent for sale and shipment to Portland. Since Portland was opened as a wool-selling and shipping port three years ago, it has been more economical, with respect to freight charges, for the sheep-farmers in this region to send their wool to Portland for sale and shipment. Another reason for this is that wool from the South-Eastern

section of the State is of a similar type and quality to that of Western Victoria and the area around Portland.

It would seem, therefore, that the drift of wool exports from the South-East of the State to Portland has been brought about by reasons other than the recent increase in wharfage charges.

STRUAN YARD.

Mr. RODDA: Following the delivery of heavy tonnages of superphosphate in the Struan railway yard, the road in the yard has deteriorated. Will the Premier confer with the Minister of Transport in an endeavour to improve this road?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I shall take this matter up with the Minister of Transport, and bring down a report as soon as possible.

ADULT EDUCATION.

Mr. McANANEY: Last Tuesday the Deputy Director of Education (Mr. Walker) was reported to have said that the current problem of adult education in South Australia arose from the need for better co-ordination between the various adult education bodies (the Workers' Educational Association, the University Adult Education Board, and the Education Department's Adult Education Section). As the closest co-ordination and co-operation exists between the W.E.A. and the University Adult Education Board (and the Education Department is kept fully informed of W.E.A. and university activities through its member on the University Adult Education Board), can the Minister of Education say how his department intends to achieve better co-ordination in this matter? I point out that at present the only lack of co-ordination that exists relates to the Education Department's Adult Education Section.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I have not seen the report referred to by the honourable member, but the Deputy Director may have been referring to the fact that at the outset it was agreed that no overlapping should exist in regard to the three adult education bodies. I do not think that has been carried out as originally intended; I believe a degree of overlapping occurs, and has been occurring for some time. The honourable member has asked about the department's policy, but I point out that the work being undertaken by the department in adult education is far greater in scope than that carried out by the other two bodies. One point that has occurred to me is an anomaly in so far as the W.E.A. is concerned, namely, that the Government makes a grant to the W.E.A., and that its fees for courses are

lower than those charged by the Education Department, yet it pays its lecturers far higher salaries than those paid to the Education Department teachers.

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Although I am not sure whether my question should be directed to the Premier or the Minister of Education, I understand that the establishment of a medical school at the Flinders university is being considered, and I am particularly anxious to know, if that is so, when such a project will be commenced, in view of the declining number of general practitioners, particularly in country districts. If it is to be commenced, can the Minister of Education say when work on the hospital is likely to start?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The Government is anxious to commence work on a teaching hospital as soon as possible, but it is impossible at this stage to say when it will be completed or opened. However, I shall endeavour to obtain further information for the honourable member.

SHEEP INSPECTION.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Has the Minister representing the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I recently asked about difficulties experienced by exporters of sheep from South Australia in having their sheep accepted by the Western Australian Agriculture Department?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I have the following report from the Agriculture Department:

The consignor referred to by the honourable member is believed to be an agent for a Western Australian buyer. On June 28 the Inspector of Stock inspected a total of about 850 sheep from 10 owners in the Lower North. One line of 110 sheep from one of the 10 owners was inspected in Saddleworth yards at the request of a stock agent. In the opinion of the inspector these sheep had more than three-quarters of an inch of wool. The Western Australian condition of entry is that all sheep shall be shorn on arrival in that State but provided the wool length does not exceed three-quarters of an inch on arrival, shearing is not insisted on. The inspector informed the stock agent that the wool was over length and that shearing might be enforced on arrival at Kalgoorlie. These sheep were apparently mixed with the others which had correct wool length and as a result the Western Australian authorities insisted on shearing all sheep in the consignment. As overlength wool is not the responsibility of the South Australian Agriculture Department, we have had no complaint from Western Australia and we assume that this is the matter

referred to. The length of wool is the responsibility of the owner or agent consigning the sheep. Our inspectors certify as to freedom from disease and weeds but cannot take any action in regard to wool length except to warn the consignor.

Mr. HEASLIP: As has the member for Light, I have had complaints from people railing sheep to Kalgoorlie. Apparently, some inspections have taken place on stations or farms which have been miles from the rail head at Port Augusta. Although the sheep are clean at that stage (and a certificate is given to that effect), by the time they get to Port Augusta they are not clean. Will the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Agriculture, ask the departmental officers to see that these inspections take place at Port Augusta, where the sheep are put on to the train, rather than in the paddock? Owners often send sheep to Port Augusta knowing they are clean when they leave the farm (and they have a certificate to this effect), but when the sheep arrive at Kalgoorlie the owners are obliged to have them shorn, or they are not passed.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I see difficulties in the honourable member's proposal, particularly regarding disease. If, for instance, sheep taken from a property in the Lower North arrived at Port Augusta, were inspected, and found to be diseased, what would then be the position? This could create a problem. I will, however, ask my colleague to examine the proposal.

FREELING SCHOOL LAND.

Mrs. BYRNE: The Freeling Primary School Committee has drawn my attention to the fact that about three years ago the Education Department acquired a piece of land adjacent to, and across the road from, the existing school, and to the knowledge of the present school committee, the purchase of the land was not recommended or requested by the committee. It has never been used by the school, and at present is being used by a farmer to graze sheep. Can the Minister of Education say why and on whose recommendation this land was purchased? What is its size and what was its cost to the Education Department? What arrangements have been entered into with the farmer concerned? Can the Minister give the House any other relevant facts?

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

PARAFIELD GARDENS STATION.

Mr. HALL: Will the Premier ascertain from the Minister of Transport when work will begin on the construction of a new railway station at Parafield Gardens?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I will take up the matter with my colleague and bring down a reply.

PARADISE-CAMPBELLTOWN SEWERAGE.

Mr. JENNINGS: My question is directed to the Minister of Works. There is an area that needs—

The SPEAKER: Order! Does the honourable member wish leave to explain his question?

Mr. JENNINGS: I thought I could get by without leave.

The Hon. T. C. Stott: Why shouldn't you get away with it?

Mr. JENNINGS: The honourable member does not do too badly.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. JENNINGS: Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to explain my question. An area in my district adjoining an area in the District of Burnside badly needs sewerage extensions. I know that the member for Burnside is just as interested in this matter as I am, and she has evinced that interest in the House. I understand that one difficulty in this matter is that (fortunately, perhaps, for my district) the area in my district must be serviced first because of the levels or something of that nature that is too technical for me to understand. As I believe the Minister of Works has a general report on the matter, will he give it to the House?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: As the honourable member said, part of this scheme is in the Burnside District and part in the Enfield District. It is known as the Paradise-Campbelltown sewerage scheme. Originally work was intended to be started last financial year, but because the necessary funds have not been available work cannot be commenced earlier than 1967-68. The Director and Engineer-in-Chief of the Engineering and Water Supply Department states that construction work is now scheduled to begin in August, 1967, when the maximum progress will be made in accordance with the funds available for the work.

METROPOLITAN FREEWAY.

Mr. COUMBE: Is the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Roads, aware that several years ago it was announced that one of the first major freeways to be built from

the City of Adelaide to the outlying areas was to pass through the centre of Walkerville? Will he obtain a report on the progress being made on the planning of such a freeway, especially as in the district much interest is being shown in the project? Also, can he say when construction on the project is expected to commence?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will obtain a report.

HOVERCRAFT.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I understand that a hovercraft service to Kangaroo Island has been suggested. I am concerned with the feasibility of introducing a hovercraft service across Spencer Gulf to link Port Pirie and Whyalla. A friend of mine, a qualified engineer who has made this suggestion, points out that a hovercraft service is now operating across the English Channel under conditions that are much less suitable than would be the conditions across the gulf. He believes such a service would take only about 30 minutes. Such a service might avoid the necessity of constructing a railway from Port Augusta to Whyalla. Can the Premier, representing the Minister of Transport, say whether this matter has ever been considered and, if it has, what was the outcome of that consideration? If it has not been seriously considered, will the Government consider it and let the House know its view?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I remember representations being made about a crossing between Glenelg and Kingscote, and even to Yorke Peninsula. My information on that, as far as it goes, is that the scheme is awaiting financial assistance. I have heard nothing about the project referred to by the honourable member. I think it would be best for me to consult the Minister of Marine to see whether he has received any representations through the Harbors Board. If there have been any, I will let the honourable member know next week.

ABORIGINAL HOUSING.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I ask my question of the member for Port Pirie (Mr. McKee). It arises from the views expressed last night by him about me, when he clearly stated that I held derogatory opinions about the Aboriginal people. I wish to make it clear that I have the highest regard for the Aboriginal race and I also hold in very high respect those Aboriginal people whom I know personally. My question arises from a report

in the *Advertiser* of July 28, 1962. I ask the honourable member whether this report is correct. It states:

The honourable member presented a petition against the settlement of Aboriginal people in four houses in Port Pirie formerly owned by the Mines Department.

Although the honourable member made it clear that he did not agree with the petition, he presented it all the same. The report continues:

Mr. McKee said he endorsed the council's decision to allow the settlement of Aboriginal families. He felt confident that the Aborigines Protection Board was competent in selecting the right families.

I emphasize "right". Continuing:

However, it would be a good idea to see that these families were not settled too close together.

Can the honourable member say whether that report is correct and, if it is correct, can he say what he means by "right" families? Also, why did he object to allowing those families to be settled "close together" if they wished to be settled close together?

The SPEAKER: Before the honourable member for Port Pirie replies, I shall allow the last part of the question, but I point out (as I thought I had pointed out to honourable members previously) that it is not permissible for members to read a newspaper report and then ask whether that newspaper report is correct. I feel I should say that now. I believe that the substance of the question can be understood by the honourable member without reference to the newspaper report. I now give him an opportunity to reply.

Mr. McKEE: If by way of question the honourable member for Alexandra is apologizing for his remarks in his recent speech, I will accept it as an apology towards these people, but, as regards the answer to the question about the statement made by me in this House regarding the settlement of Aboriginal people in Port Pirie, the report of what I said at the time was correct: I said that I hoped the right people would be selected. I do not think the honourable member would have expected us to settle nomads from the Simpson Desert then, and by settling the people close together I did not think it would give them an opportunity to be assimilated into the community.

DERAILMENTS.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have noted with concern that recently serious derailments have occurred with our freight trains, not on any particular line but on a number of lines. I have noticed a suggestion

in a letter in the press that these derailments may have been caused by mixing the smaller type four-wheel trucks with the larger trucks that go to make up the freight trains. Will the Premier ascertain from the Minister of Transport whether the mixing of the smaller type trucks constitutes a derailment danger for the freight services? Also, will he ascertain whether the continued use of these smaller type trucks is justified in present-day circumstances? I make it clear that I do not criticize the Railways Department. My question is designed merely to find out what is the problem as regards freight train derailments and whether it is possible in future to avoid them, or at least make them less frequent.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I shall take up the matter with the Minister of Transport, and specifically raise the point of the mixing of different types of truck. I shall ask my colleague to make the fullest investigation and will bring down a report as soon as possible.

FRUIT INSPECTORS.

Mr. McANANEY: Yesterday, at a primary producers' conference, many speakers claimed that the fruit inspections were scandalous and that untrained people were being used as inspectors to examine the fruit. Will the Minister of Lands inquire of the Minister of Agriculture how many inspectors there are and what qualifications are required of them?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I noticed the report in the *Advertiser* this morning about this matter, but no specific instances were cited: it was very general. Therefore, criticism in this regard is difficult to pinpoint but, as the honourable member has raised the question, I shall be happy to take up the matter with my colleague and obtain the information required.

MURRAY RIVER SALINITY.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: Questions concerning the salinity of the Murray River, have been asked previously by me and by other members, but now the salinity is worrying settlers farther up the river than Waikerie, the place with which I was previously concerned. Even yesterday I heard that there were worries about this matter as far up the river as Renmark. In this instance, trouble was caused by somebody inadvertently opening a channel from the Murray River that should not have been opened. This introduced a high degree of salinity into the water. Has the Minister of Irrigation a further report

on what is being done to try to stop this increasingly high salinity of the Murray River waters?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: True, much concern is being expressed in the river areas about the salt content of water in the river. As the honourable member knows, this is a difficult problem, and its solution, too, is difficult. The most obvious solution, of course, would be getting more water down the Murray itself. I am given to understand that the situation will be relieved considerably early in August by the release of water from Lake Victoria, although this, of course, will take some time to have the desired effect and reduce the salinity content.

I am keeping in touch with this matter from day to day and have reports not only from my own superintendent of irrigated areas but also from the engineer from the Engineering and Water Supply Department who is responsible in this matter. However, it is an extremely worrying problem because there is no obvious solution to it, and I think the honourable member and the residents of the area generally appreciate this. It is true, as the honourable member has said, that the salinity is high farther up from Waikerie, and I am looking at individual places to see whether some relief can be given. It is also true that the high salinity at Renmark was caused mainly by a person breaching the embankment around an evaporation basin. This had a very detrimental effect.

The Hon. T. C. Stott: Some people are frightened to turn on the water.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: That is so. In Renmark, particularly because of that incident, the salinity is extremely high. I have no specific information to give the honourable member, and as much as I wish I certainly do not have a solution that we could be absolutely certain would work, except the increased flow of water in the Murray.

STURT DAM.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: A week or so ago I asked the Minister of Works a question regarding the use of the water impounded by the Sturt dam for the watering of ovals at the Flinders university, and the Minister brought forth a reply giving many reasons why this could not be done. Another suggestion which has been put to me, and which I now put to

the Minister, is that the water from the dam should be fed into the underground basin, which I understand is in the vicinity, and which could be used as a storage, and then the water could be recovered by bore and used for the watering of ovals and so on. I do not know whether this is a practicable proposition, either more or less than the other one, but I understand that the Minister himself is interested in this and I ask him whether he can give his views to the House on it.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: As the honourable member has kindly stated, I am interested in this possibility and accordingly I have made some inquiries. The area referred to by the honourable member is outside the area of the artesian basin, and therefore what he suggests would not be a practicable proposition. Nevertheless, I appreciate his suggestion. I heard by other means that the honourable member was thinking about this, and I looked into the matter. We are always pleased to have suggestions that will be useful, and I know that this suggestion was made with that intention. We have experimented in the past with feeding the underground water supply in a particularly wet year.

This was done in the very district that I have the honour and privilege to represent, but it was found that this created a great deal of inconvenience to people who were using bores close to where the feed was made, for water flowed through other bores and swamped some of the residents. The practice was therefore discontinued. Nevertheless, investigations are still being made and experiments are being carried out into feeding our surface waters (from drains from dwellings, factories, etc.) into the underground basin. The matter will be continually watched, and if this action becomes practicable we will take it, because we in South Australia have to take every opportunity of conserving all the water possible in order that we may develop satisfactorily.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT.

Mr. COUMBE: The Minister of Works is no doubt aware that for some years there was a grave shortage of professional architects and other officers in the Public Buildings Department. Can he say whether there has been any marked improvement in this respect as the result of the employment of more professional

officers, or whether there are still shortages in the establishment of this department?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: As the honourable member will readily appreciate, there is a slackening in the building industry generally at present. The department is watching the position with a great deal of interest, and we hope some relief will be forthcoming soon. We do not have any grave shortage in the department today; in fact, we have very satisfactory officers as architects, designers, quantity surveyors, etc. The department is making every endeavour to avoid the retrenchment of any staff, and we hope the day will come when we shall be in the position we were in a little while ago when there was a shortage of staff, because we believe that is a rather more desirable position than having surplus staff.

KANGAROO ISLAND SETTLEMENT.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: My question concerns the use of Crown lands in the western portion of Kangaroo Island, in which there is a large area of scrub country that has not been used under war service land settlement provisions. It is assumed that the Lands Department will eventually open it up for allotment. I have received a number of inquiries about this land. Can the Minister of Lands say whether any provision is to be made for the early allotment of these scrub areas, and can he also say what other scrub areas are likely to be allotted sooner than or as soon as those on Kangaroo Island?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: There is no possibility of early allotment of this land on Kangaroo Island, and this is mainly because the department is concentrating its efforts and energy in this regard to the development of land in the counties of Chandos and Buckingham. We hope that we may soon be in a position to allot some of this land and, as the honourable member would know, there is about 600,000 acres of land in that area that could be suitable for development. I would imagine at this stage that we shall complete the allotment of this land before we turn to the allotment of any land on Kangaroo Island, and I would imagine also that it may be some two, three or even four years before we can contemplate allotting the land to which the honourable member has referred. However, I will discuss the matter with the Director, and if there is likely to be any dramatic change in plans I will inform the honourable member of it.

GAS.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Will the Premier say whether he has yet had an opportunity to consider whether he will make available for the perusal of honourable members the report of the Bechtel Pacific Corporation regarding the pipeline proposal?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: My colleague, the Minister of Mines, has given me information on this matter. The Bechtel Pacific Corporation report was a feasibility study of the economics of a gas pipeline from Gidgealpa to Adelaide and related to the quantities of gas known at that time to be available at Gidgealpa. However, since that report was submitted, the availability of a quantity of gas at Moomba No. 1 and Moomba No. 2 has become known. I am advised that, although the report has some value, it has no value as far as the economics of the gas position at present are concerned. I have already informed the House regarding the strikes at Moomba No. 1 and No. 2 wells. Neither of these wells has been fully tested but the report is considered to be out of date because of these discoveries. The Minister of Mines considers that there is no point in making it available.

COUNTRY ROADS.

Mr. QUIRKE: Will the Minister of Lands kindly approach his colleague, the Minister of Roads, and obtain information regarding what work is proposed in the coming year on the roads from Jamestown to Hallett and from Burra to Clare, and see whether there has been any change in the intention regarding the Morgan to Burra road? This matter is of vital interest to councils at present.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be happy to obtain a report for the honourable member.

CADELL PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Will the Minister of Works inquire of the Public Buildings Department when the proposed work at the Cadell Primary School will be carried out?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I shall certainly ascertain whether this matter is in the hands of my department. The responsibility for the determination of priorities for work at schools is a matter for my colleague, the Minister of Education, and until he or his department advises the Public Buildings Department of these priorities the Public Buildings Department cannot take action.

SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION
COMMITTEE.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: As the Premier is aware, there is no representative of members of this side of the House on the Subordinate Legislation Committee. I think everyone agrees that at least some unsatisfactory results have accrued. At times the committee, through its Chairman, has moved for disallowance and at other times members on this side of the House, principally the former Leader of the Opposition, have had to ascertain whether the committee intended to act before moving for disallowance themselves if the committee did not intend to do so. Recently, the member for Gumeracha has had to bring under notice several by-laws which have been passed by the committee and which he found to be defective. This situation leads to bad liaison and much inconvenience for members of the Opposition. We have to find out details of by-laws without the help of witnesses or evidence unless we specifically ask for it. Is the Premier prepared to reconsider the constitution of this committee with a view to allowing a member of the Opposition in the House of Assembly to be a member of it?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: There was some controversy at the time this and other committees were being appointed because of numbers in another place. It is not for me to say what other members desire to do but, if members of the Opposition agree to accept an amendment, we could at least have another member from each side of the House on the committee. I am prepared to consider that, if the Opposition is also prepared to consider it.

CHANDOS AND BUCKINGHAM LAND.

Mr. NANKIVELL: The Minister of Lands, when replying to the member for Alexandra a short time ago, said that consideration was being given to allocating certain lands in the counties of Chandos and Buckingham. Can the Minister say when legislation to enable this to be done will be introduced and when it is expected that the land will be available for allocation?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I said in reply to the question asked by the member for Alexandra that our energy and efforts were being concentrated on this matter. I hope we shall be able to introduce legislation this year if it is necessary to do so, but it has not yet been established clearly whether

this is necessary. If it is, I hope that, following the introduction of the legislation, we shall be able to allocate some of this land towards the end of this year or early next year. However, I think it will have to be allotted in stages and in various areas. I think we can go ahead, because we have received from the Agriculture Department a report that we had been awaiting. We are making financial provision to go ahead this year, because we are anxious to make the allotment.

Mr. Nankivell: Has the photogrammetric survey been completed?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Not yet.

MOUNT BARKER ROAD.

Mr. SHANNON: There is perturbation in the minds of some people about the intentions of the Highways Department regarding the stretch of the existing highway between Measday Hill and Crafers. On the up-side there is a winding stretch of road between Measday Hill and Crafers. Clearing was started on the eastern side of the downward stretch some time ago but then stopped. If it were intended to widen the road on the low or western side of that stretch of highway, one of the best stands of young, healthy, white gums in the hills would be destroyed, and that would be a sin. It will be necessary to fill in on the western side and cut out on the eastern side and, although the cutting out does not cause concern, I know that the department does not have ample supplies of filling for use on sections of the freeway yet to be constructed. Will the Minister of Lands ascertain from the Minister of Roads whether the section between Measday Hill and Crafers is to be widened and made a four-lane highway and, if it is, which side is to be altered and for what reason?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be happy to obtain a report for the honourable member.

LAND TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

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

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the following resolution: That it is desirable to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Land Tax Act, 1936-1965.

Motion carried.

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

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its principal object is to fix rates of tax for the five financial years commencing with the year ending in June, 1967. As honourable members are aware, the rates fixed by Parliament last year were limited to the year that ended on June 30, 1966, and thus there are at present no effective rates for the present and future years. The Bill also makes some administrative amendments to the principal Act, and provides some necessary amendments consequent upon the adoption of decimal currency. As honourable members know, the quinquennial assessment was made as at July 1, 1965. The assessment shows an increase in the aggregate from \$810,000,000 to \$1,301,000,000, or about 60 per cent overall. The percentages of increase, of course, differ in various parts of the State and for land put to different uses. The increase was on average about 20 per cent in the city of Adelaide, about 45 per cent in rural areas, including country towns, and about 85 per cent in the metropolitan area other than the city proper but including commercial, industrial, and residential properties.

Recent conjectures by some members, as well as by some public associations, have suggested that an increase in land valuation by an average of some 60 per cent might be expected to result in well over a 100 per cent increase in State revenues from land tax if last year's rates were to be re-enacted. However, detailed examinations by the Land Tax Department and by Treasury officers have shown that, whereas the assessed tax for 1965-66 was about \$5,700,000, application of the 1965-66 rates to the new assessment would yield about \$9,500,000. This is an increase of 67 per cent. The reason why the potential yield has not increased substantially beyond the 60 per cent increase on aggregate valuation through the effects of the progressive rate schedule is that the higher valued properties have not increased so greatly as have the relatively much lower valued properties, such as residential land. The latter are not affected much, if at all, by progression of rates.

Having regard to the revenue requirements of the Government, it is considered necessary to secure an appreciably increased revenue from land tax above that secured last year. The

rates now proposed are expected to secure an increased yield of \$2,100,000 instead of the \$3,800,000 that would result from complete re-enactment of last year's rates. This would give a yield in 1966-67 of \$7,800,000, an increase of about 37 per cent. The new rates proposed are simple to understand and simple to apply. They move in a steady progression from 2c for each \$10 on land valued under \$10,000 up to 38c for each \$10 for values in excess of \$180,000 held by any one taxpayer. The minimum valuation subject to tax will increase from \$640 to \$1,000 for it is proposed that, where the schedule would require a tax of less than \$2, no tax at all will be payable. On present valuations up to \$50,000 the proposed rates will be only 64 per cent of the rates that applied last year.

Accordingly, within that range the reduction in rates will be broadly parallel with the average increase in valuations. Generally, landholders within this range who have been notified of a less than average increase in valuation will be taxed rather lower than last year whilst those with more than average increases in valuation will pay a rather higher tax. Within this range will fall all but about 2,000 of the total of over 200,000 assessments though, of course, a far higher proportion of land value (about 24 per cent) falls in the range above \$50,000. For valuations beyond \$50,000 the reductions on 1965-66 rates proposed are progressively less than 36 per cent. The reduction is 23 per cent on last year's rate for a valuation of \$100,000 and 1 per cent reduction at a valuation of \$500,000. It is of interest also to compare the proposed new rates with those operating in 1964-65, that is, before last year's increase. Compared with two years ago the rates up to \$10,000 show a 36 per cent decrease. They show a 17 per cent decrease at \$40,000 and they equal the 1964-65 rates at a valuation of about \$110,000. Thereafter, the proposed new rates exceed the 1964-65 rates, reaching 14 per cent above at \$200,000 and about 20 per cent above the valuations of \$500,000 and more.

A table has been prepared showing in considerable detail the taxes assessed in 1964-65 and 1965-66 on various valuations as well as the proposed taxes in accordance with this Bill. It also shows the proportions each to each, and I ask leave for it to be inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Comparative South Australian Land Taxes of Recent Years.

Valuation. \$	Tax Assessed. 1964-65. \$	1965-66. \$	Proposed. \$	Proportion of Proposed to	
				1964-65. Per cent.	1965-66. Per cent.
10,000	31.25	31.25	20.00	64	64
20,000	72.92	93.75	60.00	82	64
30,000	155.25	187.50	120.00	77	64
40,000	239.58	312.50	200.00	83	64
50,000	364.58	468.75	300.00	82	64
60,000	489.58	625.00	420.00	86	67
70,000	614.58	812.50	560.00	91	69
80,000	781.25	1,000.00	720.00	92	72
90,000	947.92	1,218.75	900.00	95	74
100,000	1,114.58	1,437.50	1,100.00	99	77
110,000	1,322.92	1,687.50	1,320.00	100	78
120,000	1,531.25	1,937.50	1,560.00	102	81
130,000	1,739.58	2,218.75	1,820.00	105	82
140,000	1,989.58	2,500.00	2,100.00	106	84
150,000	2,239.58	2,812.50	2,400.00	107	85
160,000	2,489.58	3,125.00	2,720.00	109	87
170,000	2,781.25	3,468.75	3,060.00	110	88
180,000	3,072.92	3,812.50	3,420.00	111	90
190,000	3,364.58	4,187.50	3,800.00	113	91
200,000	3,656.25	4,562.50	4,180.00	114	92
300,000	6,781.25	8,312.50	7,980.00	118	96
400,000	9,906.25	12,062.50	11,780.00	119	98
500,000	13,031.25	15,812.50	15,580.00	120	99
600,000	16,156.25	19,562.50	19,380.00	120	99
700,000	19,281.25	23,312.50	23,180.00	120	99
800,000	22,406.25	27,062.50	26,980.00	120	100
900,000	25,531.25	30,812.50	30,780.00	121	100
1,000,000	28,656.25	34,562.50	34,580.00	121	100
2,000,000	59,906.25	72,062.50	72,580.00	121	101

NOTE: Proposed tax rates are lower than 1964-65 rates below \$111,000 but higher beyond that level.
 Proposed tax rates are lower than 1965-66 rates below \$985,000 but very slightly higher beyond that level.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I also seek a head from land tax in the various Australian States.
 Leave to have inserted in Hansard, without my reading it, a further table showing the yield Leave granted.

State Land Tax—Yields per Head.

	1961-62.	1962-63.	1963-64.	1964-65.	1965-66.	1966-67.	1970-71.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
New South Wales	4.70	5.05	5.90	7.15	8.14	—	—
Victoria	5.01	5.66	5.91	6.22	6.13	—	—
Queensland	2.31	2.13	2.30	2.37	2.57	—	—
Western Australia	3.41	3.33	3.45	3.62	4.15	—	—
Tasmania	3.07	3.47	4.24	4.56	5.45	—	—
Mean five States	4.25	4.58	5.08	5.73	6.22	6.60 (a)	8.30 (a)
South Australia	4.88	4.92	4.80	4.76	5.30	7.15 (b)	6.80 (c)
Mean four States (excluding Queensland)	4.62	5.05	5.60	6.36	6.90	7.30 (a)	9.20 (a)

- (a) Assumes annual increase at the rate of 6 per cent per annum, the lowest annual rate of increase during the past four years.
- (b) In accordance with proposal now made.
- (c) Assumes the normal increase in land taxable (3 per cent over four years) and continuance of the present population rate of increase (8½ per cent over four years).

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: South Australian land tax collection was \$5.30 a head in 1965-66, whereas the average of the other five States combined in 1965-66 was about \$6.22. Allowing for the imposition of the rates now proposed, South Australia could expect to get about \$7.15 a head in 1966-67, as compared with about \$6.60 a head on average in the other States, if it is assumed that the other States experience increases in yield equal to 6 per cent a head. This rate of increase assumed for the other States is comparable with the lowest annual increase they have experienced over the past four years. This may put the South Australian figure in 1966-67 about 10 per cent above that for other States. However, there are three relevant factors to bear in mind.

First, this is the first year after the new assessment, and no valuation increases of substance are to be expected for five years. In the fifth year, because of population increases combined with only very minor increases in taxable land, the South Australian yield a head could fall by about 5 per cent. On the other hand, the general trend of increased yields in other States (which in general apply continuing revaluations year by year) could be expected to bring an increase of about 25 per cent over the period, thus far more than closing the gap and leaving the average over five years combined significantly lower in South Australia than in the other States combined. Secondly, the average for the other States is substantially affected by the low yield in Queensland arising out of the extensive leasehold system, which reduces land tax receipts but increases receipts from leasehold rents. If Queensland were excluded from the figures for other States its average would be about \$7.30 a head for 1966-67, which is about 2 per cent above the estimated South Australian yield under the new proposals for 1966-67. Thirdly, though for the time South Australian land tax yields a head may be higher than the average for the five other States, a number of other taxes and charges are lower and the revenues are urgently needed by the Government to meet necessary expenditures.

The Bill provides for the rates to apply for the five-year period of the operation of the 1965 valuation. This would appear to be consistent with the effective decision arrived at during the conference on the 1965 Bill that decided not to continue rates of tax into a period when a new valuation might reasonably call for a full review of rates. It is most

desirable for the Government, the administration and the taxpayers that there should be a good measure of continuity in these rates and, in particular, that all parties should know the anticipated rates early in the tax year and preferably before it commences. This is not to say that the Government undertakes that it will abstain from any amendment, whether by way of increase or decrease, during the five-year period should the occasion warrant variation. Any variation during that period can be made only with the consent of Parliament. The new rates are set out in clause 6, while clause 10 provides that no tax shall be payable where it would amount to less than \$2. In effect, this means that all valuations below \$1,000 will be free from tax as against the present effective exemption of \$640. While on the subject of rates I refer also to clause 7(b), which provides that in cases of partial exemption the present flat rate of 3d. in the pound will be changed to 2c for each \$10. This is, in fact, a reduction in the current rate of 36 per cent and the principal application of the partial exemption is to land used for charitable, educational and religious purposes. Partial exemption means in effect that the tax on the land concerned is confined to the minimum rate of 2c for each \$10 and that the rate does not rise progressively as the value of land held exceeds \$10,000.

I deal now with the other amendments made by the Bill. The first of these is made by clause 3, which removes from the principal Act the exclusion of forestry in the definition of "business of primary production". There appears to the Government to be no good reason for the exclusion of forestry from the definition, and its removal might well encourage landholders to establish forestry holdings.

Clause 4 provides for a complete exemption of local government authorities from tax. Most of the uses to which councils put their land are for the benefit of the area served, but the land is taxable because it does not fall into any of the categories in section 10. On the other hand, many of the parcels of land used by councils are exempted from tax because they are Crown lands dedicated pursuant to the Crown Lands Act. The amount of tax collected from local government authorities has been \$16,000 per annum for the past five years and it is estimated that, given no change in the rates of tax, it would be \$25,000 per annum for the next five years. This sum is small when compared with grants made for local government authorities from State funds.

In view of the relatively small amount of tax involved and the public nature of the uses to which local government authorities put the greater part of their taxable land, the Government has decided that they should be given a complete exemption. Clause 8 makes a necessary consequential amendment by repealing section 12b of the principal Act, which grants a partial exemption to local government bodies.

Clause 7 (a) and (b) removes the requirement for the Commissioner to publish notifications of partially exempt lands in the *Government Gazette*. Declarations of exempted land under section 10 or declared rural land under section 12c are not required to be published. The requirement in section 12a for publication is unnecessary, as the declaration is a matter between the taxpayer and the Commissioner and notice is given to the taxpayer. The provision creates unnecessary work in the department and is therefore being removed.

I deal now with section 12c of the principal Act relating to declared rural land. Administration of this section during the past five years has shown certain difficulties and anomalies that it is proposed to remove. Clause 9 (a) and (b) removes the necessity for declarations of rural land to be renewed. The Act at present provides for a quinquennial review of declarations in section 12c (3), which terminates declarations at midnight on June 30 preceding the making of quinquennial assessments. Subsection (6) (d) allows a taxpayer to avoid liability for any difference in tax by applying for a renewal before March 31 following the expiration of a declaration. The effect of these two provisions is that there can be a period of more than nine months during which the land is not declared rural land. During that period circumstances could give rise to a claim for payment of the difference in tax such as changes in use of the land or transfers. However, there is some doubt as to the power of the Commissioner to claim the tax. Quite apart from the provision for expiry, the quinquennial review by the department must be made in the course of the general assessment of values, and any changed circumstance justifying revocation of a declaration can be acted upon at that time. Experience in 1965 has shown that almost every owner of declared rural land has requested a renewal, and there appears no reason for retaining the requirement of a specific application. Some few owners who do not wish to have a declaration continued are given the right to apply for

revocation by new subsection (4) (c) inserted by clause 9 (d).

Another anomaly relates to the provision of section 12c (3) for declared land to be taxed on its primary production value from June 30 preceding the date of the declaration. That provision was necessary in 1961 to ensure that the concession would apply for the financial year 1961-62. It is anomalous that conditions of ownership, use and value at midnight on June 30 determine the liability and amount of tax for the ensuing financial year in all cases except for declared rural land. Land that may qualify for declaration at the date of application may not have qualified at the beginning of the financial year, yet it must be taxed as if it had. On the other hand, land that qualifies for exemption under section 10 during the financial year is exempted only for future financial years. The retrospective application of declarations has served the purpose for which it was first enacted, and this will now be repealed to be consistent with other provisions of the Act. Accordingly, clause 9 (e) removes the retrospective provision in the last sentence of subsection (3) and at the same time removes the provision for the automatic expiry of declarations prior to the quinquennial assessment.

I deal now with clause 9 (d), which amends section 12c (4) by adding to the grounds on which the Commissioner may revoke a declaration. The first addition is the transfer of the land by the taxpayer to any other person other than by gift to a spouse, parent, grandparent or descendant or a person in whose ownership the land becomes exempt or partially exempt. The other addition is the provision to which I have already referred enabling revocation upon the application of the taxpayer. Section 12c (4) of the principal Act empowers revocation only on the ground of a change in the use of the land. The requirements of this subsection and of subsection (6) (c) are such that departmental procedures are similar in both cases. In dealing with transfers of land requiring payment of the tax, it has been found to be of benefit for both the new owner and the department to deal with the continuance of the declaration on the basis of an application for a declaration by the new owner. Power to revoke the declaration on transfer of the land would remove any uncertainty as to the procedure, which has been found by experience to be practical.

It will also be observed that new paragraph (b) of subsection (4) provides that the Commissioner may not revoke a declaration where a

transf er is to a person in whose ownership the land becomes exempt or partially exempt from land tax. Cases have arisen where transfers of land by gift to religious and charitable organizations and Government and local government authorities have caused the difference in tax on declared rural land to become payable. It is anomalous that tax should be payable in these cases and indeed it is possible that an owner may be dissuaded from donating land for a worthwhile purpose because of a consequential claim for the payment of tax.

The amendments made by clause 9 (e) are consequential amendments to section 12c (6) of the principal Act. This paragraph repeals paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of that subsection dealing, respectively, with renewals, transfers, and non-applications for renewals. Paragraph (f) makes another consequential amendment to section 12c (6) in relation to the liability of religious, charitable, Government and local government authorities.

The last amendment of substance is made by clause 13. Section 52 of the principal Act provides for a review of an objection against an assessment by a valuation board. Considerable cost is incurred in preparing for and holding a sitting of the board. There have been cases in which sittings have been arranged and the taxpayer has failed to attend, with the result that costs and inconvenience have been incurred for no purpose. The only penalty now provided is the forfeiture of the taxpayer's \$1 deposit. It is considered desirable that the board should be empowered to award costs in its discretion, and clause 13 (b) so provides. Paragraph (a) makes a consequential amendment.

Clauses 5, 10, 11, 12 and 14 make necessary amendments to the principal Act consequent upon the introduction of decimal currency. In closing, I take the opportunity of saying that this amending Bill has been introduced at an early stage of the session for administrative reasons. Until rates are fixed, the department will be unable to assess and collect the tax and it is important that the rates be fixed early so that collection may be made within the current financial year. I therefore ask honourable members to give this matter their urgent attention. I conclude by saying that this is a financial matter important to the Government. Therefore, I ask the Leader of the Opposition to give it special attention and be prepared to continue the debate next Tuesday.

Mr. HALL secured the adjournment of the debate.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE) BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from July 19. Page 548.)

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS (Minister of Works): When granted leave to continue my remarks, I said I would investigate some matters raised by honourable members, and I have now considered them. The chief points raised concerned variations in assessments in the course of a year, right of entry, and country lands. First, I draw attention to section 73 (2) of the Waterworks Act, which provides:

If such land or premises were at the commencement of the then current year assessable under this Act, the owner or occupier thereof shall thereupon be liable to pay and be charged with the whole amount of the water rate for that year; but if they have become so assessable since the commencement of that year, the owner or occupier shall be liable to pay and be charged with only such proportionate part of that year's water rate as to the Commissioner seems just.

This was the original intention, that the amount payable should be proportionate to that part of the year for which the assessment was made. This has always been the practice and it is desirable that it should continue to be. The position may arise that at the beginning of a year an assessment is made on a building which, during the course of the year, is demolished, for one reason or another. In that case, the value of the property decreases and the ratepayer concerned should enjoy the advantage of the decreased assessment. I suggest that the inclusion of one word would rectify the position to the satisfaction of the House. A charge for water will be made for the proportion of the year that seems just. This is a reasonable approach.

The member for Gumeracha (Hon. Sir Thomas Playford) during the course of this debate said that he had introduced Bills giving right of entry into private houses, for which there was always a reason; there should be good reason for granting such a power. Honourable members realize that today in the metropolitan area there are some houses of early vintage which, from the outside, do not appear to be very valuable but which, inside, have all the modern conveniences not visible from the outside.

Mr. Quirke: Are modern conveniences inside a house valued for the purpose of land tax?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I am glad the honourable member has raised this point because, if he looks at the Acts, he will see

that the Land Tax Act contains a provision similar to that in the Bill before us. The Local Government Act has a similar provision.

Mr. Quirke: That does not mean that I favour it.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: It means it is there, and I believe it is necessary because, if we do not have this right and an assessment is made by guesswork, what then? It is subject to a court of inquiry, and the department will be asked, "How did you make the assessment?" The reply will be, "I was denied the right to enter." It will then be said, "Therefore, you have not made an assessment on the correct basis", and the assessment will be disallowed.

Mr. Quirke: How much money would you lose if you ignored the contents of all houses? You are not getting much out of this lot, as it is.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The aim is to be correct and not to make an unfair assessment at any time.

Mr. Quirke: I say it is wrong to go inside a house.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The honourable member may think it is wrong, but the Government in which he served did not think it was wrong.

Mr. Quirke: That does not make any difference to me.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The honourable member gets pig-headed about things, and he is not being logical.

Mr. Quirke: I am going to be obstinate about it.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: That will not be anything unusual for the honourable member, either. I do not mind a person being obstinate or critical—

Mr. Quirke: I object to any Government, whatever its political colour, invading a house for the purpose of making an assessment.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Well, anybody is entitled to his opinion, be it reasonable or unreasonable. All the Government wants is to be fair and just to all people and to make not incorrect assessments on an assumption but correct assessments on an investigation. This the previous Governments of past years desired to do, and accordingly they wrote a similar provision into other Acts. We believe on investigation that this should be done with the least possible inconvenience to all persons concerned, and accordingly we intend at a later stage to tidy up the thing a little in order that the occupiers will not be

inconvenienced unduly. We intend to make it necessary for advice to be given prior to an inspection being made.

Mr. Quirke: I still don't agree with what you intend doing.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I know that some people are disagreeable, but we cannot help that.

Mr. Quirke: I am not disagreeable: I am the most pleasant man in the House.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Some statements amaze me.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister may resume addressing the Chair.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I did not know I was addressing anybody, Mr. Speaker; I thought the honourable member for Burra must have got leave to continue his remarks. In keeping with a desire to make the proper assessments, we intend to give reasonable notice to people that the assessment is to be made. We also intend to take steps to see that unauthorized persons are prevented from posing as assessors. I think the most appropriate time for me to make any further necessary remarks on that aspect is in Committee.

I turn now to the question raised by several members opposite regarding the rating of country lands. After considering this matter at length, I submit that there are only two practicable methods of operation. One method is to bill quarterly, with ratepayers being required to pay at least one-quarter of their yearly rate, but with the option to pay in full at any time. The department, when submitting the first quarterly account, intends to advise people that should they desire to pay annually they may do so by paying the full year's rate in advance. The alternative method would be to bill yearly at the normal time, with no option being given to pay quarterly. The department must have a basis on which it can determine whether a ratepayer's account is overdue so that follow-up action can be taken, and I maintain that in this respect it is not practicable to render quarterly accounts unless ratepayers are required to pay at least the amounts billed. It is similarly impracticable to render an annual account if ratepayers, on receipt of their accounts, can claim the right to pay, say, half the total amount by means of a further quarterly payment. In the interests of all ratepayers, it is desirable to have a uniform approach to this method of rating.

The proposals mean that a ratepayer will be required to pay only 50 per cent of his annual rate at a time when under the previous billing

system he would have paid the total amount. I consider this Bill to be most important, and I hope that I have not failed to give the House all possible information about it. In conclusion, I say to the member for Burra that we have always been pretty good pals and that I appreciate his friendship. I grant him the right (which he would exercise in any event) to differ from me at any time he feels inclined, and I know he grants me that right.

The Hon. B. H. Teusner: Do I understand you to say that a ratepayer can pay a year's rate in a lump sum at any time during the year, or must it be paid in advance?

Mr. Jennings: It is always paid in advance now.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The ratepayer will receive a quarterly account, and if he so desires at that stage he can pay in full an amount equal to four times the amount shown on the quarterly notice.

Mr. Hall: That would be paying nine months in advance.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Yes. We desire to have a uniform system. I commend the Bill to the House, and I hope it will have a reasonably speedy passage.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 3 passed.

Clause 4—“Power to inspect land and premises and assessment books.”

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS (Minister of Works): I move:

In paragraph (e) to strike out “and” last occurring.

This amendment is moved to enable the insertion of new paragraph (g):

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The amendments that the Minister proposes should be on members' files, because many members are interested in the matter and would like to understand the position. I thought we would have more information from the Government regarding the clause with which we are dealing.

Amendment carried.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: We have not sufficient copies of the amendments to enable them to be supplied to all members. I assure the member for Gumeracha that the last thing we want to do is force this Bill through without its receiving proper consideration. Accordingly, I ask that progress be reported.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ABORIGINAL LANDS TRUST BILL.

Adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs:

That this Bill be now read a second time, which the Hon. D. N. Brookman had moved to amend by striking out all words after “That” and inserting “the Bill be withdrawn and that a Select Committee of the House be appointed to inquire into and report upon all matters appertaining to the occupancy of Aboriginal reserves”.

(Continued from July 20. Page 608.)

Mr. LANGLEY (Unley): I oppose the amendment moved by the member for Alexandra. It is high time the Aboriginal people were given their rightful place in the community, because they have been kept in the background for a long time. The member for Alexandra has said certain things regarding the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and the member for Gawler has referred to those statements. I consider that it would be better for everybody concerned if the member for Alexandra stopped showing his jealousy by rubbishing the Minister, who works hard and is held in high esteem by people outside.

The Bills he has introduced show that he is energetic and we know how well he is able to answer questions addressed to him. I am not in any way perturbed by the type of criticism that has been made, because such conduct has been going on for years and it is like water on a duck's back. If the member for Alexandra thinks he will gain anything by his statements, I assure him that they will not affect me.

Anyone who has travelled overseas has seen the indigenous people of other countries. We know that there is racial prejudice in various parts of the world. The Zulus of South Africa have not advanced beyond the stage of buying wives and indulging in other primitive habits. The arrival of Europeans over a period of years has had an influence in various countries but we find native people in places such as Durban being kept down at all times. They are employed as servants and storemen and are not given an opportunity to become fully educated or to mix with other people. Natives work in many large gold mines in South Africa. They do not receive high wages, and they endure poor conditions. They are housed in poor circumstances and after a period of work return to their villages with the money paid to them. Most of the women work as servants in houses in the cities. The member for Angas (Hon. B. H. Teusner) recently visited the West Indies as

a delegate from this Parliament, and he must have seen many things that would be helpful to our Aborigines. In the West Indies, colour and creed are disregarded and the people mix freely, so that it is possible to find a famous sportsman or a well-known diplomat talking to the ordinary villagers. At the legation in Canberra its representatives were held in high esteem by the local people, because they had learned to conduct themselves as an example to their people.

Mr. Hughes: And so would Aborigines if given the opportunity.

Mr. LANGLEY: Of course. It has been shown in the West Indies what can be done when this happens.

Mr. Hurst: Without being personal, would you say that some of them were as competent as honourable members opposite?

Mr. LANGLEY: They are as competent as anyone in Australia. Sir Frank Worrell graduated from a university in England: he is a charming person and is welcome in any company wherever he may be. He was given the opportunity and grasped it, and now enjoys a good reputation. People are cricket-minded in the West Indies, but care is taken of young people by their being given a reasonable education and a reasonable living standard. A difference does exist, but it is not pronounced in any way and is confined to a minority. The young people receive education and many of them continue their studies. That is what should happen to Aborigines in this State, as they have been here for many years but have not been given the opportunities of education to enable them to succeed.

Mr. Hughes: They are a very ingenious race: otherwise, they would not have been able to survive.

Mr. LANGLEY: Yes. The Aboriginal population declined at one stage but is now increasing. Members have the opportunity to meet these people when they travel, and they should see that Aborigines are able to have the advantage of education so that they will be acceptable to the community. If they were placed in their rightful position they would be much better off than they are today, as many of them, when given the opportunity, are equal to Europeans. We welcome migrants from many countries, but when they first arrive they have different habits, and we take some time to become accustomed to them. This applies also to Aborigines. Older people find it difficult to learn, because they have lived in a different world, but the younger ones learn our language and mix with our people, and

often intermarry. The younger children will take care of the future, and what they learn by education they will pass on to others and so assist them. Where once their native language was used in the home, many of these people now speak English, and they are welcomed by us.

Mr. Hughes: Education is the most important thing.

Mr. LANGLEY: Yes, and the sooner we start to educate them the better it will be for everyone.

Mr. Ferguson: That can be done without establishing a lands trust.

Mr. LANGLEY: If these people had been given the opportunity many years ago they would now be good citizens, but they were denied it. The present Government is doing something about the position.

Mr. McKee: The member for Yorke Peninsula (Mr. Ferguson) said that it could be done without this Bill. Why didn't his Party do it?

Mr. LANGLEY: Land has been used by people who have made much money from areas that originally belonged to the Aborigines. Only a minority of Aborigines will find it difficult to adjust.

Mr. Broomhill: They've never been encouraged.

Mr. LANGLEY: No.

Mr. Hurst: This Bill will restore their confidence.

Mr. LANGLEY: Young Aboriginal ladies in my district have received education and mixed with others, and they have a good future ahead of them. I am sure that they and others will do much good work among the less privileged. Aborigines are recognized for their skill at sport—football, cricket and soccer—and for their academic ability in universities. They are now being given the chance to take their rightful place in the community, instead of being down-trodden as they have been for many years. As I have said, Aborigines in the cities today will play a great part in the welfare of their kinfolk throughout the State. The Minister has examined all the factors associated with the Bill and, despite what the Opposition may say, he will have a satisfactory answer to every question.

Mr. McAnaney: For what big changes will this Bill be responsible?

Mr. LANGLEY: I am sure that if Opposition members were as vocal on this matter when they were in Government as they are at present, the lot of the Aborigines would have been

improved long before this. Any move to improve their status in the community will have to be gradual.

Mr. McAnaney: Tell us what big change the Bill will effect.

Mr. LANGLEY: We at least have a Minister who will take an interest—

Mr. McAnaney: He's a liability!

Mr. LANGLEY: He may be, as far as the Opposition is concerned. Members opposite are not equipped to argue with him. The Minister is an excellent debater, and I think the Opposition is jealous. In a few years the Government will be proud that this Bill was responsible for benefiting the Aboriginal. The Minister has these people at heart; he knows their requirements, and has studied the situation over many years. Aborigines will eventually be grateful for the rightful place in the community they will assume as a result of this Bill.

Mr. McKee: They will know they have someone they can trust, too.

Mr. LANGLEY: I am sure of that. I noticed an article in today's *Advertiser*—

Mr. McAnaney: Do you always believe what you read in the paper?

Mr. LANGLEY: Perhaps not, but I am sure that the article to which I refer may be

correct and that if it is not the Opposition will say so. Most of the people who were questioned for the article were tight-lipped, but two were game enough to speak frankly about the position. When restrictions are lifted, a tendency exists to overdo things.

Mr. Nankivell: What are you talking about?

Mr. LANGLEY: I am referring to liquor.

Mr. Ferguson: We are supposed to be talking about the lands trust.

Mr. LANGLEY: I am talking about Aborigines. The statements made by the two people to whom I have referred are totally different from what we see in the press; they said that their people were generally well-behaved and created no problems. Many of us tend to kick over the traces at times, and the press will always look to the activities of the minority for a story. The two people concerned admitted that it may take some time to adjust to new conditions. I support the Bill.

Mr. FERGUSON secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.40 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, July 26, at 2 p.m.