

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, September 21, 1966.

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

QUESTIONS

STATE FINANCES.

Mr. HALL: My question concerns the alarming drift in the State's finances as revealed in the latest Treasury statement, which has been reported in this afternoon's newspaper. For the first two months of the year 1965 the deficit was \$3,712,000, but for the first two months of this year the deficit was \$7,606,000. The position of the account in the two years at these particular times shows that at June 30, 1965, there was a surplus of \$1,222,526; at August 31, 1965, the deficit was \$2,487,474; at June 30 this year the deficit was \$5,611,610; and at August 31 it was \$13,217,610. Can the Treasurer say what measures have been taken to cover this lag of revenue, and when does any amount temporarily borrowed have to be repaid?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The recorded deficit on Consolidated Revenue Account of the State for August, 1966, was \$6,410,000 as compared with the deficit in August, 1965, of \$3,250,000. The month of August is normally a particularly unfavourable month as a result of the very heavy interest commitments at that time because there is an additional fortnightly pay for teachers drawn early to cover the school holidays, and because the annual revenues from water rates, land tax and grain transportation have not yet begun to run strongly. The deficit for the two months to the end of August, 1966, was \$7,606,000 compared with \$3,712,000 for the first two months of 1965-66.

The figures for the past two months contained a number of unusual features. Because of a change in billing procedure, the revenue for the two months for water was lower than in the previous year by about \$1,000,000. This is purely temporary, as over the full year an increased revenue of something over \$2,000,000 is expected. Also, because of actual dates of receipt from accounts, the rail receipts for the two months were down by about \$840,000, although actual recorded earnings were down only about \$270,000, and this was mainly due to reduced grain movements. This, too, is a temporary feature, as eventual rail revenues are expected to be above those of last year.

At the same time, education expenditures for the two months showed an increase over the

previous year of about \$2,250,000. This included in August, 1966, as well as the customary earlier pay for teachers, an extra fortnightly pay for the Education Department's non-teaching staff brought to account on Wednesday, August 31 this year but on Wednesday, September 1, last year. This involved an abnormal \$600,000 approximately which, of course, will be subsequently balanced out. A further \$750,000 (approximately) is accounted for by the fact that payments of university grants were abnormally low during the first two months of last financial year, and higher than average this year. These, too, will ultimately balance out. Payments for hospitals and other medical and health provisions were up by just over \$1,000,000 for the first two months this financial year, and as yet these figures do not reflect the Government's proposal to meet some hospital building grants from Loan Account. Moreover, the public accounts generally do not as yet reflect the measures proposed by the Government to secure extra revenues, but they do reflect the additional expenditure arising out of the new basic wage and out of the requirement for extended education, hospital and other services which have made the additional revenue proposals necessary.

LARGS NORTH SEWERAGE.

Mr. HURST: Streets in the Largs North area, including Strathfield Terrace, Katoomba Terrace, and Galway Avenue, have not yet been connected to a sewer main. Having previously raised this matter with the Minister of Works, I was informed some time ago that he expected this work to commence in about September. Can the Minister say whether this work has been commenced and, if he cannot, can he say how long it will be delayed, and why?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The honourable member has anticipated the answer. I regret that the work has not commenced, but I assure the honourable member that it will commence not later than the middle of October. It was intended to commence the work this month but, because difficult soil structures were encountered in the Draper area, the work was delayed.

SCHOOL WINDOWS.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yesterday, the Minister of Education answered a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition concerning reductions in the remuneration paid to contractors cleaning schools, because it was no longer desired to clean the windows of such schools. I have received a letter from

one of the contractors concerned, accompanied by a copy of her contract. Having perused the correspondence, I believe that the reduction communicated to her is out of all proportion to the reduction in the work required. The contract, of which I have the original here, states that the contractor shall do the following: (1) sweep the school and out-offices thoroughly every evening after school, using damp sawdust, and to dust the same every morning before school hours with a duster damped with disinfectant; (2) wash all slate, brick, or cement passages, and also the lavatories, every week; (3) scrub the out-offices every week; (4) lay fires when required, and to see them properly extinguished at night; (5) clean the fireplaces and windows when directed; (6) to wash the school dusters; (7) scrub (and the word "scrub" is in a different type for emphasis) all floors, using soap, three times during the year; (8) sweep the walls and scrub all desks and wash internal paintwork three times during the year; (9) prepare rooms for any meeting to be held for school purposes, except evening school, for which special arrangements must be made by the teacher thereof; (10) see that all windows, doors, and gates are properly fastened before leaving the premises; (11) all material required (except light) will be found by the department, but the contractor will be required to make good any loss or damage beyond fair wear and tear caused by her or her servants: all work must be carried out to the satisfaction of the head teacher; (12) payment is in accordance with the area cleaned, and may be varied without notice conformably with changes in area; and (13) the contract will be, in the first instance, for a period of one month; after the expiration of that period if it has been satisfactorily carried out, it will be for a period of two years . . . That is signed by the contractor and the secretary and is noted by the headmaster, whose signature appears. In replying to a question yesterday, the Minister of Education said that the contracts had been reduced *pro rata* to the area of windows cleaned, which is in conformity with item No. 12 of the contract—at least it is verbally in conformity with the contract. The Minister also said:

There seems to be nothing wrong, if windows are not cleaned, in deducting from the total figure the amount relating to those windows, as that is a perfectly just procedure.

The contract does not call for itemized tenders in respect of the various items in the contract, and no indication is included in the contract as

to the value the department puts on the cleaning of windows as such. Indeed, the cleaning of windows is grouped with the cleaning of the fireplaces in item No. 5. I understand that, in any case, contractors are not required to clean windows more than three times a year during the term breaks. This particular contract was reduced from \$1,822.32 to \$1,351.55 which, in round figures, is a reduction of \$471 a year, or about 26 per cent. It appears that, taking into account the work involved in the total contract as signed by the contractor, and bearing in mind that an enormous amount of work has to be done each day, there is additional substantial work to be done in washing, cleaning and scrubbing on a weekly basis. Also, as other items need scrubbing on a terminal basis, it seems that the calculation of the reduction is out of all proportion to the various items in the contract. Therefore, will the Minister personally look into this matter again? At the moment, I am not quarrelling with the decision not to have windows cleaned, although I think that is unfortunate. Nevertheless, I cannot believe that the reduction is in line with the actual difference in the work to be done. Will the Minister bring down for my information (if he does not wish to publicize it I am prepared to look at it confidentially) a calculation in respect of a typical contract so that I can see just how the department has arrived at the reduction in the contract payments and what relation it has to the hours of work done and the labour employed on each item? Also, will the Minister submit these matters to an independent accountant (perhaps somebody from the Prices Commissioner's office) to check whether or not these deductions are to the extent that has apparently been notified to the contractors, and whether they are, in fact, justified?

The SPEAKER: Before I see the Minister of Education, I should like to appeal again for members to co-operate by confining their explanations of questions to matters that are necessary to make the questions understood. I believe there is a tendency for members to make representations that are not envisaged by the Standing Orders. If members refer to the Standing Orders, they will see that information is not to be given in questions that seek information, although I appreciate that if a Minister is to understand a question some explanation and information must be given. I ask honourable members to co-operate with me instead of my having to interrupt them,

whilst they are asking questions, to ask them to confine their questions to the permissible limits.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I will examine the matters raised. The payment for window cleaning has been on the basis of the area of the windows in a particular school, and, as the honourable member knows, the area of windows in different schools varies greatly, as instanced by the differing amounts of deductions that have been made in respect of certain cleaners' contracts. I emphasized, when discussing with my officers the question of what deduction should be made, that it should only be in accordance with the amount paid for the cleaning of windows on that area basis. I have been assured that this has been done precisely and only in that regard. Finally, I point out that the making of these contracts was done before I became the Minister; therefore I do not think that I, or the present Government, can be held responsible for any anomaly that may exist in those contracts.

MEAT PRICES.

Mr. McKEE: When comparing the wholesale and retail price of beef, I noticed in Tuesday's *Advertiser* the report of beef sold at Nelsons and Producers Meat Markets S.A. Ltd. last Monday showed that prime 200 lb. to 250 lb. brought top price of 32c a pound; 300 lb. to 400 lb. brought from 25c to 30c; and manufacturing types from 13c to 18c. On checking prices in a city butcher shop, I found that T-bone steak sold at 70c a pound; blade steak at 65c; braising at 59c; and shin at 48c, which was the cheapest. No rump or undercut prices were displayed. Veal is in a similar situation: carcasses from 30 lb. to 40 lb. brought 16c; 40 lb. to 50 lb., 18c; 50 lb. to 60 lb., 23½c to 24½c; 60 lb. to 70 lb., 26c; 80 lb. to 90 lb., 27c; and 150 lb. to 200 lb., 32½c to 34½c. Veal cutlets were selling in shops today at 95c a pound. As there seems to be an unusual difference between wholesale and retail prices, will the Premier, as Minister in charge of prices, consult with the Prices Commissioner about this matter?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I shall be pleased to ascertain the exact position.

AGRICULTURAL GRANT.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my question about the use to which Commonwealth extension service grants will be put?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: The Director of Agriculture reports:

The honourable member refers to a press statement published in the *Advertiser* on July 13, in which it is reported that Mr. Adermann announced in Perth that \$255,000 had been granted to this department under an expanded Commonwealth Extension Services Grant.

The honourable member points out that this figure does not equate with the breakdown subsequently issued by the honourable the Minister. The grant of \$255,000 is made up as follows:

	\$
Original Commonwealth Extension Services Grant	54,000
Original Dairy Extension Industry Grant	50,000
New extension grant	151,000

1. The original extension grant has been fully committed over recent years. It covers such items as the poultry improvement plan, employment of officers engaged in extension work, publications, extension aids and the departmental exhibit at the Royal Show.

2. The dairy grant is used for the employment of personnel, field demonstration and pasture trials, publications, analyses of records and herd recording.

3. The recently approved expansion of the extension grant has been allocated as follows:

(a) Improvement and extensions to Regional Research Centres: \$48,000.

These funds will be spent this year for the building of additional facilities at Kybybolite, Parndana and Loxton, the purchase of laboratory and farm equipment for various centres, and the extension of library facilities at centres.

(b) Appointment of research and extension personnel: \$28,000.

Arrangements are in train for appointments to be made under this heading distributed between the various industry branches of the department.

(c) Extension Services: \$37,000.

Arrangements are well in hand for the appointment of about 6 additional officers to the Extension Branch and for printing and publications and the purchase of extension aids and equipment.

(d) Training: \$32,000.

These funds will be used mainly to enable a big expansion in the number of cadetships in various categories during the coming academic year. Some funds will be used to cover the costs of sending officers to interstate schools and conferences and for inservice training courses.

(e) Data Processing: \$6,000.

This amount will assist in converting departmental experimental and survey records to the new computer.

Action is being taken to apply the \$151,000 during the present financial year under the above approved projects. It is expected that the allocations for next year will exceed the above totals, and it is proposed that all three grants will be combined into a single Commonwealth grant.

In his question the honourable member said there was a difference between the amounts shown, but \$6,000 for data processing was not originally mentioned.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

Mr. CUMBE: Yesterday I asked the Premier about the South Australian unemployment rate, which, unfortunately, is the highest in Australia and the Premier said that we could look forward to a brighter outlook. However, statements were made earlier today by four prominent trade union officers, each disagreeing with the Premier's remarks. Those officers are the Acting Secretary of the Carpenters' and Joiners' Union (Mr. Ellis); the Secretary of the Bricklayers Union (Mr. Lutz); the Secretary of the Transport Workers Union (Mr. Nyland); and the Secretary of the Vehicle Builders' Union (Mr. Harrison). Mr. Ellis said:

Mr. Walsh should straighten out his facts and check them with trade union officials before making such a statement.

In view of the considered statements by responsible trade union officers, does the Premier still maintain that what he said yesterday was factual, and will he now seriously consider taking action on the unemployment position?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Taking the latter part of the question first (that is, whether I can rectify the position), the answer is still the same today as it was yesterday, unless I can obtain Loan money additional to the sum approved by this House. I do not intend to go beyond that expenditure unless something additional is forthcoming. I do not retract one word of what I said earlier about housing in this State. I believe that the information I gave yesterday was reasonably correct, and that what the Minister of Transport said was also accurate. In comparing the Minister's remarks with the position concerning the vehicle builders' organization, I point out that the estimates made may not have been complete, but that is the only matter on which doubt may exist. I do not intend to be involved in the question of trade union officials at this stage, or to reflect on union members in any way. I do not know their position, and they certainly have not reported it to me.

Mr. McANANEY: Yesterday certain statements were made about the unemployment position in South Australia, and the increase in the numbers of unemployed was attributed to dismissals in the motor body building

industry. As these dismissals took place on August 31, and September 3 and 4, there was no possibility of those figures being included in the unemployment figures for August. Therefore, does the Premier consider that the statement relating these dismissals to the unemployment situation was reasonable? During August, new car registrations in South Australia were about 25 per cent less than the registrations for the previous year and a similar position applied in New South Wales, although some States had an increase in new car registrations. Will the Premier comment on this or say whether inquiries have been made into the matter?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: It appears that the honourable member has given me some valuable information, and I do not object to that. However, as I have already answered a question on much the same lines this afternoon, I do not intend to repeat that reply.

RESERVOIRS.

Mr. LANGLEY: Can the Minister of Works say how much water is held in the State's reservoirs, and whether the present holdings are an improvement on last year's?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The total holding in the metropolitan reservoirs at 8.30 this morning was 16,567,000,000 gallons, an increase of 286,000,000 gallons having been recorded over the previous 24 hours. This compares with last year's corresponding figure of 16,539,000,000 gallons. As the recent intake is only small, compared with the capacity of the reservoirs, pumping will have to continue. However, following a long discussion that I had this morning with the Director and Engineer-in-Chief and his chief assistant, we are confident that restrictions will not have to be imposed, subject to the public co-operating as they did last year.

ECHUNGA HOUSING.

Mr. SHANNON: I think fairly early last year I asked the Premier to investigate a request I had received for housing in Echunga. Having been reminded that the Housing Trust made the investigation and, I believe, purchased land for the purpose, I point out that no houses have yet been built. As at least five married couples in permanent employment in the area would, I am sure, be satisfactory tenants for the Housing Trust, can the Premier say whether the houses will be commenced soon? I point out that a certain

employer is embarrassed in his efforts to hold staff.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I shall refer this matter to the General Manager of the Housing Trust, and bring down a report as soon as possible.

WILLS.

Mrs. BYRNE: Can the Attorney-General say whether a will made by an immigrant in his or her country before migrating to Australia is valid in the event of the death of that person in South Australia?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Wills Act Amendment Act passed last year by the Parliament validated wills made by persons overseas, which were valid according to the law of the country in which they were made. Therefore, if the will in question were valid at the time it was made in the country in which it was made, it would be recognized in South Australia as a valid will.

DESALINATION.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: Yesterday, during a conversation with the Minister of Works about desalination I handed him a book on seawater conversion by Havens Industries. As the Minister undertook to have his officers examine the publication, has he now any further information?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: As promised, I took up this matter with the Engineer-in-Chief and his chief assistant this morning, and was pleased to learn that they had received the pamphlet referred to by the honourable member and that their department had undertaken some studies on this type of desalination equipment. The honourable member may appreciate that this small plant is more suitable for treating bore or well water. The Australian Mineral Development Laboratories are undertaking extensive studies with this plant and, in the hope that satisfactory results are obtained, the department intends to experiment further in certain areas containing salty underground water supplies. Although the exact locations have not yet been determined, I have suggested that experiments be made at Kimba, in the honourable member's district.

CHOWILLA DAM.

Mr. CURREN: The total area to be inundated by the Chowilla dam when it is built is about 339,000 acres, much of which is fairly flat. In addition, much of the area of the upper reaches of the dam and the area

bordering its perimeter will be covered by water to a depth of only a few feet, grading off to nil (some of the area being covered by only a few inches of water). With the object of confining water to as small an area as possible to reduce overall evaporation, I think it would be practicable to construct a series of bankettes to a height of a few feet. Will the Minister of Works have this suggestion investigated, and ascertain whether it would be practicable and economical?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The honourable member will appreciate that I am not an engineer and have not considered this suggestion. However, I should think that the authorities concerned would have investigated every aspect. In case they have not, I will refer the matter to the department and ascertain whether the suggestion is practicable. Naturally, the department is anxious to conserve as much water as possible, and is particularly concerned with eliminating evaporation losses.

BRUCE BOXES.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: As I am informed that the Agriculture Department has issued a brochure entitled *The Bruce Box—A Success Story*, can the Minister of Agriculture explain the purpose of issuing this brochure, and say whether his colleague the Minister of Lands, who in this House represents a forestry area, was consulted before its issue?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: A report from the Citrus Packaging Committee, associated with the Citrus Organization Committee, has been issued. As I do not have that report with me at present, I shall obtain it for the honourable member.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I refer to the September issue of the *South Australian Journal of Agriculture*, at page 67 on which appears the statement "New leaflets available". It refers to a number of new leaflets, and one of them, leaflet No. 3835, is described as follows: "The Bruce Box—A Success Story." At the bottom of that advertisement appear the words:

To obtain your copies, write to the Department of Agriculture, Box 901E, G.P.O., Adelaide. Can the Minister of Agriculture say whether the Agriculture Department is in fact trying to sell the Bruce box to the fruit industry in South Australia? If it is not trying to do that, why issue this leaflet; I presume at taxpayers' expense?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: The member for Gumeracha seems to have a personal axe to grind in this matter. It seems that he is concerned that the manufacture of Bruce boxes will prevent him, as an apple grower, from getting secondhand boxes that were formerly used by the citrus industry. This article was printed in the *Journal of Agriculture* a long time ago. Quite frequently, as articles are printed in the journal they are then put into leaflet form and are available to members of the public who are interested in them. A Citrus Packaging Committee has been set up along the Murray River. This committee, which consists of representatives of packing houses and a horticultural officer from the Agriculture Department, has recommended this type of container. Following that, a survey has been made by the Citrus Organization Committee on packing methods. In my earlier answer I offered to get for the honourable member details of this survey which would cover the situation relating to the citrus industry. Having said that, I have nothing to add until I have got that for the honourable member.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Will the Minister ascertain from the Woods and Forests Department the number of men and women employed in the timber mills at Mount Burr, Kalangadoo and Mount Gambier in making cases for the fruit industry and, if that information is available, will he issue a leaflet and make it available to show another success story of the forestry industry and of the employment it provides in this State? Will the Minister of Agriculture undertake to do this to counteract perhaps the erroneous impression that we are fostering an industry in the Philippines at the expense of an industry in South Australia?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I will certainly obtain a report from the Conservator of Forests concerning the number of his employees. What happens after that, we shall see when the time comes.

UREA.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: The Minister of Agriculture has been good enough to intimate that he now has a reply to a question I asked recently about the latest developments in urea for stock feeding. Could he give that reply?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I have received the following report from the Chief Inspector of Stock:

Despite reports in the South Australian rural press of remarkable benefits following the feeding of urea and molasses mixtures to sheep

and cattle, it is advised that there is no experimental evidence to back these claims made for feeding of urea. All claims made for benefits from the feeding of urea are based on uncontrolled observations. In all cases, there have been associated factors which could have been responsible for any improvement which may have occurred. In assessing the value of urea, it is important to determine whether the responses claimed are in fact owing to the urea and not to the molasses or copper and cobalt supplements which are usually supplied with the urea. Past experience has shown good results to be claimed for vitamins, minerals and other substances which results have not been backed by properly conducted trials, and which within a few years have ceased to be accepted. Properly based trials by this and other departments have failed to show an economical advantage to follow the use of urea except in certain cases in stall fed stock kept on low protein high carbohydrate diets. A number of reports of mortalities associated with urea feeding have been received. It is the opinion of this department that urea fed to grazing sheep and cattle will not give economic responses in this State as measured by increased animal production. This opinion is shared with the Agriculture Departments in Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales for the southern areas of that State. It is noted that urea has a place in the removal of straw from stubbles where burning is either not suitable or desirable.

TEA TREE GULLY COUNCIL.

Mr. RODDA: A former constituent of mine (Mr. Braunack) was offered employment as a tractor driver with the Tea Tree Gully council. Mr. Braunack, his wife and three children had previously rented a house at Naracoorte, and they bought a house at Tea Tree Gully on terms with certain commitments. Over the weekend he moved his wife and family and their furniture to the new house; on Monday he reported to the council for work, as arranged, and was informed that the job was not available because of a shortage of funds. All is not lost, however, as fortunately his wife has been able to obtain employment as a teacher at the Campbelltown school, where she will commence duty next Monday. Can the Premier say whether there is a lack of funds for this council, or is this matter the concern only of the council? Also, will he examine the matter to see whether something can be done?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I assume this is a matter entirely for the council. If the council does not have sufficient funds to meet its requirements, I am afraid the Government is not able to assist it. Most councils have an opportunity, from year to year, to present a case to the Government for certain Loan money. However, this money is not always

available. I will try to assist by having an investigation made to see whether something can be done.

GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY.

Mrs. STEELE: Last weekend the *Sunday Mail* announced the winners of its garden competition and the winning gardens, being open to the public, attracted big crowds. Because it was thought that a colour film of these gardens would provide material suitable for inclusion in any composite film used for attracting tourists to South Australia, an approach was made to the Tourist Bureau. However, the reply was that the only film covering such subjects was that made every two years at the time of the Festival of Arts and that, in any case, the bureau planned its programme a year in advance and was therefore not interested. Can the Premier, as the Minister responsible for the Tourist Bureau, discuss this matter with the Director with a view to publicizing this aspect of the State's attractions and including such coverage in any future planning by the Bureau?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I am somewhat surprised at the reply received by the honourable member from the Director.

Mrs. Steele: I did not receive it personally.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I believe this is a suitable occasion for photographs to be taken, even if only for the records. I hope that in future this will be done because much work is done by those who enter their gardens in this competition. The competition interests me and, as the Minister concerned, I shall try to see that a photographic record is made in future. I am not exactly satisfied with some of the literature being printed by the tourist section.

MODBURY INFANTS SCHOOL.

Mrs. BYRNE: Tenders closed on August 16 for the erection of a new Modbury Infants School, for which \$160,000 is provided on this year's Loan Estimates. Can the Minister of Works say whether tenders have been let for this building, and can he give any relevant details?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Speaking entirely from memory, I am confident that the contract was let and signed prior to the Royal Show week. Nevertheless, I shall obtain particulars for the honourable member.

TRADE PRACTICE.

Mr. LANGLEY: Recently I asked the Attorney-General a question concerning the action of a painting firm in obtaining deposits

from householders before commencing work and getting final payment before work was completed. I have given the Attorney letters of complaint in this matter. Has he a report for me?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have examined all the material supplied to me by the honourable member. In this case there is no breach of the Business Names Act or the Building Contracts Deposits Act. It is unfortunate that the honourable member's constituents have paid over deposits on repair or renovation work to a trader who simply then has not carried out his contract. Apparently there has been a consistent course of conduct by this trader and certain others in obtaining deposits from people for work to be done and then simply not carrying it out. Unfortunately, there is no provision in the law at the moment by which we can sue. I can only warn people against any course of providing deposits in advance as against painting or repair work on a house.

Mr. Shannon: Would there be any redress by civil action?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, but unfortunately the honourable member's constituents involved are in many instances elderly people in somewhat indigent circumstances, and the cost of pursuing the money they have already paid over is fairly exorbitant, as the honourable member will know. It is very difficult to conduct a local court case for a small amount without in fact spending more than one will get out of it if one wins. This is one of the troubles with which the honourable member's constituents are faced.

Mr. Quirke: That would be the cover under which they work.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: That is so. I regret that there is nothing under the law which my office or any other office of the Government can do to assist the honourable member's constituents in this matter. However, I suggest that publicity might be given to the fact that it is inadvisable for people to enter into contracts of this kind, that if somebody offers in fact to do the work on a house he should be required to do that work before he is paid his money for doing it.

WATERWORKS EMPLOYEES.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I directed to the Premier on September 15 regarding the number of daily-paid employees in the Engineering and Water Supply Department?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Director and Engineer-in-Chief states that the number of employees at July 1, 1966, was 4,419; at August 1, 1966, 4,489; at September 1, 1966, 4,443; and at June 30, 1965, 4,492.

KANGARILLA WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. SHANNON: I understand that some time ago the Engineering and Water Supply Department investigated the possibility of providing Kangarilla with a reticulated water supply, and this was found practicable. Can the Minister of Works say when the work is likely to commence?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I shall be happy to inquire, and to inform the honourable member when I have a reply.

FURNITURE FACTORY.

Mr. McANANEY: A furniture-making factory at Campbelltown has been vacant for two years, the business being in the hands of a receiver. This factory, of 10,500 square feet, has modern appliances, including an exhaust fan to take dust away to an incinerator, and therefore it would not constitute a public nuisance. At one stage negotiations had reached the point of a possible sale to a leading South Australian furniture-making firm that would have employed 100 people, but those negotiations fell through because under the zoning regulations permission to extend the factory was refused. There have been three or four inquiries from other States but negotiations have again fallen through for the same reason. As I understand that the council is not opposed to these extensions, which have been stopped by the Town Planner, will the Premier inquire whether this problem can be solved?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I assume that this is a zoning matter and, as I do not know the attitude of the council, I shall obtain a report.

PROSPECT SCHOOL.

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about shelter sheds at the Prospect Demonstration School?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The Director of the Public Buildings Department reports that plans have been completed and an estimate of cost is being prepared for the erection of two shelters at the Prospect Demonstration School. It is not possible to say at present when the project will be carried out. When the estimate of cost is known, the priority of this

work will have to be established in relation to other works on hand and the availability of funds.

KAPUNDA HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: During the Loan Estimates debate I raised the matter of the development of the oval at the Kapunda High School, the council of which has been active in the last 12 months or so negotiating for land south of the school. In one case a member of the council financed the purchase of a block and was afterwards reimbursed by the Education Department. Recently, the department compulsorily acquired the remaining block south of the school that it needed to provide for the oval, and promises were made by departmental officials earlier that finance would be available to level the land this year so that the council could go ahead with seeding operations. As neither the high school council nor I have received positive information about the department's plans, will the Premier treat this matter as urgent, because the council is keen to continue with developmental works at this school?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I shall inquire immediately and inform the honourable member.

STOCK PADDOCKS.

Mr. HALL: Has the Attorney-General a reply to my recent question concerning the development of land now used as abattoirs stock paddocks, and the rumour that the Institute of Technology is involved in a change of plan in building near the Parafield aerodrome?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The companies that own stock paddocks near the abattoirs formed a consortium and appointed Mr. Pak Poy and associates as advisers on the development of the land in that area. In the course of drawing up redevelopment proposals in respect of the stock paddocks, Mr. Pak Poy's firm asked me whether the Government would be interested in any part of the land. All Government departments were circularized to see whether they had any proposals for acquiring any portion of the area. Some proposals have been made for possible acquisition, though this will depend on the price at which the land is to be acquired, which, in turn, will depend on the passing of the Planning and Development Bill as that Bill may contain provisions advantageous to the consortium. As yet, no firm proposals have been made and matters are still being negotiated, so I cannot

say there are any firm proposals by any Government department, or indeed by any institution such as the Institute of Technology, for the development of this land.

COUNTRY SEWERAGE.

Mr. QUIRKE: Has the Premier an answer to the question I asked some time ago about the possibility of subsidizing country corporations and councils that undertake to provide a septic effluent drainage scheme instead of deep drainage?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: There are many towns in the State which could be satisfactorily served by common effluent drainage schemes and the provision of these schemes should not be beyond the resources of the local government authority, which could recoup its annual costs on the basis of a very modest annual payment by ratepayers. There are some towns where, in the interests of public health, or because common effluent drainage schemes are unsatisfactory, it has been and will be necessary to construct town sewerage systems. In these cases ratepayers are obliged to spend a considerable sum to connect their premises to the sewers and thereafter they are obliged to pay an annual sewer rate. It would not be equitable to subsidize common effluent drainage schemes where the annual charges to ratepayers, without subsidy, are less than the rates paid by people who are connected to country sewer schemes.

CROWN LANDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN to move:

That he have leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Crown Lands Act, 1929-1965.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Alexandra): I move:

That this Order of the Day be read and discharged.

When I originally gave notice of the motion, I did not realize that the Minister intended to introduce a Bill on the same subject. The Minister was good enough to accelerate his programme and to introduce a Bill to amend the Act.

Order of the Day read and discharged.

MENTAL HOSPITALS.

Adjourned debate on the motion of Mrs. Steele:

(For wording of motion, see page 569.)

(Continued from September 14. Page 1569.)

Mr. RODDA (Victoria): I support the motion of the member for Burnside, and com-

mend her on the steps she has taken in this matter, as well as on the research she has undertaken into this important question. I do not need to emphasize the need in South Australia to help the many unfortunate citizens concerned in this matter. It is interesting once again to read the oft-quoted policy speech made by the then Leader of the Opposition on February 19, 1965. Referring to both the Northfield and Parkside institutions as being suitable for development as training centres, the then Leader said:

Ten years later we are still awaiting the Government making up its mind. The plans that are now envisaged for Reynella and Hillcrest are so very long overdue that the Reynella project is still awaiting consideration of the Government. Whilst we have had some success as the result of our efforts in Parliament concerning the long overdue improvements needed in mental hospitalization, they are still far short of the requirements. Labor has always insisted that the health of people is of paramount importance, and it is a State obligation to make the necessary provision for hospitalization for general purposes and also the mentally sick, and we also recognize that there must be a greater contribution of finance from the Commonwealth Government.

The then Leader then went on to say that his Party was mindful of the work being performed by Dr. Cramond, and continued:

. . . and commend him for his insistence upon the Government for better provision for the care of the mentally sick.

It is interesting to note that 18 months or more after the new Government has taken office, the Opposition is supporting a motion before the House, urging the Government to do something that it so loudly proclaimed it would do so long ago. It is interesting, too, to note the recommendations of the Public Works Committee regarding the Strathmont Hospital. The committee stated that there was at present inadequate accommodation in the department's institutions for the desirable segregation of the intellectually retarded from the mentally ill, each of which classes presented entirely different problems in management. It further stated that there were many intellectually retarded people in the community who would benefit from training but who must be refused admission and for whom admission was not sought because of the lack of suitable accommodation. The member for Burnside correctly pointed this out in her long and interesting speech.

The committee's report further stated that the transfer of intellectually retarded persons from Parkside and Hillcrest would increase and

improve the accommodation for the mentally ill at those institutions; it would permit, too, particularly at Parkside, the removal of old and substandard buildings. It stated that the proposed hospital and training centre would enable patients to be grouped by age and type, and so make possible a more orderly programme for inmates with prospects of recovery. The committee also said that the proposed institution, based on the concept of a village community and set in attractive grounds, would provide an improved environment for patients and those interested in their welfare. We on this side support the member for Burnside's motion and the Public Works Committee's findings, which sought to fulfil an obligation to these unfortunate citizens.

The deadline of June 30, 1967, for the grant by the Commonwealth Government of one-third of the capital cost of these institutions underlines the need for prompt action in this matter. Reference has been made to changed thinking, following the oversea visit of Dr. Shea. I appreciate the position in which the Government finds itself in this regard. There is a need for something which the Government proclaimed to the people as necessary, in its policy speech, and which the people endorsed by voting the Government into office. I urge the Government to give due regard to the motion. I commend the member for Burnside for bringing the matter forward so the House would have an opportunity to consider the establishment of these institutions, which would lighten the burden of those who have been afflicted and who are not as fortunate as we are.

Mr. FERGUSON secured the adjournment of the debate.

GAS.

Adjourned debate on the motion of the Hon. Sir Thomas Playford:

That in the opinion of this House a Select Committee should be appointed to inquire into and report upon what steps should be taken to expedite the construction of a gas pipeline from Gidgealpa to Adelaide, and matters incidental thereto,

which Mr. Lawn had moved to amend by striking out "a Select Committee should be appointed" and inserting "the Government should be congratulated upon the action it has already taken in appointing a committee".

(Continued from September 14. Page 1572.)

Mr. McANANEY (Stirling): I support the motion. As this matter had been considered for some time, we had expected that some move would have been made before now. Gas is so important for the future development

of South Australia, which is short of natural power resources such as coal (the Leigh Creek coalfield will not last much longer), and it is essential that action be taken in this respect. The appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into all aspects of the development of natural gas is most necessary. One of the greatest difficulties in developing natural gas in South Australia is the small number of wells bored each year. In fact, only a few wells are bored in Australia and this is mainly the result of a higher cost structure in this country than in any other part of the world. In the outback of Canada, for instance, in places farther from the cities and with less access for transport than is the case in Australia, hundreds of wells are being drilled more cheaply than in Australia. The cost factor has retarded development here as much as anything else, despite the subsidy given the industry by the Commonwealth Government. If we are to know whether we have large reserves, many more wells will have to be drilled.

There has been a difference of opinion on who should build the pipeline—whether the Government or private enterprise. The member for Flinders (Hon. G. G. Pearson) suggested that it should be built by a statutory authority, which is a good idea. There are two main reasons why the statutory authority would be best suited to carry out this work. First, it is a common carrier and the pipe will then be available to everyone. Secondly, the gas can be obtained more cheaply because an authority, in common with the Government, can obtain cheap finance if it obtains it from the bond markets at a reasonable rate. On the other hand, private enterprise is involved with income tax and company tax and about 4 per cent extra must be provided for these taxes. It always seems unjust to me that when a decision must be made between private enterprise and a statutory authority the fact must always be considered that private enterprise is taxed almost out of reasonable competition. It is generally admitted that private enterprise does a job more quickly and more cheaply as regards capital cost.

Many matters must be considered in deciding what form of authority should be engaged for this work and, therefore, I believe a Select Committee is essential. Already much time has been wasted. When the Premier came back from overseas we thought that within a few weeks action would be taken. Then we read that the Commonwealth Government wanted a report by September 1, and the Government said this would be supplied. However,

as yet no report has been submitted to the Commonwealth Government. I see in today's press that Bechtel Pacific Corporation has submitted to the Government a report on natural gas which will be considered by Cabinet tomorrow. It is said that the Electricity Trust would probably be prepared to accept natural gas in 1968 or 1969. However, many considerations must still be worked out. For instance, can this gas be taken at a price competitive with oil and other fuel prices?

It has been claimed by certain interests that for the next eight or 10 years natural gas will be dearer. Although it cannot be said definitely that this fact would prevent the use of the gas by the Electricity Trust, this matter should be examined by a neutral body to find out what will be in the best interests of the State. It is often said that certain services should be used because they are in the best interests of the State. However, Australia is already suffering because its costs have become greater than world parity. Not as much can be produced in Australia for that reason, and the standard of living is much lower than it would be if we could compete on world markets. One opinion is that as long as the Arbitration Commission fixes the wage level we will have high living standards and so on. However, it is fundamental that production is the most important factor and this must eventually determine the living standards of people. For this reason, every possible aspect should be considered before this pipeline is built.

Only last week, the Premier talked about building a second pipeline, but as yet we have not got around to deciding whether it is right to build the first pipeline. It would be much better if we could get down to achieving something instead of having a pipe dream of a second pipeline. Then we might be making more progress than we have made in this connection. This matter has been given a very good hearing in this House. The Opposition considers that the matter should be thoroughly investigated to determine the need for the pipeline, to determine just how many more wells are necessary, and to thoroughly examine this gas report from every aspect. Therefore, I maintain that there is a need for a Select Committee to make full inquiries.

Mr. HUDSON (Glenelg): I support the amendment to this motion, because I feel very strongly that the motion will not do what it is alleged to do. The member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) said that the motion sought prompt

action to construct the gas pipeline from Gidgealpa to Adelaide, and that point of view was reiterated this afternoon by the member for Stirling. I think the only result that could eventuate from the appointment of a Select Committee in this matter would be considerable delay, for it would be necessary for the members of such a committee to inform themselves fully on the technical and financial aspects relating to the construction of a natural gas pipeline. This would mean that the State's further application to the Commonwealth Government for assistance in this matter would have to be postponed, and such a postponement could only damage our cause.

I consider that the Government has taken all the positive steps it can, with all the speed it can, in order to expedite this matter to a satisfactory conclusion from the State's point of view. There is no doubt that the problems of constructing this pipeline are of such a nature that they require the functioning of an expert committee, which would include those people who have the necessary engineering knowledge, the necessary information about the kind of pipes that have to be used and about the possible route for the pipeline, and the financial knowledge in order to work out a suitable scheme. The members of a Select Committee of this House would not in general have this kind of information and they would have to obtain it by calling witnesses. I am confident that the only effect of this would be to repeat unnecessarily work which is already being done by Governmental advisers and which will form the basis of the application to the Commonwealth Government. I think that if we agreed to this motion we would stand condemned by the people of South Australia of allowing unnecessary delay to take place.

I was interested in the remarks of the honourable member for Burra (Mr. Quirke) in relation to the scheme that he suggested. It is quite clear from his remarks that the feasibility of the scheme from a financial point of view will depend very much on the kind of interest terms that can be negotiated by the Government. That is why I believe the application to the Commonwealth Government for assistance is of vital importance. It would be very nice if the Commonwealth Government was to take the attitude of saying, "This pipeline will have such benefits in the direction of stimulating overall industrial development in South Australia that we are prepared to assist in the financing of it by making outright grants to the South Australian Government." This attitude could, I think, be justified on

clear economic grounds, once the external benefits to the South Australian economy (and therefore to Australia as a whole) were brought into account.

Too often at the Government level these days (particularly at the Commonwealth level) are projects judged in terms of the immediate financial return that can be gained. This is wrong, because the Government of Australia represents the community as a whole, and a project should not be judged purely and simply in terms of the direct financial benefit that it would generate. This project of a gas pipeline from Gidgealpa should not be judged in terms of whether the pipeline could pay for the capital costs, including the necessary interest cost, of providing it. If interest were not charged, and if the price of natural gas available in Adelaide was lower as a consequence, this would result in a much greater flow of further industrial development following the provision of such a pipeline. This further industrial development would represent a net gain to the whole of the Australian community. In addition, it would represent a gain in revenue to the Commonwealth Government, because development in South Australia and the incomes that would be associated with that development would produce greater revenue from income tax, and a greater rate of revenue from company taxation, to the Commonwealth Government. I am referring there to the indirect benefits. If the Commonwealth Government was to take the attitude that I have envisaged and make outright grants, then the indirect benefits that would flow from that decision would outweigh the loss of interest repayments the Commonwealth would suffer as a result.

Sometimes grants are made for certain purposes, but almost invariably the Commonwealth Government makes money available by way of loan, even when it is using its own taxation collections to provide money to the States and not the money raised on the Australian loan market. There has been a hardening of the Commonwealth Government's attitude in recent years. Although what the Postmaster-General's Department does has an indirect influence on the costs of the whole community, and therefore on the progress of the whole community, the Commonwealth Government insists that that department must earn at least 5 per cent on its capital, and that is the reason why the department now has a very large surplus, I think about \$46,000,000.

This attitude is short-sighted. To some extent, in the education field the Common-

wealth Government is saying that it will make outright grants available because no project can be judged directly in terms of costs and revenues. No revenues to the State or Commonwealth Government apply as a result of expenditure on education; consequently, one has to judge it in terms of the indirect benefits to the community, and these benefits are diffuse and difficult to pin-point in a tangible sense. The facts of economic growth over the years in the advanced industrial countries of the world, and the developments associated with that growth in the field of education (particularly science and technology), demonstrate the important role of education in producing developments throughout the community.

We often consider projects that are of great national importance, and our expenditure on education can be judged in that way; the provision of the pipeline can be judged like that, and rail standardization can be judged in the same way. They should not be judged purely on the financial terms of the project considered in isolation. Standardization of the line between Port Pirie and Adelaide, or any other standardization project, has great indirect benefits to the community. It is wrong from a national point of view to judge these things as a private businessman may judge them. In this case, it would make a substantial difference to the cost of piping natural gas from Gidgealpa to Adelaide if the Commonwealth Government were to make finance available by outright grant or, if not, by interest-free loan. This would mean that the price of natural gas available for industrial purposes, or for other uses in South Australia, would be significantly reduced, and a much greater stimulus would be given to the overall industrial development of the State.

It will be clear, although I am not informed on this matter, that the capital charges associated with the construction of the pipeline—if the money provided has to be repaid over a 20-year period and if a rate of interest of 5 per cent is charged—will probably represent about 80 per cent to 90 per cent of the total cost of piping gas from Gidgealpa to Adelaide. Once the pipeline is constructed, costs other than capital costs will be relatively insignificant. To the extent that the capital costs can be reduced, the price of gas available in Adelaide will experience an almost proportional reduction. This matter is too important for the future development of this State to be considered in the old traditional way, but I fear that the record of the Commonwealth Government in relation to its own business

undertakings is such that it will insist that, if it comes to the party, it will have to be by use of Loan money and interest will have to be charged. I suspect that we may have to wait many years before we can convince the Commonwealth Government and its advisers to adopt a different approach to projects of national importance, although many advisers would be well aware of the indirect benefits.

The other important financial aspect of the construction of this pipeline is the price that Delhi-Santos will charge for natural gas at the well head. This will be a critical factor, but no-one knows whether agreement has been reached with the company. No information has been given, although it is a fairly critical point in the exercise, and I presume that negotiations have taken place. There have been press reports about negotiations between the Victorian Government and B.H.P.-Esso in Victoria about the price of gas at the well head, but these negotiations have been spread over 12 months and no solution to the problem has yet been reached. A satisfactory solution to the problem is important to the overall development of the scheme in this State. This development involves not only the provision of natural gas from Gidgealpa and Moomba, and other fields yet to be discovered, to Adelaide. It is of interest to places with which you, Mr. Speaker, are concerned—the industrial towns around Spencer Gulf. The way these towns can be served in the future with natural gas will depend to a significant extent not so much on the route of the pipeline but on the capital cost that the pipeline has to bear in its first years.

If it is possible to economize on these, the possibility of branch pipelines to serve Wallaroo, Port Pirie, Port Augusta, and ultimately Whyalla will become more economically attractive than would otherwise be the case. That question will be a much more important factor in determining when Spencer Gulf towns will get gas, than the actual route to be followed by the pipeline. It is one thing to have natural gas available at a point: it is another to be able to use it for industrial and commercial purposes. Considerable technological work and development must be done in this State before industry will be able to use the product effectively. Of course, once natural gas becomes available a stimulus will be created for other firms to consider establishing in South Australia, and to direct their particular activities here. The more this matter can be expedited, the more we shall be acting in the long-run interests

of this State. For that reason I believe that the motion to refer the matter to a Select Committee of this House is not in the State's long-run interests; it can lead only to delay. Imagine what would happen if an application were made to the Commonwealth Government for assistance to provide a pipeline, and if the House appointed a Select Committee to investigate this matter; the Commonwealth Government would say: "You haven't even decided yet what you are going to do. We can't consider this application until such time as the Select Committee has reported." I am sure that the old fox knew this.

Mr. Hurst: The old bushy-tailed fox!

Mr. HUDSON: Perhaps the member for Semaphore is correct.

Mr. Quirke: The old fox may not be in the prime of life, but his tail is bushy.

Mr. HUDSON: The old fox's tail was bushy once. He knew quite well the implication of this motion. When we consider the fact that gas was first found at Gidgealpa in January, 1964, I think it is fairly remarkable that at this juncture we are on the verge of considering a particular project, especially when we take into account the fact that the initial reserves proved at Gidgealpa at some later date were not of themselves sufficient in all probability to make a pipeline to Adelaide economically attractive. It was because of that fact that investigations last year were directed towards the possibility of linking up Gidgealpa with Mereenie and Palm Valley in the Northern Territory, and it was only this year when the discoveries at Moomba took place that we were able to proceed confidently, in the knowledge that the reserves in South Australia would be adequate to justify the construction of a pipeline. I ask leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Adjourned debate on the motion of Mr. Nankivell:

(For wording of motion, see page 704.)

(Continued from September 14. Page 1581.)

Mr. RYAN (Port Adelaide): In rising to speak to this motion, I say at the outset that although I am not opposed to the setting up of a public accounts committee, I intend to move an amendment—

Mr. Nankivell: Oh, no!

Mr. RYAN: My word, I do. Do Opposition members object to Government members submitting amendments? The member for

Alexandra (Hon. D. N. Brookman) made many insinuations last week about the lack of Government speakers to this motion. He said he would be extremely pleased to hear any Government member speak on this issue.

Mr. Quirke: You can make up for another three.

Mr. RYAN: My word, I can. I can make myself heard on this matter on behalf of all the other Government members. It is an astounding thing that, when an Opposition member moves a motion that in the opinion of the House certain things should be done, all Opposition members rally to support their colleague. However, when a Government member moves a similar motion, there is severe criticism from Opposition members to the effect that Government members should not have individual rights in this place.

Members interjecting:

Mr. RYAN: It is all right for the member for Torrens to become disgusted when we criticize what his side does, but what happened to the motion of the member for Port Pirie concerning greyhound racing? Criticism came from practically every member of the Opposition: the honourable member should not have moved the motion; it was wrong for a Government member to do such a thing; he should have introduced a Bill, so that privileges applying to Opposition members should not apply to Government members! The member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell) was critical; the financial wizard (the member for Stirling) was critical; the member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) was critical, and said it should not have been done. A Government member should not have the same rights as those of Opposition members!

Mr. Nankivell: I didn't say that.

Mr. Coumbe: You're twisting it.

Mr. RYAN: I do not twist anything, except perhaps an arm occasionally when I refer to what Opposition members say. I move:

To leave out all words after "established" and insert:

which shall consist of five members of the House of Assembly, two of whom shall belong to the group led by the Leader of the Opposition in the House for the following purposes:

- (a) to examine the accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the State, any report transmitted to the House of Assembly by the Auditor-General pursuant to the Audit Act, 1921-1959, as amended, and such other accounts laid before Parliament as the committee may think fit and to report to the House of Assembly upon any items in those accounts or any circumstances connected with them to which

the committee thinks that the attention of the House should be directed;

- (b) to inquire into and report to the House of Assembly upon any expenditure by a Minister of the Crown made without Parliamentary sanction or appropriation;
- (c) to report to the House of Assembly upon any alteration which the committee thinks desirable in the form of the public accounts or the method of keeping them or in the method of receipt, expenditure, control, issue, or payment of the public moneys;
- (d) to inquire into and report upon any question in connection with the public accounts on its own initiative or which is referred to the committee by resolution of the House of Assembly or by the Governor or a Minister of the Crown;
- (e) to carry out any other functions assigned to the committee by any Standing Order of the House of Assembly; and
- (f) to inquire into and report upon any matter relating to the public accounts which in the opinion of the Auditor-General requires immediate investigation and is referred by him in writing to the committee.

It is an old saying that finance is government and government is finance. That truism has existed for many years. The finance of any State or country is usually determined by the Government irrespective of what Government it is.

Mr. Quirke: You have another guess coming on that one.

Mr. RYAN: Is the honourable member going to say that the Social Credit League or a body like that has a different system?

Mr. Quirke: You cannot show me a State Government that determines the finances of the State.

Mr. RYAN: It does, in its own territory. What other authoritative body is there? The honourable member has expounded a theory that he knows it is impossible to implement under the present financial structure of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Quirke: State Governments do not control finances.

Mr. RYAN: They control finances within the State. All matters appertaining to finance are the responsibility of the Government, by which I mean the Lower House. The Upper Houses are restricted in their application to financial measures.

Mr. Hughes: They are out.

Mr. RYAN: There is no doubt about that. Finance is traditionally the prime responsibility of the Lower House (and everyone will admit that). The Upper House is not empowered

to introduce financial measures. Section 10 of our Constitution declares that the Legislative Council shall have equal power with the House of Assembly in respect of all Bills except as provided in the sections of that Act relating to money Bills. However, the member for Albert wants to give equal rights of representation on the public accounts committee to the Legislative Council. His motion gives the Legislative Council the right to initiate or submit any proposals to the public accounts committee although it does not have the right now to initiate financial Bills.

Let us consider the position in other States. In New South Wales, which is generally considered to be the mother State and the senior State, the committee is constituted by section 16 of the Audit Act of 1907 and comprises five members of and appointed by the Legislative Assembly. Its duties are to inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly on questions which may have arisen in connection with public accounts and which may have been referred to the committee by a Minister of the Crown, by the Auditor-General or by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly, and on all expenditure by a Minister of the Crown made without Parliamentary sanction or appropriation. In Victoria, the Sessional Committee of Public Accounts is not a joint committee but comprises seven members of the Legislative Assembly appointed by that House. The committee has the same function as I have suggested a committee of this House should have. In Queensland there is no Upper House so, naturally, there is no joint committee. The Tasmanian committee is set up pursuant to the House of Assembly's Standing Order 408a, and that provides that the Standing Public Accounts Committee in Tasmania has representation from the Lower House only.

The Commonwealth Public Accounts Committee comprises members of the House of Representatives and the Senate. However, the representation of the Senate is vastly different from that of the Upper Houses in the States. The Senate has equal representation from each State and is designed to protect the States' rights. Therefore, it has certain powers relating to financial measures. However, why should this State confer upon the Legislative Council powers in dealing with public accounts that it does not have concerning money Bills? The idea of a public accounts committee in South Australia is not new, as it was suggested many years ago. A Bill was introduced by the Hon. R. L. Butler in 1933.

Mr. Nankivell: In 1924, originally.

Mr. RYAN: The matter was considered in 1924, but he introduced a Bill in October, 1933, and said:

In accordance with a promise which I made to the electors in April last, the Government has introduced a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Public Accounts Committee. I have taken a great deal of interest in this question for a number of years and was successful in getting a resolution carried by the House in 1926, but nothing has been done in the intervening years. The object of this Bill is to establish a committee which will scrutinize annually the Treasurer's accounts showing the financial transactions of the State and perform certain other incidental functions . . . The committee is to consist of three members of the House of Assembly appointed by the Governor.

That Bill was introduced not by a Labor Premier but by a Liberal Premier. It was passed in the House of Assembly and submitted to the Legislative Council (which was probably just as heavily overloaded in those days as it is now in Party representation), which supported the Bill. Amendments were made by Liberal members in the Upper House. Because of one amendment moved by a Liberal backbencher in that place, the Bill was shelved, for the Premier of the day would not accept the amendment, which was to give representation to members of the Legislative Council on the public accounts committee. That was what happened in 1933, so why should we give rights to members of the Legislative Council in 1966?

The amendment I have moved to the motion is in line with a Bill introduced by the Government last session, which it intended to proceed with until time ran out. On this occasion I am moving this as a private member. If it is carried, it will become the opinion of this House and an instruction to the Government, which I hope will implement it. I am not opposed to a public accounts committee but I am opposed to the principle of having a Government-controlled House inviting members from a non-Government controlled House to participate in the financial affairs of the State. We may be able to convince some members opposite that this is the true position and that this proposition should be accepted by this House.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Your amendments are making the whole thing even worse.

Mr. RYAN: I am not making it worse than you have suggested, because you have not suggested anything except throwing it out. If that is not negative policy, what is? I am submitting something that at least could be

accepted, and, if accepted, could be implemented for the benefit of Parliament and the development of the State. But the member for Alexandra wants to throw the whole thing out.

Mr. Quirke: I, too, would throw it out.

Mr. RYAN: It might be an advantage to Parliament if the honourable member were thrown out! At least, we are not adopting a negative attitude towards the proposition.

Mr. Hurst: We are putting up a tangible and concrete suggestion.

Mr. RYAN: When we introduce a measure like this, the Opposition does not offer criticism as the Labor Party did when in Opposition. The criticism of members opposite is destructive, not constructive.

Mr. Clark: Your amendment has the big advantage that it will be carried.

Mr. RYAN: Yes.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: You are always in favour of constructive criticism?

Mr. RYAN: I am prepared to voice my constructive criticism. Several members opposite have referred to the setting up of the public accounts committee in Great Britain, the home of the Parliamentary system in the British Commonwealth of Nations. However, the British Parliament would not accept the principle of having members of the House of Lords as members of a joint committee on public accounts, so why should we allow the Legislative Council that privilege? The legislation in Great Britain was passed by the House of Commons and by the House of Lords, but the House of Lords realized that it could not compete with a Government-controlled House in financial matters, so it did not insist on an amendment that members of the House of Lords should be included on that committee. My amendment does not give the Legislative Council privileges that do not apply elsewhere.

Mr. Shannon: Will your amendment permit the committee to investigate the gap in Government finances? It will be better than a computer if it can do that.

Mr. RYAN: I do not know why we need a computer. While we have the member for Onkaparinga it is a waste of time having a computer, because he does the work of one. If the member for Onkaparinga reads the amendment, he will see what it will do and what powers it will confer on the committee.

Mr. Shannon: I have the feeling that it will not bridge the gap in your Government's finances.

Mr. RYAN: The honourable member is concerned about the financial affairs of a Labor

Government. In his eyes, a Labor Government can never be any good, but thank goodness it is only in the eyes of the honourable member.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: You will learn!

Mr. RYAN: We shall learn. I read an article in a newspaper. I wonder at the audacity of people who charge for an article that reads like this:

Mr. McAnaney, the Opposition expert on financial matters, has taken the Government to task on its shortcomings as far as money is concerned and he had some things to say to the Government and seemed to revel in the blasts of virulent interjection he was drawing.

Mr. Clark: Who wrote that?

Mr. RYAN: The member for Victoria (Mr. Rodda). The member for Stirling is the Opposition wizard on Government finance. What does he say and what criticism does that member offer about a public accounts committee? He at least knows the State's financial structure.

Mr. McAnaney: Thank you.

Mr. RYAN: He knows that. He knows what is referred to as the House of Government—or does he want me to tell him?

Mr. McAnaney: Anything you could tell me would be news.

Mr. RYAN: Of course it would be, because it comes from a Labor member. He is so biased in politics that he thinks the Liberal Party is the only Party that can bring down anything of value. He has a lot to learn about politics.

Mr. McAnaney: What about yourself?

Mr. RYAN: The setting up of a public accounts committee is a serious and important matter, and I am not opposing the principle. When I was in Opposition, my colleagues and I believed in the principle of the setting up of such a committee. At least, we believe in the principle that its functions should be confined to the House that has control and jurisdiction over financial matters. Under the motion submitted by the member for Albert, the Legislative Council would have power to initiate references to the committee dealing with financial affairs. The Legislative Council is not given that right with money Bills.

Mr. Nankivell: Read the Constitution Act. They can be thrown out.

Mr. RYAN: The Legislative Council can make suggestions. It can refuse to accept legislation, but it cannot amend. But, under the motion of the member for Albert, it can even initiate propositions to be considered by the committee.

Mr. Nankivell: It can amend.

Mr. RYAN: It can recommend that propositions be considered by the public accounts

committee. I now wish to refer to a publication which has been freely quoted as being one of the authorities of the South Australian Parliament and which has been used by members of the Government and the Opposition.

Mr. Clark: This is not the stuff by the member for Victoria again?

Mr. RYAN: That was rubbish. The brochure *The Parliament of South Australia* has been quoted, and it is freely accepted as being authoritative. It was written by the Clerk of this House (Mr. Combe), who has had great experience in financial matters. Mr. Combe, having studied oversea Parliamentary systems, has issued a report to this Parliament on what happens overseas on these matters. In that document, under the heading of "Financial Procedure", we find the following:

Financial business must originate in Parliament in the House of Assembly. The purpose for which it is proposed to appropriate or expend public money must be first recommended by the Governor to the House of Assembly during the current session . . . The Legislative Council may not amend any money clause, but it may suggest amendments therein.

If that is the fundamental principle in financial matters, it should be the fundamental principle in the setting up of a standing Committee to deal with the public accounts of the State. I do not think it would be right to have a member of the Legislative Council (who does not have the same financial rights as a member of the House of Assembly) initiating propositions to be considered by a public accounts committee.

Mr. Hurst: You don't think they ought to be there, do you?

Mr. RYAN: No, I certainly do not.

Mr. Hurst: You would be a traitor to the cause if you even considered it.

Mr. RYAN: I have said before that the sooner that place is abolished the better. It cannot be said that Queensland is backward in its legislation as a result of not having an Upper House, and no-one can criticize the affairs of New Zealand, which does not have an Upper House. The amazing thing about those two places where the Upper Houses have been abolished is that no Liberal Government there has ever re-introduced them. I point out that the powers of the Legislative Council in this State are far greater than those conferred upon the House of Lords, which under its present powers cannot delay any Bill, financial or otherwise, for more than 12 months.

Mr. Hurst: Perhaps the committee you suggest could inquire into the cost involved as a result of having an Upper House.

Mr. RYAN: Well, if the honourable member for Semaphore requested the committee to initiate investigations along those lines, the committee would have to carry out that investigation. I commend the amendment to the House. It is far better than the motion of the member for Albert, and I ask honourable members to support it.

Mr. QUIRKE secured the adjournment of the debate.

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT.

Adjourned debate on the motion of Mr. Coumbe:

That in the opinion of this House the work of the Premier's Department in attracting new industries to this State has been ineffective, and that as a matter of urgency, and with a view to providing more energetic and vigorous promotion of industrial expansion and the exploitation of the natural resources of the State, a Department of Development, to be the sole responsibility of a Minister be set up without delay, which Mr. Hughes had moved to amend by leaving out all the words after the word "State" first occurring and inserting in lieu thereof the words "and promoting the expansion of existing industry is worthy of approbation".

(Continued from September 14. Page 1585.)

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD (Gumeracha): When I was speaking on this matter last week I referred to the difficulties experienced in the Wallaroo District in discovering any project that could be considered by this Government. Therefore, I was rather surprised that the member for Wallaroo (Mr. Hughes) should have moved an amendment that sought to cover up the Government's failure to produce anything really worthwhile regarding the development of new industries. At that stage the House, recognizing that this was a matter that had to be further explored, gave me leave to continue my remarks. The wording of the amendment is significant and clever. The member for Wallaroo, essentially an honest person, realizes that the Government has not done a good job in attracting new industry.

Doubtless, he was in much difficulty when he was told that he had to move an amendment that would turn the motion into a vote of confidence in the Government. The amendment damns the Government with faint praise. It leaves out all words after "State" and inserts "and promoting the expansion of existing industry is worthy of approbation." It limits what is worthy of approbation to existing industries.

Mr. Shannon: The honourable member ought to know. The Government has no new ones.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: There is nothing new at all. It is purely and simply the normal growth that takes place in any healthy community, so the member for Wallaroo has put over a swift one. He has not limited his approbation to what the Government has done in Wallaroo, because all that it has done there has been to impede a company that desired to establish a plant. There is no doubt that he has been instructed by Caucus to get busy, in the same way as the member for Port Adelaide (Mr. Ryan) has been instructed.

I congratulate the member for Wallaroo on having maintained his integrity and at the same time having given at least lip service to the instruction from Caucus. The Government is not really being congratulated at all: it is being given a smack to urge it to do something positive and not to merely follow in the footsteps of an Administration that was discredited because the people were going to live better with Labor. I think many people now want to change that slogan to, "How to live with Labor."

What is the position regarding the establishment of new industry in South Australia in the last 18 months? Members opposite are excited, because they know that even projects that were fairly advanced in planning have been abandoned. They know that, despite all the talk about how to do things better with Labor, nothing has been done. In 18 months the Government has materially destroyed the atmosphere which was so congenial for industry and which enabled industry to establish here. The Government did not realize, notwithstanding the scientific and academic information given by the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson), which I think will not work, that Government members were not the people to be satisfied about the establishment of industry: the ones to be satisfied are those establishing the new industry.

It does not help one iota for the Government, and particularly the member for Glenelg, to ooze such satisfaction. In a Commonwealth such as ours, where the freedoms of association and of trade between the States are guaranteed, industrialists will establish where they are best served economically. No blame attaches to them for that, because nobody wants to establish industry in a climate that is economically impossible or unfavourable. I point out to members opposite, in case the member for Glenelg has overlooked mentioning it, that the cost of all social services is ultimately a direct charge on production.

It is said that increased tram fares have nothing to do with the production of motor vehicles, but only a short time elapses between the increasing of fares and the lodging of a claim in the Arbitration Court or with management on behalf of the men employed in the manufacture of motor vehicles. The men claim that the cost of living has increased and that they cannot meet their expenses any longer unless wages are increased. Members opposite have not been able to understand that and they think that, because some trust funds were left by the previous Government, all kinds of expenditure can be incurred. The Government thinks that its chickens will not come home to roost. However, as soon as those in industry think that something unfavourable is happening to them, a lack of confidence becomes apparent.

The Minister of Agriculture decided that it was necessary for him to take an active hand in tackling the matter of wholesale fruit marketing in South Australia. He appointed a representative and worthy committee to consider the matter, and at an informal talk he briefed the committee. I was not present, but I am sure that he told it that, whatever it recommended, nothing should be recommended that would incur Government expenditure. If he did not do that, he was foolish and, as he is a capable Minister, I should think that is what he told the committee. An interesting repercussion was that East End Market shares, which are normally traded once in six months and which have always paid a firm if not high dividend (they have been regarded as a good, sound security) dropped in price. Apparently, the people concerned do not have confidence in the Government.

Government members may say that I am an interested party because I grow apples and because I put them in cases and sell them at the East End Market. I have 15 shares that I have kept for sentimental reasons because my grandfather was one of the founders of the market. The drop in the share price does not concern me, but it seems that when the Government touches anything a lack of confidence is apparent. Although the Government seems satisfied and informs people that it is establishing new industries, it is obvious that new industries do not come to life. The member for Wallaroo was faced with the dilemma of introducing a whitewashing amendment to the motion. Wisely he decided not to talk about new industries, but to maintain his integrity and at the same time seem to

obey his instruction from Caucus. He knows that there is growing discontent in his district about the lack of impetus given to the establishment of industry in this State.

What a conglomeration of incidentals have been included in the Estimates for the Premier's Department! When the Government asked the Opposition to agree to the appointment of a ninth Minister and to the establishment of a Premier's Department (notwithstanding that the Government when in Opposition said it would not have a bar of it and said the same thing at the election), we agreed, because we understood that this department would help establish industry in this State. We did not realize that the main purpose of this new department was to help the Premier prepare a broadcast each week. If one eliminates from the Premier's Department the technical people under Mr. H. S. Dean (consulting engineer), who had been previously associated with the Department of Industry, what is left? I pay a tribute to Mr. Dean, an outstanding officer in giving technical advice to small industries. He and his staff have done valuable work in the particular job for which they were appointed. Can the Minister in charge of the House tell me of one item listed under this department that is conducive to or will assist in establishing industry in this State?

The Ministers are silent because they know that this development has been a complete flop. I do not blame the staff, but the atmosphere that has been created would not enable anyone to establish a new industry at present. We are indulging in forms of expenditure that are not being accepted in any other State. We are imposing taxation in excess of that applying in other States; we are not standing up to our financial responsibilities. How can that instil confidence in industry, when it realizes that the ultimate cost of all the Government's innovations, including computers that will not compute, will fall back on the primary and secondary production of this country? We have already said that the primary producer is getting it in the neck; charges are being increased in every direction.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: With the Royal Commission on State Transport Services still to come!

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: How confident could any new industry be in establishing in South Australia when, at the same time, the Government has appointed a Royal Commission for the purposes of considering the co-ordination of transport? Everyone

who has had any experience in political and administrative life knows that "co-ordination" is merely another word for "control", although it may sound a little better than the latter. With this State's remoteness from markets, if there is one thing we cannot afford to do it is to force industry to accept anything but the most frequent, effective and efficient forms of transport. We saw what happened years ago when the New South Wales Labor Government unsuccessfully tried that. Why did the Philips electrical organization come to South Australia? Being established in metropolitan Sydney, the organization desired to enlarge its activities, but the New South Wales Labor Government said, "No, you cannot establish in metropolitan Sydney; we are a bit too crowded here; you have to go out into the country." As a result, that organization's plant and equipment and 300 key operatives were transferred to South Australia, which was the beginning of its establishment here.

If the Government will excuse me for saying so, we shall have to do what the previous Government did, if we desire industries to establish in South Australia. We have to make conditions for industry right; we have to have the confidence of industry, and provide the necessary stimulative costs for it to come to this State. We had to establish factories for two or three certain large and financially strong industries to come to South Australia. We had to lease those factories to them under favourable conditions, and provide a stimulus, rather than see them establish in Western Australia or some other State. We did not lose money on that; those industries certainly made money, but they paid all the necessary charges. If they had not had substantial taxation advantages, they would not have come here.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: The pipeline to Iron Knob is a case in point.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Not only that: the pipeline to Whyalla was a heavily losing proposition. Nobody would suggest for a moment that the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited was down on its uppers, but to induce that organization to establish a steel industry in South Australia we had to be prepared to provide public utilities and conditions in this State comparable to those in the other States. Industry (and not the Government) has to be satisfied with its location; industry (not the Government) has to be satisfied with the economic conditions; and industry (not the Government) has to be satisfied with the taxation

conditions. Therefore, all the baloney preached by the member for Glenelg falls to the ground.

Mr. Nankivell: Like a pack of cards!

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: It just does not work.

Mr. Coumbe: It is a customer's market.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Yes. Powerful industries with much technical know-how have come to this State purely and simply because the Government of the day has offered it the climate and the inducement to do so. That has not been to the taxpayer's or wage-earner's detriment, because everybody should know that during the 20 years when we were so successful in establishing industry in this State, with money coming into South Australia and the development that was taking place, boom conditions were created. Everyone should know that the industrial worker benefited; he had overtime and full employment and, indeed, over-employment occasionally.

Mr. Coumbe: There was a big shortage of skilled tradesmen.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: An enormous shortage. I support the motion. I do not support the amendment, even the modified amendment, of the member for Wallaroo. He has watered down his original amendment considerably. Being a truthful person he has done his best with it.

Mr. Hughes: Thank you.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: But even with the limitations that he has placed on his amendment I do not intend to support it, because I think it is still over-generous. Frankly, I do not know anything the Government has done—

Mr. Shannon: Oh, yes—

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Before the member for Onkaparinga stops me, I should like to say that the only thing I have noticed the Government doing about expanding industries in South Australia is the Premier rather ineffectively declaring them open. I cannot give him full marks for that, because I ought to have been doing it.

Mr. Hurst: You've had your day.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: If I may say so, with all due modesty, industry would in some cases have liked me to do it. Although I congratulate the member for Wallaroo on his attempt, I do not think this modification to the amendment will get him out of his trouble: I do not think it will appease the great anger that exists in his district at present.

Mr. Hughes: Read some of those letters!

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: When the people in his district see what he has done they may give him a kick in the pants for his trouble. If they said to him what they said to me about him he would not be terribly enamoured of them. In the interests of good will, I will not repeat the remarks; in fact you, Mr. Speaker, would pull me up if I did. It is high time for the Government to become active and for the Premier and his Ministers to realize that they will not get another new industry to this State by importing Bruce boxes from the Philippines or by that sort of thing but only by providing the proper inducement, conditions and stability for industry to come here.

If industry wants anything more than it wants other things, it wants stable conditions. As I have acknowledged publicly before, the success in establishing industries in South Australia was not because of the Government, this Parliament or the management of industry, but because of the stability of the industrial worker. Today that stability is being undermined. Honourable members have only to look at this afternoon's *News* to see what is the stability of the industrial worker. The article, under the heading "Optimism Slated: 'Check Facts' Premier Told", shows what the industrial worker is thinking today. The article states:

A trade union leader today said the Premier, Mr. Walsh, "should straighten out his facts" before commenting that a brighter outlook in the State's unemployment situation was ahead. Isn't that a wonderful example of stability? The article continues:

Acting Secretary of the Carpenters' and Joiners' Union, Mr. R. K. Ellis, said— and he is not a "true blue" Liberal, although he will be one before the Government is finished; I will have to get one of our canvassers to call on him and he will probably come over to our side—

Mr. Walsh should straighten out his facts and check them with trade union officials before making such a statement. Unless the State Government has a secret plan which it has not divulged I cannot see any improvement for members of our union this side of Christmas. He did not mean this Christmas—he meant the Christmas before the next election; he is looking forward to the next election. The article continues:

The Carpenters' and Joiners' Union have had more than 100 members on unemployment books for several months. Mr. Ellis said the position in South Australia had not improved for 12 months.

He could have gone further and said that in 18 months the position has gone to pot. The article continues:

He said the unions looked as though they were giving the wrong slant on the employment situation by making statements about retrenchments and lack of employment when Government leaders made statements about "brighter outlooks." The secretary of the Bricklayers' Union, Mr. K. H. Lutz, said he agreed substantially with Mr. Ellis' comments. "Things seem to have improved slightly within recent weeks but I would by no means say the union could foresee a 'brighter outlook'."

The secretary of the Transport Workers' Union, Mr. Jack Nyland, said today he could not agree with the Premier's comment.

"There have been some retrenchments of members in the T.W.U. and men put off found it difficult to find jobs. The secretary of the Vehicle Builders' Union, Mr. C. A. Harrison, said members recently retrenched in the motor vehicle industry still found it difficult to get employment. "There seems to be no indication that the motor vehicle industry is improving significantly," he added.

It can be seen that the stability so necessary to provide confidence for the establishment of new industries is not even firmly established amongst those who would normally be the Government's own supporters. Until the Government creates a stability arising from the fact that public finances are kept properly, that the State is paying its way, and that industries can see there is a future for them, then the whitewashing amendment of the member for Wallaroo will have no effect. I do not know whether his amendment was a whitewashing or a "blackwashing" amendment, because its terms were so restricted that it almost damned the Government with faint praise. I believe we are on the wrong track. I hope that this debate, if it has done nothing else, will cause members opposite to wander in their allegiance to the economics so profoundly expressed from time to time by the member for Glenelg.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS (Minister of Agriculture): I listened with interest to the member for Gumeracha and, as usual, with the show play that he usually puts on and with his facetious manner, he at least entertained the House for a short time this afternoon. Of course, what he has endeavoured to do is underwrite the amendment so ably moved by the member for Wallaroo.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: We agree that it was ably moved.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: At least I have members opposite on my side, and that is pleasing. I should like to comment on one or two things the honourable member said about the meeting I had yesterday with representa-

tives of the fruitgrowers, market gardeners and others interested in the marketing of fruit and vegetables in South Australia. True, I met a group of people that the Government appointed to determine the future of marketing fruit and vegetables in this State. It was rather unusual for the member for Gumeracha to suggest that this had caused a drop in the value of shares because, on my understanding of his comments, he said this had happened only in the last day or two. If it had happened earlier, perhaps he would have gone without his dinner for the last week or two. This committee was appointed some time ago, and this was well known, because press statements were made about the appointment of its members. So there must have been some delayed action here.

I thank the member for Gumeracha for suggesting that I am a good Minister. It is always pleasing to hear things like that. I, like him, am a little modest. If someone praises me occasionally, it lifts my modesty a little and helps my ego. The Government did not request or suggest that this committee be appointed: it was a request from the Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners Association for some assistance in providing information. They suggested to me that the Government should appoint a committee to inquire into the future of the marketing of fruit and vegetables in South Australia. This matter was taken to Cabinet, and Cabinet agreed to that request. Because of that, I made representations to all those who, I thought, would be interested in the future of the East End Market. The member for Gumeracha has 15 shares in the marketing company. I am surprised that, when there was some slight drop, he did not get in and buy some more shares to increase his assets in this company because of the benefit that will accrue from the appointment of this committee, which is representative. It has representatives not only from the marketing company but also from the merchants, from the South Australian Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries, from the Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners Association and from the Adelaide City Council, which was only too anxious to co-operate with this committee, which has the confidence of all people concerned. For the member for Gumeracha to make this suggestion is surely facetious. He referred to the member for Wallaroo moving this amendment. I point out that he says "the promoting and expansion of existing industry". If I had had any quarrel with this, I would have gone further and said "existing and new

industry", because this Government has assisted new industry since it has been in office. Certainly, we have assisted existing industries.

One of the first things placed before Cabinet when we became the Government was a recommendation by the Treasury that an industry known as Male Brothers in my district should no longer exist. This recommendation was made to Cabinet because of the company's financial position. It rocked me when I saw it. Had the former Government still been in power when this was placed before Cabinet, we would have lost that industry for Murray Bridge. I hear no arguments from members opposite about that. I asked Cabinet that this matter be deferred for a few months so that we could look at it further.

In the meantime, I made representations to the Case Company, an American company with some associations in Australia, particularly in New South Wales, for which Male Brothers was making ploughs under licence. They came to see me in my office. One gentleman had come across from America particularly for this conference. After discussion, they were referred to the Treasury and the Industries Development Committee, of which my colleague, the member for Wallaroo, is Chairman. That industry was investigated, and satisfactory arrangements were made so that Male Brothers did not suffer altogether because of its position. Certainly, it would have gone out of existence with practically nothing left, but it was bought out by Case Company, amicably for all concerned. This was done under this Government. You, Mr. Speaker, were a member of the Industries Development Committee that recommended to the Government that Male Brothers should be assisted. Assistance was given by bank guarantee to this company to carry on.

Unfortunately, it was not able to do so when the matter first came to our attention. The former Government, because of its knowledge of the previous situation and the company's not being able to meet the guarantee requirements demanded of it, would have allowed that company to go out of existence. We went a long way and took many steps to ensure that this industry was not lost for the town of Murray Bridge. In fact, it has expanded with Government help. It has been a great asset to that town and has grown considerably even in the short time it has been there; it promises to grow even more. It will receive Government assistance to help it progress.

The criticism by the member for Gumeracha that the wrong person on this side of the House moved this amendment is so much eye-wash, because who could better move it than the Chairman of the Industries Development Committee? He knows just what has been done and what has been attempted. You, Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the committee know that industries appearing before the committee frequently do not measure up and are not all they appear to be at first blush; investigations reveal that they are not in a position to do what they suggest they can do. Therefore, the Industries Development Committee is important to ensure that Government finances are protected and that the industry concerned has a reasonable chance of success.

Who would know this better than the present Chairman of that committee? The member for Gumeracha has the temerity to make this suggestion and in doing so he makes political capital out of it. The member for Wallaroo ably represents his district in this Government, as he did under the former Government. He does everything in his power to ensure that Wallaroo progresses. No honourable member should be criticized for doing that. I take strong exception to the fact that the member for Gumeracha has ridiculed the member for Wallaroo for moving an amendment to this motion. He has a perfect right to do so, as Chairman of the Industries Development Committee, because he knows what has taken place during this Government's term of office.

Mr. McAnaney: Why do you think that employment has not increased in this State?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I believe it has increased in this State.

Mr. McAnaney: But the figures do not show that.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: If we were to examine the figures, we would see that the population had increased. Every year more and more potential employees are leaving our schools and taking their places in industry. Also, we have a greater percentage of migrants than have the other States.

Mr. McAnaney: What is your reason for the increase in unemployment?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I do not want to have my thoughts interrupted by the honourable member's ridiculous interjections.

Mr. Hurst: According to an article in the *News*, the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited will be wanting a couple of thousand men within the next two years.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: The member for Gumeracha referred to an industry interested in fertilizer manufacture in South Australia. That industry has been promised every support by this Government. What is more, the member for Wallaroo has been most active in his representations on behalf of this firm. If that firm approached the member for Gumeracha (who was the Leader of the Opposition at that time), I very much doubt that its representatives said what he claimed they said; it is more likely that he got secondhand from someone the fact that they were interested and that he added the rest of it, as he does with so many things. The member for Wallaroo has done all he can to assist this industry, and I am sure he will do everything possible to assist it in establishing at Wallaroo. I cannot visualize a better place for this industry, and in fact that firm has already purchased land there.

Other industries have been introduced by the member for Wallaroo, too. One on which he made strong representations to this Government was an industry associated with the motor industry. That firm was given every consideration and every encouragement, but unfortunately it has not yet measured up. However, the position is not lost, and it is still possible that that industry will become established. Another industry in my own district has been helped by this Government. I refer to the Murray Bridge Meat Company, which took over the existing abattoir at Murray Bridge (employing about eight people) and now employs 60 people. That company expects to commence exporting overseas within the next few weeks. It has brought its premises up to the specifications stipulated by the Department of Primary Industry, and it maintains that it will employ 120 people immediately it starts operations. In fact, it advertised recently for an additional 10 men, so it is already looking for more employees. Certainly it has progressed considerably, and it is going to increase its activities even further. This Government has assisted that company in every way it can. When I was Minister of Lands its representatives came to me regarding the possibility of getting cheaper water to help in establishing lawns around its premises. A drain nearby runs from the swamps, and this has to be pumped out into the river. Normally, that water would not be used for irrigation. The Government made this water available to the company without charge for this purpose, because in any case we would have had to pump this water out

into the Murray again. Therefore, it helps us as well as the company. Nevertheless, this has been done to assist the company. We have also assisted it by building 50 Housing Trust houses there in the last 12 months, and another 30, for which the foundations are already down, are to be built there soon. This is helping both the Case Company and the Murray Bridge Meat Company. Here are excellent examples of what is being done. One of those is an existing industry and the other is a new industry, and therefore I believe the honourable member could quite easily have extended his amendment by adding the word "new" as well. If anything, he has been modest in the preparation of his amendment.

Mr. Hughes: It will read that way eventually.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I am glad of that. Another existing industry in my district, one of the really decentralized industries, is David Shearer Limited. That company approached the Government, through the Industries Development Committee, for assistance, and more money was made available to assist it in its extra building programme. This is the first time that that firm has received anything concrete from any Government to promote decentralization in that particular town. This is a very important industry to South Australia. It established in its infancy in Mannum, and it has grown there. That industry is a logical one to assist, and this Government has assisted it since it came into office. Some people might say that this is a privilege that has been extended to me because I am a Cabinet Minister, but nothing is further from the truth: these industries were warranted, and they were a "natural" to the district I represent.

Mr. Lawn: And it is decentralization.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: Yes. In the District of Murray there is a small cannery that has been battling for its existence almost since it started. Unfortunately, shareholders recently decided to place it in the hands of a receiver. That industry was assisted by this Government, and I believe it was unsuccessful only because it was short of capital and was in a disadvantageous position compared with larger canneries. We are negotiating now for another food processing works to take its place. This is the sort of thing this Government does; we have not gone around making a big story out of these things, but seeing this motion has been brought before the House I think it is time we gave the true picture. The trouble with this Government is that it has

been modest, and in this respect it has not learned from the previous Government.

Mr. Coumbe: Now I have heard everything.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I am glad that my remarks have created a little interest: I thought all members opposite had gone to sleep because they did not like listening to the truth. If this Government has made one mistake it is that we should have copied the propaganda policy of the former Premier.

Mr. Lawn: We finally caught up with him.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: The member for Gumeracha this afternoon referred to his own modesty. I cannot accept that he was ever modest, and I think he made that remark facetiously.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: You had better clear that statement up. I did not think much of your statement about him earlier this afternoon.

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I am glad that I have needled the member for Alexandra, because this is the sort of thing we take all the time from members opposite and apparently we are expected to take it and give nothing in return. I support the amendment moved by the honourable member for Wallaroo.

Mr. HEASLIP (Rocky River): I support the motion. The Minister of Agriculture said that he was going to give us a list of the new industries that had come into South Australia or that the present Government had brought into South Australia in the last 12 or 18 months. I put the names down as he mentioned them. However, he did not quote one new industry, and surely if anyone would know whether a new industry had come to South Australia it would be a Minister of the Government. He quoted four industries that had been assisted in Murray Bridge, but they are not new industries. Regarding David Shearer, I thought he meant that David Shearer Limited had established a branch at Murray Bridge. That firm has been operating at Mannum for many years and it is an old industry in South Australia. This is only an extension of an old industry.

Mr. Clark: Assisted by the Government.

Mr. HEASLIP: I am talking about new industries which the Government claims it has brought to South Australia and which the Minister said he would tell us about.

Mr. Hughes: He did not say that it was a new industry.

Mr. HEASLIP: He was going to tell us about new industries, although he first mentioned the industries that had been assisted.

Hansard will show that is correct. However, I shall not go into this matter further.

Mr. Clark: It would be unwise.

Mr. HEASLIP: Because of that interjection, I shall go further. The next industry cited was the Case Company's project.

Mr. Coumbe: The Male Company.

Mr. HEASLIP: The Minister said that a long-established industry at Murray Bridge had been bought out. I do not know whether members opposite remember another Case Company operated in South Australia many years ago. It went into liquidation and many people lost money. I hope that the present company, which the Government claims to have assisted and promoted, does not do the same. This company is a part of the same company in America.

Mr. Curren: What company was it?

Mr. HEASLIP: The Case Company of U.S.A.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: I think it was J. R. Case.

Mr. HEASLIP: The company dealt in motor cars and tractors. Many primary producers bought the tractors, which were not satisfactory.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: I had one for eight years.

Mr. HEASLIP: The honourable member was lucky.

Mr. McAnaney: I understand the company is not doing very well at present.

Mr. HEASLIP: That is interesting. I think the next company mentioned was the Murray Bridge Meat Company. The Minister did not say that that company was new, but he said the Government had assisted it.

Mr. Clark: Don't you think assistance is important?

Mr. HEASLIP: I am not arguing that. Anything that will give employment to people in South Australia is important, but the Minister said that the Government had promoted new industries.

Mr. Clark: No. He said the Government assisted. Don't bother looking up *Hansard*. Your memory ought to be good enough on what has been said in the last 20 minutes.

Mr. HEASLIP: The Minister next mentioned a small cannery at Murray Bridge. The company operating the cannery was in a very shaky position. The committee inquired into the matter and I think the Government has done the right thing by assisting the company.

It is bad for these companies to go into liquidation, and I hope that the cannery will be a success.

Mr. Curren: Have you never heard of new industries coming to South Australia?

Mr. HEASLIP: I wish the honourable member would tell the House of one.

Mr. Clark: Do you listen to the Premier's speeches?

Mr. HEASLIP: I do not often listen to him. I read in the newspaper what he has said. If all the new industries that he has talked about were established, we would have over-full employment.

Mr. Clark: What are you usually doing when the Premier speaks?

Mr. HEASLIP: I am not sure on what night he speaks but I think I am usually here.

Mr. Clark: You said you do not listen to the speeches but read them in the press. I am not talking about speeches on television. I am referring to his speech on the motion.

Mr. HEASLIP: On that day, I was at Tumbay Bay.

Mr. Clark: It was a good speech.

Mr. HEASLIP: It was as good as other speeches he has made, particularly in regard to schools. I would not have taken much notice of it. I thought that 15 high schools were to be built by the present Government, but the Government will not build them.

Mr. Clark: I was referring to a speech in the House that, apparently, the honourable member did not attempt to listen to or read.

Mr. HEASLIP: We have not yet got that volume of *Hansard*.

Mr. Clark: We have. The speech was made in August. The Premier was one of the first speakers on this motion.

Mr. HEASLIP: I regret that I have not read his speech.

Mr. Clark: You missed something. You are not qualified to speak on the matter if you have not read what the Premier said. You had better sit down.

Mr. HEASLIP: In the long time I have been a member, this is the first time that I have been told by a member opposite to sit down.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: You should not put your neck out any farther.

Mr. HEASLIP: I am not going to stick my neck out now.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: And you're not going to sit down, either, are you?

Mr. Clark: The Premier gave a long list of new industries.

Mr. HEASLIP: I think the last speech made by a Government member was on August 3, when the member for Wallaroo moved his amendment, and said:

In rising to oppose the motion moved by the honourable member for Torrens, I say that never have I heard such a storm of coarse, unsubstantiated criticism as we heard levelled against members of the Public Service attached to the Premier's Department by the honourable member.

I presume he was referring to the member for Torrens who moved this motion. I make it clear on my behalf and on behalf of all Opposition members that there has never been a reflection by anyone on this side of the House on public servants in this State.

Mr. Clark: Only the Premier's Department.

Mr. HEASLIP: The Premier's Department is not public servants; that is a department.

Mr. Ryan: What are they?

Mr. HEASLIP: We all have a high regard for public servants irrespective of which department they are in, because they are doing such a good job for this State.

Mr. Ryan: When you criticize the Treasury whom do you criticize?

Mr. HEASLIP: The man in charge, a Minister of the Crown, and the Government. Public servants give advice but it is the Minister who tells them what to do. If the Government had listened to the advice that was given by public servants we would not be in the mess we are in today.

Mr. Lawn: The Public Service wants equal pay: would it advise the Government not to give it?

Mr. HEASLIP: I am not speaking about pay but of the criticism that we are supposed to have levelled at public servants. If their advice had been heeded we would not read, as we can in today's *News*, about the alarming figures of the Treasury in this State, a State that 18 months ago had a surplus but now has an August deficit of \$6,400,000. We are making records in South Australia, and now this State has gone deeper in the red for what is believed to be a record deficit for August. How can officers of the Premier's Department hope to encourage new industries to establish in this State when information like that is published in newspapers?

Mr. Lawn: What State would they go to?

Mr. HEASLIP: Not to South Australia: Western Australia is far ahead of us, and has less unemployment, whereas South Australia has the highest percentage of unemployed people of any State in Australia.

Mr. Burdon: Do you know what the Western Australian Government's deficit is this year?

Mr. HEASLIP: No, I am interested in this State.

Mr. Burdon: It budgeted for a \$7,000,000 deficit.

Mr. HEASLIP: Any investor or manufacturer contemplating establishing an industry in Australia would shy clear of this State if he saw the figures. We are not only losing people who would normally finance factories but also losing investors in those factories.

Mr. Lawn: We haven't lost you!

Mr. HEASLIP: Partly you have: what little money I had to invest I have now invested in another State, because I am like the rest of the people here who have lost confidence in the financial position of this State. I cannot see any future for South Australia: in 18 months not one new industry has been attracted to this State.

Mr. Clark: That is not true. You should have read the Premier's excellent speech in which he listed the industries.

Mr. HEASLIP: Can the honourable member inform me of one new industry? The only one I know was a small potato chip factory that opened near Glenelg.

The Hon. Frank Walsh: What do you want now?

Mr. HEASLIP: The name of one new industry that has been established here in the last 12 months.

Mr. Ryan: I will give you one—Chrysler. Who started that? Don't say that you did!

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Did you?

Mr. Ryan: The member for Flinders would not know where Chrysler was going to be established.

Mr. HEASLIP: The member for Flinders can give a better story about Chrysler than I can because he was in the Ministry when that company was attracted to South Australia. Chrysler decided to set up at Tonsley Park.

Mr. Ryan: Who created it?

Mr. HEASLIP: I am talking about who brought it here: the Playford Government brought it here.

Mr. Ryan: Who did? The member for Flinders—

The Hon. T. C. Stott: It must have been Matthew Flinders!

Mr. Ryan: You're not going to say Sir Thomas Playford, are you?

Mr. HEASLIP: It was Sir Thomas Playford's Government.

Mr. Ryan: Rubbish!

The SPEAKER: Order! I should like to hear the member for Rocky River for a change.

Mr. HEASLIP: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been claimed that Chrysler's new foundry at Christies Beach was a new industry brought to South Australia by this Government. I have never heard of anything so ridiculous. Any Chrysler director (and I know a few of them) will say that that foundry was planned when the company first decided to come here. The foundry is merely an extension of the Tonsley Park factory, and not a new industry for South Australia.

The Hon. Frank Walsh: Have you forgotten the marriage that took place in the meantime?

Mr. HEASLIP: That helps, but that did not decide the new foundry.

The Hon. Frank Walsh: Don't make me use bad language.

Mr. HEASLIP: The Premier would be out of order if he did.

Mr. Ryan: Not if he were referring to you!

Mr. HEASLIP: I know of a few industries that have closed in this period.

The Hon. Frank Walsh: Name them.

Mr. HEASLIP: Diecasters at Elizabeth.

The Hon. Frank Walsh: What was it? It had its parent company in Victoria.

Mr. HEASLIP: I do not care where the parent company was, but the fact is that it employed over 100 men here.

Mr. Curren: When did it plan to close—years ago?

Mr. HEASLIP: I could not say, but I know that for 12 months the Premier's Department—

The Hon. Frank Walsh: Where is the Premier's Department mentioned in the lines?

Mr. Coumbe: We are not dealing with the Estimates.

Mr. HEASLIP: I think somebody else needs to wake up. However, I intend to refer to the Budget, because the allocation for the Premier's Department makes provision for publicity and information, and documentary films, etc., for industrial promotion. This provision is made to give South Australia new industries, but we do not have them, despite the fact that it is costing us \$100,000 this year—

The Hon. Frank Walsh: I'll be pleased to answer that.

Mr. HEASLIP: —plus another \$10,000 in the Industries Promotion Department, which totals \$110,000.

The Hon. Frank Walsh: It really should be pounds, but it was changed to dollars on second thought.

Mr. HEASLIP: I do not know what the Premier means by that. He evidently means that the Government has run so short of money that it has halved the original sum to be provided. That is not the way to attract industry to South Australia. If we spend \$110,000, we should at least expect to get something for it, but we have received nothing. That is lamentable.

Mr. Curren: It is on the Estimates; it will be spent this year.

Mr. HEASLIP: I know it is on the Estimates.

Mr. Lawn: Has the Grosvenor increased its tariff?

Mr. HEASLIP: At least a third of this proposed expenditure has already been spent this year. I support the member for Torrens. The Premier's Department has failed to attract more industries to South Australia. It is fatal for any State to remain stationary or to regress.

The Hon. Frank Walsh: You are being very helpful.

Mr. HEASLIP: Should we allow things to drift and do nothing about it? We must do something about it, and now is the time.

Mr. Lawn: It's time you sat down!

Mr. HEASLIP: The member for Torrens seeks to do something about it; the Premier's Department having failed, the honourable member is suggesting an alternative. The Government, by imposing the extra charges that it has imposed in South Australia for the sake of uniformity, could not have made it more difficult for that department. Because somebody else in another State imposes higher charges, we apparently have to follow suit.

Mr. Lawn: Has the Grosvenor increased its charges?

Mr. HEASLIP: I do not see what that has to do with it. I am talking about the Government's stock phrase "for the sake of uniformity". How often have we heard that phrase used? Well, we have become uniform and made it so difficult for the Premier's Department that we shall have to give it away. The member for Torrens suggests giving it away and trying something new.

Mr. Ryan: Which State hasn't increased its charges?

Mr. HEASLIP: I know that memories are short, but if the honourable member will only think back he may recall that over the last 20 years, by keeping our costs below those of the other States, South Australia has been more successful than any other State in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Ryan: Which State has reduced its charges?

Mr. HEASLIP: I am not talking about reducing them. We have increased many charges to make them equal with or higher than those in other States. It is extremely difficult to compete with the Eastern States whose markets are close at hand.

Mr. Ryan: Give us one instance of proof of what you are saying.

Mr. HEASLIP: I support the motion.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT secured the adjournment of the debate.

ABORIGINAL LANDS TRUST BILL.

The Legislative Council requested that the House of Assembly give permission to the Attorney-General (Hon. D. A. Dunstan) and the Hon. G. G. Pearson, members of the House of Assembly, to attend and give evidence before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the Aboriginal Lands Trust Bill.

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

That the Attorney-General and the Hon. G. G. Pearson have leave to attend and give evidence before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the Aboriginal Lands Trust Bill, if they think fit.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Flinders): Other members of this House may desire to attend before the Select Committee. Am I to understand that the procedure will be the same in the case of other members who may desire to attend, or whom the Select Committee wishes to attend? Will other members receive privileges the same as those the House is now proposing to extend to the Attorney-General and me?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I understand that will be the procedure.

Motion carried.

[*Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.*]

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: GAS.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH (Premier and Treasurer): I ask leave to make a statement. Leave granted.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Much as I would have liked to release this statement earlier, certain complications were involved and the matter was not finalized until late this afternoon. I wish to inform the House that tomorrow I shall proceed to Canberra to meet

the Prime Minister in order to make submissions to him respecting finance for a pipeline to transport natural gas from wells in the North-East of this State to the metropolitan area. Since my return from overseas in June last on a fact-finding mission in company with my colleague the Minister of Mines, detailed feasibility and other investigations have been made into this project. These have involved both our own officers and overseas specialists, and much work has also been done in financial investigations so as to present the best possible well-documented submission to the Commonwealth Government.

The Government takes the view that, to ensure that the South Australian community and South Australian industry are to get the maximum benefits from the discovery and exploitation of natural gas fields within this State, it is essential that the pipeline be financed and operated as a public authority. Only in such a way can the costs of financing and operating the pipeline be reduced to a level so as to make available to industry and the public the immense benefits to be derived from a large, local source of low-cost fuel.

The full co-operation and assistance of the Commonwealth Government are, of course, necessary if the State and the pipeline authority are to have access to adequate finance upon reasonable terms. The Prime Minister has consented to see me personally on this matter tomorrow afternoon, and I trust that I shall soon be able to give the House further and favourable information upon this very important matter.

THE ESTIMATES.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from September 20. Page 1717.)

CHIEF SECRETARY AND MINISTER OF HEALTH.

Department of Public Health, \$907,410;
Public Service Commissioner's Department,
\$376,978—passed.

Miscellaneous, \$9,825,600.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: I refer to the provision of \$2,600 to the Adelaide Eisteddfod Society. In 1964 the then Premier announced at a choral festival at Tanunda that the Government would make available between \$8,000 and \$10,000 annually to foster competitions between choirs in South Australia and to foster choral music in particular. When the present Government came into office it honoured that promise, and \$8,600 was made available last year for the Adelaide Eisteddfod Society.

Many members attended the functions held in Adelaide and, because of the money available, many choirs from other States were attracted to compete here against South Australian choirs. Other competitions were also held. However, I am somewhat alarmed to see that the sum allocated for this purpose this year has been reduced by \$6,000 to \$2,600.

When I spoke to people concerned at one of the functions last year, I gained the impression that the committee in Adelaide considered that a generous sum had been made available for prizes and that something might be left in kitty after the eisteddfod had been completed. Whether or not that is true I do not know. I suggest that similar appearance and prize money to that made available for the competitions in Adelaide should be made available for competitions amongst smaller choirs (particularly country choirs and the numerous church choirs in some country areas), as it would be an incentive for these smaller choirs to compete in competitions. The making available of prize money could do much for choral work in South Australia. I have in mind something similar to what has been done for many years in the field of brass bands, where regular competitions are held in South Australia annually. The South Australian championships are held at Tanunda every year, and other band competitions and carnivals are held at Whyalla, in the South-East and in one of the Murray River towns, where local bands compete. Appearance or competition money should be made available for some of the smaller choirs, not necessarily in the metropolitan area but in country districts.

Why has this line been reduced? Is there still money in hand from the eisteddfod held in 1965 with which to carry on for the current year? If not, is there a lack of interest in competition work for choirs in South Australia? Could consideration be given to affording the smaller country choirs an opportunity to take part in competitions at which appearance money would be made available? One choir carnival is to take place in Berri in October of this year. A similar festival was held in Tanunda in 1964. Choirs from all over South Australia participate in these choral festivals. Prize money would be an incentive for competition work.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH (Premier and Treasurer): An additional \$6,000 was provided in 1965-66 towards choral championships to be held each alternate year. This provision was to assist in paying fares and providing appearance money. If these competitions are not to be held in 1966-67, there is no need

for the extra allocation. If the championships are held in 1967-68, the allocation will be comparable with last year's provision. There are allocations of \$40,000 for the South Australian Symphony Orchestra, \$6,200 for the South Australian Band Association, and \$900 for the Nuriootpa School Band Competition. So, I think we have done reasonably well in contributing to these things.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: For Meals on Wheels, the proposed capital grant is \$17,000, the same as voted last year, when \$1,067 was actually spent. I approve of the assistance to this worthy organization, but is the proposed \$17,000 to carry on a project to which the organization was committed last year but was unable to complete, or is it to set up a new depot or for increasing activity? I do not criticize the grant: I want information. I next refer to Helping Hand Centre Nursing Home, for which \$10,000 was voted last year. None of that was spent, and the grant has not been renewed this year. Why did the organization not use the grant last year? Why does it not require a similar grant this year? My third reference is to the Phoenix Society, for which there is a proposed capital grant of \$10,000. This society had in mind a building programme. Is this money in respect of that?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The grant for Meals on Wheels is towards its operating costs, and the provision for the Helping Hand Centre Nursing Home is a subsidy on two kitchens on a \$2 to \$1 basis. The Government found it necessary to make a direct grant for Meals on Wheels annually. In the event of its receiving money from any persons or organizations, that money is theirs.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: That would not reduce the Government grant.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: No. In the interests of that organization, it was decided to give it a straightout grant that would carry it on for the 12 months, and it could keep any other income it got.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: This will be a regular grant, will it?

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Yes; instead of the Government's providing a subsidy for its deficiency, it gets a straight grant and in addition it can retain whatever extra it raises.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Regarding the Helping Hand Centre Nursing Home, the information I have is that the amount provided was for nursing homes for aged persons, and it would appear that the project was not proceeded with last year. The provision for the

Phoenix Society represents a subsidy on a \$2 to \$1 basis towards the purchase of land for a sheltered workshop.

Mr. SHANNON: Under the line "Guide Dogs for the Blind", the provision is being deleted entirely. I consider that this is one of the social services that deserves assistance. A blind person is most restricted if he cannot get about, and the assistance of the trained dog at least makes him mobile. I should like the Treasurer to explain why nothing is being provided under this line. The provision for the South Australian Institution for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb has been halved. I appreciate that there are limitations on the sum available, and that it is not easy to provide for all the things for which we would like to provide. However, I am a little upset that we are starting to cut our expenditure in a field in which people have little opportunity to help themselves.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: Regarding the line "Guide Dogs for the Blind", the Government made a straightout donation of \$2,000 when an appeal was made last year for this body. The chairman of the appeal was satisfied with the Government donation; he said that there would be no appeal this year, but that when another appeal was to be made he would let the Government know. Regarding the South Australian Institution for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, the only information I have is that \$10,000 is provided to assist the institution in the education of afflicted children.

Mr. Shannon: We spent \$20,000 last year.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I do not know whether there was a special appeal for this purpose. I have no information beyond what I have given. However, if the honourable member would care to ask me a question on this topic next week, I should be pleased to give him any further details I can get in the meantime.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Last year the South Australian Blood Transfusion Services were given a maintenance grant of \$180,000 and spent \$202,241. This year \$254,000 is being provided for that organization as a maintenance grant. I know the work carried out by this organization, and I know that some members of Parliament attend regularly and donate blood. In fact, I am a fairly regular donor. Donations cost the service nothing. Members of the public have supported this service willingly, and they render great assistance in this way. The authorities there are always looking for additional blood donors, and

they are appealing to the public to come forward for this purpose. While I was overseas I discovered that a person in the United States was paid \$10 for every pint of blood he donated. I do not think that such payment is good. I merely point out that, as people give their blood free here, the organization is saved much money. I do not know whether it is a practice to make any charge to the hospital patient who may be a recipient of blood or blood plasma, but it seems to me that it would not be unreasonable to impose some charges for this service. Is a charge made to the patient for the blood plasma he receives? If not, it seems that this maintenance grant will increase over the years. Charges might be made in cases where patients could reasonably be asked to make payments.

In regard to the proposed provision of \$4,000 for living allowances and fees in connection with medical cadetships, can the Treasurer explain the basis of these cadetships and how money is applied to the person concerned?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The proposed provision for maintenance for the South Australian Blood Transfusion Services is a reimbursement of 90 per cent of the expenditure incurred by the Australian Red Cross Society in taking, testing and distributing blood. The Commonwealth reimburses 30 per cent of the total expenditure.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Is any charge made for blood plasma supplied to patients?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I do not think so, unless the cost is included in the patient's hospital account. Medical cadetships provide assistance to medical students who have experienced financial difficulties in the latter years of their courses at the university, in return for which they are bonded after graduation and after one year as resident medical officer. I hope that these cadetships can be extended and that other hospital training facilities can be provided so that we shall have sufficient doctors of medicine available to meet requirements without having to legislate to try to encourage people from other countries.

Mr. LANGLEY: The people concerned are pleased about the increase in the amount proposed for the Home for Incurables. Good progress is being made on the construction of the new building. The grant to the Old People's Welfare Council will help many aged people in South Australia and I am pleased at the result of a deputation to the Chief Secretary on this matter. I also record my appreciation of the proposed grant to the Dunbar Presbyterian Home for Aged in

Victoria Street, Goodwood. On what basis is this grant made?

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The sum proposed for maintenance of the Adelaide Children's Hospital, \$1,900,000, is only \$120,000 more than actual payments last year, whereas the difference between the amount voted last year and the actual payments last year was \$130,000. However, basic wage and other increases have been greater this year than was the case last year. In view of this and the size of the hospital, can the Treasurer say how the amount proposed was calculated, whether the hospital authorities were consulted and whether they agreed that the amount proposed was sufficient? I point out that the previous Government arranged for an auditor from the Auditor-General's Department to make recommendations regarding the amount required to enable the hospital to fulfil its proper functions.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I cannot say whether a representative from the Chief Secretary's Department was adviser to this board, but a representative of the department does advise other hospitals. There will never be sufficient money available for these places at any time, however large the provision. Discussion took place before this amount was agreed upon, and there has been a grant towards maintenance costs, but if further information is required I shall try to obtain it. In answer to the member for Unley, the grant to the Dunbar Presbyterian Home for Aged was on a dollar-for-dollar basis towards furnishing and equipment. Each application for assistance is reported on by the Auditor-General.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: The grant for the South Australian Band Association has remained static at \$6,200 since 1964, when it was first granted. Last year, I referred to the work being done by this association and expressed the hope that the Government would increase the grant this year. The Treasurer then said that more interest was being taken in band music and if it were possible the grant would be increased next year. However, I regret to note that it has not been increased. There has been a considerable increase in the interest in band work in this State and throughout the Commonwealth. Six or seven weeks ago I attended a brass band concert held in the Melbourne Town Hall on a Sunday afternoon when four major Melbourne bands provided the concert and the hall was almost filled to capacity.

The South Australian Band Association consists of 31 senior bands of which 16 are in the metropolitan area and 15 in country areas and about 950 bandmen are members of the bands. Also, there are 10 or 11 junior bands in this State, with about 300 bandmen. Under the aegis of the association, competitions are held in various parts of this State. The South Australian Championship is conducted annually at Tanunda and competitions are held at the Northern Brass Bands Carnival, the Murray Valley Band Contest and the South-East Band Contest. These bands perform in connection with many charities in this State, and I understand that several play in the Labor Day procession, so that the association was able to present a strong case to the Government for an increase in the grant. I perused the case that was made out and raised this matter when speaking in the Address in Reply debate, suggesting that an increase was warranted this year.

I believe that next year the Australian Championship will be held in this State, as once every six years it is held here, and if that happens a considerable increase in this line is warranted because greater prize money will attract more bands from other States, thus improving banding in South Australia. Will the Treasurer seriously consider an increase in this line next year as it was not provided this year?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: This grant is to assist bands operating in South Australia and includes a payment previously made for the Tanunda Band Competition. I queried whether we could increase this amount because I am charitably disposed to these associations, but the purse would not stretch any farther. We did the next best thing by not reducing the grant, but I assure the honourable member that if it is possible to consider this case favourably next year it will be done.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am obliged to ask you for a ruling with regard to a slight alteration in the Estimates that seems necessary to bring them into line with Government policy. On page 36 one word seems to have got into the Estimates that completely alters the provisions of certain grants to hospitals. You, Sir, will remember that the Treasurer said that the grant from the Hospital Fund would not be paid at the expense of the normal Government grant. The Treasurer has just confirmed that the normal Government grant to the Adelaide Children's Hospital was \$1,900,000, but I notice that \$50,000 has been struck off,

because somebody has apparently mistakenly included the word "less". That word should not appear, because that is not in accordance with the Treasurer's policy or with his statement about the use of the Hospital Fund. Mr. Chairman, is it permissible for me to move to strike out the word "less", because that would then bring the matter into line with the Government's stated policy on this matter?

The CHAIRMAN: The answer is "No".

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Mr. Chairman, I ask whether it is permissible for me to move to strike out the word "less".

The CHAIRMAN: I said "No".

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Why not?

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is not here to ask the reason why.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Which Standing Order prevents my moving to strike out a word?

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member knows the answer as well as I do. Does he wish to continue asking the question and receiving my reply? The member for Gumeracha!

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I now ask the Treasurer whether he will take action to have this matter rectified. Obviously, the Hospital Fund is not being used in accordance with the second reading explanation of two Bills providing the money to be paid to various hospitals. Obviously, too, the fund, in spite of the assurance given when the relevant legislation was before the House, is now actually being used for the purposes of the Revenue Budget of the State and not for the purpose of charitable institutions at all. Is the Treasurer prepared to make some explanation at least of why, on the first occasion that the Hospital Fund appears on the Estimates, it is directly the reverse of the promises made to the State in this Chamber concerning this particular fund?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: A sum is provided to offset expenditure on subsidies to hospitals where no provision has been made.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I am not at all satisfied with that explanation. The sum is now to offset expenditure, but when mentioned previously it was to be a sum in addition to expenditure. There is a totally different meaning because, in fact, statements were made to the effect that moneys from the totalizer agency board and lottery systems would be used for charitable purposes. I do not regard the Treasurer as a charitable purpose within the meaning of the Act, and he is certainly not a hospital within the meaning of

the Act, although he probably will be in one before he is finished.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I do not object, as a rule, to some of the remarks passed in this Chamber, but I think it is starting to get a little out of hand.

The Hon. G. A. Bywaters: It is foolish, I think.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: It amounts to stupidity. Nothing on this line refers to T.A.B.

Mr. Ryan: Or lotteries!

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: No. If and when there is a surplus from either one of these schemes (and I do not think we shall receive any support from the member for Gumeracha to get them)—

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: That's correct.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: It is all right for somebody from the back bench to criticize something that may eventuate. In the meantime, I think it would be just as well to give the matter the consideration it deserves. I have given the answer contained in the document from which I have been constantly quoting. I have endeavoured to give all the information possible to any questions asked. That is as far as I am prepared to go. T.A.B. and lotteries are not mentioned in this document, and I am unable to make any forecasts in that regard.

Mr. FERGUSON: I notice that nothing is provided for the Southern Yorke Peninsula Home for the Aged this year, whereas \$700 was allocated last year. Although building was delayed, because \$40,000 had to be raised by local residents beforehand, I understand the home is now in the course of erection. I should like to be assured that the sum will be available when required.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The line provides for grants on a dollar-for-dollar basis towards furnishings and equipment. Each application for assistance is reported on by the Auditor General.

Line passed.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL, MINISTER OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE.

Attorney-General's Department, \$181,325.

Mr. COUMBE: For some time I understand that a shortage of magistrates in various sections of the Attorney-General's Department has existed, and I also understand that temporary magisterial assistance is provided to overcome that shortage. Can the Attorney-General give the present strength and number of magistrates

under his control? Is the shortage likely to be corrected?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Attorney-General): We are still short of magistrates. Under this Government, there has been a substantial increase in the salaries payable to magistrates; there has not simply been the ordinary increase according to the changes in the cost of living or the basic wage, but substantial increases have been paid to magistrates in an endeavour to attract to the magisterial ranks people of high qualifications and standing in the profession. We have had a number of useful applications in the last year, and some very experienced men have been appointed to the magisterial positions. However, unfortunately, in the last year we have also had a number of deaths in the department, and this has meant that, although we have recruited reasonably well, we have not recruited a sufficient number to cope with the existing lack of magistrates, plus the losses through death or retirement. In consequence, we are finding it necessary still to call on temporary magisterial assistance to some extent, although not quite to the extent that occurred during this last year. We are now able to appoint a magistrate permanently to the Elizabeth area. This is the first time we have had a full-time magistrate appointed permanently to that area, and with the growth of work in the area it is necessary. The magistrate to be appointed is known to the member for Gawler (Mr. Clark) and has had considerable experience in the area. In consequence, we are able both in the Country and Suburban Courts Department and in the Adelaide Magistrates' Court Department to improve the staffing from the previous situation but, in both places, we still require some temporary magisterial assistance.

In addition, we are faced during this year with many drainage cases in the South-East that can be dealt with only by a temporary magistrate. Mr. Ziesing, S.M., has been asked to take the large number of cases that have arisen, because it is considered there will be a singular advantage to be gained from having one magistrate deal with all the cases. Therefore, he has been sent there (rather than relieving in the Adelaide Local Court Department) to deal with these particular cases. Although temporary magisterial assistance this year will not need to be quite as great as during the last year because of the recruitment we have had, we are still lacking in magistrates.

Probably the most difficult position with which we are faced is that in the Juvenile Court. The Juvenile Court Magistrate (Mr. Marshall) has now been promoted to the Adelaide Local Court, and we have not found a replacement. A replacement is urgent in this department because, with the proclamation of the new Juvenile Courts Act, this becomes an even more responsible position than it has been previously and requires a magistrate of considerable experience with knowledge in particular areas of legal administration. What is more, the Juvenile Court Magistrate will now be required to concern himself not only with matters that come directly before his court but also with finding out how his orders affect those who come before him. There will be a much closer liaison between the Juvenile Court Magistrate and officers of the Social Welfare Department. We are anxious to find some satisfactory recruit to fill this position. As we do not have one, a particularly difficult position has occurred. Mr. Marshall has not yet been transferred from the Juvenile Court because we have not been able to provide a replacement for him although, of course, at the moment he is seconded there from the Local Court.

Mr. Coumbe: How are you going with the justices' handbook.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: That is completed and I hope it will be available from the printer early next year.

Mr. COUMBE: I refer to the increased allocation of \$11,740 for the Deputy-Registrar, inspectors, checking officers and clerical staff of the Companies Branch. I take it that this major increase has occurred because of the additional inspectors that have had to be appointed under the revised Companies Act provisions. Can the Attorney say how many inspectors are now employed and whether they are mainly employed on the additional work involved under the provisions of the amended Companies Act?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Under the previous Administration there were no company inspectors. This was the only State that did not have staff to carry out investigations under the new Companies Act. I received some representations from investment bodies and banking and credit institutions in South Australia protesting vigorously at the fact that under the previous Administration a number of complaints had been made and simply not dealt with. An investigation of the files showed that there was no staff to deal with the complaints. Indeed, a number of major frauds occurred in South Australia as a

result of which the public suffered serious deprivations, but prosecutions were not undertaken because there was no staff to complete the work for the prosecutions. When I took office and asked for work to be undertaken, for instance, in relation to Development and Vending Corporation, I was told that I could not expect a prosecution in this matter because it would require a senior Crown prosecutor to take off six weeks at least (provided I could give some ancillary staff) to get the case ready, and I could not do it because there were only two prosecutors and no ancillary staff.

We set about providing the necessary staff, which has now been provided and which is working hard. The honourable member will see the results shortly. We have appointed a senior and a junior company inspector. The senior inspector is Mr. Ray Arnold, the former Secretary of Noarlunga Meat Limited, who has had Government experience in auditing and wide experience in commerce, and is excellent for the work. There were many excellent applicants for this job and he was the best of them. He was highly recommended and has been doing extraordinarily good work since his appointment.

Mr. Coumbe: I know.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: His assistant, Mr. Bray, is also extremely well qualified and has been trained in the Companies Branch. In addition, we have made an alteration in the set-up of the fraud squad. With the agreement of the Chief Secretary, two members of the fraud squad (two senior detectives) normally engaged on company frauds have now been seconded to the Companies Branch, although they are still under the direction of the Police Commissioner. The two expert interrogators with police powers from the fraud squad and the two auditors and accountants appointed as company inspectors are investigating all complaints that come in. If they find, as a result of reports of liquidators or receivers, that there is cause for action, they make a recommendation through the Registrar of Companies to me and I then direct that proceedings be taken.

Where proceedings are taken, they come under the direction of the solicitor appointed in the Attorney-General's Department. This is a new post, and we have obtained an extremely good officer for this work (Mr. Kennieson) formerly with the Commonwealth Crown Law Department in the Northern Territory and experienced in company prosecutions for the Commonwealth, and he oversees, as part of his

duties, the work of the company investigators in the fraud squad in the matters that are referred for prosecution. There is a beehive of activity in the Attorney-General's Department as a result of these appointments, and, in future, companies and investors will not have cause for complaint that their protests about company frauds have not been dealt with. They will all be dealt with; they are being dealt with currently. I appreciate the excellent work being done by these officers.

Line passed.

Crown Solicitor's Department, \$200,000—passed.

Parliamentary Draftsman's Department, \$38,531.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Are we to lose the services as a Parliamentary Draftsman of Mr. Daniel? If we are, what provision is being made to replace him or to supplement the Parliamentary Draftsman's staff?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I fear that we are losing Mr. Daniel. Unfortunately, for family reasons, he is finding it proper to return to England. I regret it very much, for he was an acquisition to the Parliamentary Draftsman's staff. We have advertised for draftsmen, but every draftsman's office in Australia is understaffed and is desperately trying to recruit draftsmen. We have not been successful in recruiting another experienced draftsman. As a result, I have only this week received submissions that we should take in cadets for training and should endeavour to provide career positions in the department. In this way I hope that we shall be able to attract recent graduates, who will receive training in the department, before we are faced with further retirements. For some strange reason, draftsmen's offices do not attract recruits from the graduate schools. I do not know why.

Mr. Nankivell: It is a job involving meticulous work.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: That is so, but it can provide a career position far in advance of that available to most people who go to the bar.

Mr. Nankivell: Perhaps it is not so exciting.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: At times it is very exciting. One can even be embroiled in various Parliamentary shenanigans. However, we have made some recommendations to the Public Service Commissioner for the appointment of junior practitioners to the department who have not had great experience in drafting but who will certainly, with assistance, be able to help us. We propose to create career positions in training in the department in the hope

that we can fill the offices of the department satisfactorily. Unfortunately, we have also lost Mr. Gibbs.

Mr. Nankivell: I was not aware of that; so now you are down to two?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. In effect, we shall before long be down to two. These two are very experienced draftsmen, but we still have problems.

Line passed.

Public Trustee's Department, \$306,432; Supreme Court Department, \$278,566; Adelaide Local Court Department, \$169,989; Adelaide Magistrates' Court Department, \$147,087; Country and Suburban Courts Department, \$333,346; Registrar-General of Deeds Department, \$522,931—passed.

Department of Aboriginal Affairs, \$1,487,721.

Mr. FERGUSON: I refer to the item "Purchase of houses for Aborigines, \$149,000". I am aware that this is a necessary activity on many Aboriginal reserves, particularly those established many years ago. The Point Pearce Reserve was established in 1868, so obviously some residences there are very old. I understand that a prefabricated type of house is being erected there. Can the Minister say what is the total cost of the prefabricated houses erected and ready for habitation?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Minister of Aboriginal Affairs): I cannot tell the honourable member the exact cost. Six such houses are being erected at Point Pearce currently; they should be about ready now. They are being erected by World Wide Camps. I believe that, including all sewer connections and built-in furniture and equipment, each house costs slightly less than \$10,000. That is less costly than any comparable building of the same floor area provided by either the Housing Trust or any local builder. These houses have to be of a reasonable and substantial size because they have to cater for large families. They are of a reasonable standard and are durable, the best we could get.

Mr. Nankivell: Are you satisfied that they are durable?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, we are. We tested them. Unfortunately, housing on Aboriginal reserves or anywhere in the country proves costly, on any contract basis. Quotations by the Housing Trust for suitable housing on reserves are at times astronomical. The best and cheapest contract we could get was with World Wide Camps. Although outwardly the houses are not perhaps quite as attractive as we should like them to be, nevertheless we are satisfied that they will do the job. We

have also been building houses on reserves with local labour. They have not been completed as quickly as we hoped they would be, the main reason being not that the local labour did not get on with the job but that, unfortunately, the children on the Point Pearce Reserve at night proceeded to undo the job that their parents had done during the daytime. We are trying to get ahead with renovating the housing on Point Pearce as quickly as possible. In addition to the housing contract that has been let, provision has also been made for the forming and macadamizing of the roads and the forming of the water tables, the completion of the sewerage project, and the provision of hot water services wherever possible in housing throughout the reserve so as to bring the ablutions standards up to the best possible level. In these circumstances, I expect that Point Pearce will rapidly get to the state of housing which can be demonstrated on a number of other reserves, particularly Koonibba. Housing there was pressed on with and has reached a very good standard generally, and I hope the same standard will shortly be reached at Point Pearce.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I think we must face up to the fact that Point Pearce is one of the oldest reserves in the State; it has reached the stage where third and fourth generation Aborigines are living there, yet unfortunately the Minister has to say (and I know why he has to say it) that the standard of conduct on the Point Pearce Reserve is not equivalent and the output of labour there is not equal in quality or quantity to that at a very much less sophisticated reserve at Koonibba.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: It is improving.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I hope it is. I admit that I do not have all the answers to Point Pearce, and I know the Minister does not have them. However, I should like him to comment on what I am about to say, because I think the cost of housing at Point Pearce is far too high. We have had a building overseer operating at Point Pearce for as far back as I can remember. We have spent a good deal of money there equipping workshops and setting up machinery and so on for doing the work on the reserve, and it ought to be done on the reserve by the people who live there. I think the Minister agrees with me on that.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: As far as we possibly can.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: There should be sufficient capacity there in quality

and in quantity for the residents to look after themselves in this regard. I am sorry that the Minister finds it necessary to employ outside contractors, and I hope that this will not continue. I know that the previous Administration had to resort sometimes to outside assistance, and I always regretted it. I tried very hard to see that all the sewerage work (except perhaps, the plumbing) was done by the local people.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Much of it was.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am glad to know that. There has been a tendency (I say this sympathetically and not critically) for the staff at Point Pearce, and perhaps at some other reserves, too, to say that the organization of Aboriginal labour was so difficult and so unsatisfactory that they would prefer to get somebody else in to do the work because the cost was less in the long run. That probably was correct, but it did not achieve the objectives and the purposes of the reserves, and we had to insist on some occasions that despite difficulties the staff persevere. I know that even perseverance does not seem to suffice at Point Pearce sometimes.

I should like the Minister's assurance that, when this batch of houses is completed, any additional housing or building that has to be done on the reserve ought to be done by the people who live there. Materials for concrete construction are available in the area; there is plenty of stone that can be crushed; there is plenty of sand; and water is laid on. With those ingredients, concrete and concrete blocks can be made. That is what was done at Koonibba, and it could and should be done at Point Pearce. There is nothing more solid and durable than concrete. I know some expert trades have to follow the building of the walls, but even supposing that the work was not done quite so expertly inside as it would be done by a qualified plasterer or carpenter, at least we are duty bound, in performing the function of the department as a whole, to persevere in every possible way.

Mr. Ferguson: There is a very large work force at Point Pearce at present.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I know that, and possibly some of these people are not getting employment or not using the opportunities for employment while outside contractors are doing the work. I ask the Minister to follow a fairly firm policy on this matter, because I think this is a thing we must do to achieve the object for which the department exists.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: So far as possible, we have sought, following the honourable member's policy, that work in rebuilding houses should be carried out by reserve residents, that they should be employed in, and gain a pride from, bringing their reserves up to a higher material standard. However, at Point Pearce there has been a build-up in population and in pressure upon accommodation of such a kind that the officers have reluctantly said to me, "Look, we cannot build with the staff on the reserve at the rate that will be required to provide adequate housing for those who are on the reserve and to get rid of the utterly substandard housing which should not be allowed to remain."

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Where are these people coming from?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: They are building up on the reserve itself, or they are relatives of people on the reserve who are seeking to return to it. There is more pressure to live at Point Pearce than there is to live on any other reserve in South Australia, and far from Point Pearce following the course of Point McLeay (where there has been a considerable reduction and where there is no real pressure to live on the reserve any longer), Point Pearce has followed precisely the opposite path. It is quite evident that Point Pearce will not decline in population but will increase. There has been a natural increase at Point Pearce, and there has been an in-breeding there that is getting to a stage where it must cause real worry. This has been the content of quite serious reports to me by departmental officers. As a result, we had an investigation by the research officers to see what could be the future of Point Pearce.

Only last week I received from the Aboriginal Affairs Board recommendations that certain intensive investigation be carried out now into a number of projects put up by the research officers for development of cottage industry at Point Pearce, because they were satisfied from their investigations that Point Pearce would not follow the course of Point McLeay, but that there would be a build-up in population and we would have to provide not merely uneconomic employment for the refurbishing of the reserve but long-term economic employment there. The research officers have made many useful suggestions on this matter and these suggestions are being examined. The officers have found that in circumstances like this, with the material they have from overseas on the reserve

employment of indigenous people, avenues for useful economic employment in the area could be specially created there, and this matter is being followed up. Otherwise, we are faced with fairly unpalatable alternatives.

I assure the honourable member that we are trying to use the work force at Point Pearce as far as possible in the refurbishing of the reserve: in building new houses; in the renovation of existing houses; in the construction of roads and water tables; in the completion of the sewerage scheme; and so on. We have gone in for these prefabricated houses because people have not moved off the reserve in the numbers that we expected and because we have had to provide accommodation for people who were living in completely inadequate accommodation. We were unable to build at a rate that would cope with the demand.

I assure the honourable member that this will be limited so as to ensure that wherever possible reserve residents will be used, in accordance with the policies he has laid down and with which I agree, in refurbishing the reserve. Of course, when these people are doing this work they are being trained for useful employment off the reserve later.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Can the Minister say whether the work force at Point McLeay is insufficient to provide adequate manpower for the operation of the reserve, and whether provision has been made in these Estimates for the reticulation of water in accordance with the new proposals for a water scheme for Point McLeay? No decision has been reached by the council at Meningie about accepting, on behalf of the people of the town of Narrung, the combined proposal for a combined scheme for Point McLeay Reserve and the township of Narrung. However, I understood from the Minister that, irrespective of whether the joint proposal was acceptable to the council, it was intended to proceed with the provision of a new reticulated water service to Point McLeay.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The work force has fallen below the point where we can economically work the farm lands at Point McLeay. It had got to that stage last year, when the suggestion was made to the local residents that we should bring in single men from Davenport Reserve. However, the residents were not happy about this proposal. The whole development of Point McLeay has been held up pending the appointment of the Aboriginal Lands Trust so that the members of the trust board could talk to the council at Point McLeay about the future and

try to determine a satisfactory course of procedure.

Regarding water reticulation, there is provision for a water tank and stand, replacement of the sewerage main and public toilet and equipment at the butcher's shop. However, provision is not made under specific Point McLeay expenditure for the joint Narrung-Point McLeay water scheme. General provisions for water reticulation are made in the "Contingencies" line, so we could, if necessary, make money available for the scheme.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Can the Minister explain his attitude to grants for the purpose of establishing a social centre for Aborigines and people of Aboriginal blood in the metropolitan area? The department knows of about 2,000 of these people in the metropolitan area, and there must be many more people with some Aboriginal blood of whom the department has no record. This is a large community in comparison with those in other areas populated by Aborigines, and I pointed out in the Address in Reply debate that Aborigines in the metropolitan area deserved much encouragement. They have established themselves in a community different from their own, and we tend to overlook members of this large community with varying degrees of Aboriginal blood who have established themselves in Adelaide and gained employment in industry. They are able to look after themselves and seek little assistance, if any, from Government sources.

They are rather akin to the European migrant groups who have provided their own social centres and clubs that are of the greatest value to these people. They are a means by which the migrants overcome loneliness and the Aboriginal people must also feel the need for such facilities. I know several Aborigines who would like a social centre but are unable to provide it.

Two or three requirements are needed for the centre to be successful. First, the dominant purpose must be social: it must be for Aborigines to enjoy recreation. Secondly, there should be the absolute minimum of outside control. If the Government assists it must have some control, but eventually the centre must be controlled by the group. Thirdly, any tendency of those within the group for political organization should be resisted. I know many Aborigines who are bored with politics, but who want a social group where they can meet and talk. As there is no provision in the Estimates for this project, does the Minister agree with me about the value of a social centre and the

value of Government assistance to provide such a centre?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I agree that there would be advantages to the Aboriginal people in the city area if they had a social centre of their own. Some proposals have been made for this previously, none of which have so far come to fruition. It would be useless for the department to purchase and run a social centre for Aborigines: it has to be theirs; they have to get it; they have to run it; and they have to be responsible for it; but the department would assist if it could. A proposition came before the Aborigines Advancement League last year, I think, and it was referred to the Aborigines activities group of the league.

At that time I offered to provide assistance from the Crown Law Office for the incorporation of the body if they decided on a constitution, and to get them the necessary licence under the Collections for Charitable Purposes Act if they proceeded in the normal manner of other community groups to raise money and to provide a social centre for themselves. If they did, legal assistance would be given as would assistance of officers of the department in suggesting suitable premises, and, if necessary, a subsidy could have been arranged. No body was incorporated and no approach was made to the department for it. The Aborigines activities group disbanded, and no proposition came forward until after the Aborigines Progress Association had discontinued some of its activities and the Aboriginal Women's Council headed by Mrs. Elphick and Mrs. Thomas had been formed.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I draw members' attention to the Standing Order requiring that members must not stand in the aisles.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The council had proposed that a social centre, particularly for women, be provided in the west end of the city. Council members were looking at suitable premises which one of their voluntary workers could man permanently and to which people could go for assistance and advice. It would not be under the surveillance of the department, although the department would give whatever assistance was possible and would provide premises for them. We said we would be prepared to consider any such proposition and to help wherever we could, but up to the present no agreed proposition has been submitted. I want to do everything I can to encourage the provision of a social centre in Adelaide for Aborigines, because it is a good

idea. They have had their annual sports day and celebration in the park lands and I attended. It was a most satisfactory afternoon, and it was evident there were real benefits from Aborigines in the city of Adelaide getting together and being involved in social activities for their enjoyment.

However, it is impossible for the department to provide everything in this way. We have continually said that we will help provide facilities, that officers of the department will help examine propositions for suitable premises, and that, if necessary, building assistance can be given; but it is something they must create themselves.

Mr. FERGUSON: Can the Minister say how families are to be selected to occupy new houses on Aboriginal reserves?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Some priority is given in time (according to the lists we have) and particular needs are examined. We try to establish a needs basis according to the size of the family, dependency, and the family's income.

Mr. Ferguson: Do the applications come before the council?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: They are discussed by the council. They have not been discussed by the Point Pearce council previously because, of course, that council has not operated for long. It is now operating, I am glad to say, and becoming very vociferous. For instance, I am at present dealing with a submission from the council there which, I am pleased to say, is very precise. Certainly, applications for reserve houses will be discussed with councils, particularly in relation to those people who come on to reserves, because I have now pointed out to all reserve councils that we intend to promulgate regulations giving them the power over permits to enter. However, this will have to be exercised on the basis that the employment situation on the reserves is maintained: people are not to come on to the reserve, who do not have either employment available on the reserve or off it, because we cannot have unemployed people coming in to batten on the people who are employed on the reserve, thus reducing the overall living standard.

Housing and health standards must be preserved. Overcrowding in housing and a decline in health standards must not occur. Therefore, the Aboriginal Affairs Board, in discussing these regulations, has supported reports by the research officers, in submitting to the Government proposals for these regulations for reserve councils to operate the per-

mit system, that certain standards be laid down as to permanent occupancy which must be observed by councils in granting permits to enter reserves. We desire to have the councils involved in these things as much as possible.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I fully endorse the Minister's remarks concerning the metropolitan social centre for Aborigines. I believe that if the Government plays any leading part in establishing such a social centre it will be an expensive and probably useless undertaking. On the other hand, any assistance offered, such as the Minister has mentioned, will be useful. Any group that comes along with the sort of proposition mentioned will undoubtedly find that money is required. I presume some form of guarantee would first be required, otherwise a start could not be made. I agree that until Aborigines submitted a proposal, it would be a mistake to commence the scheme. Can the Minister say whether the Government will consider providing assistance in the form of a financial guarantee or in some other way?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes.

Mr. FERGUSON: I was interested to hear the Minister say that it is intended that the councils shall be given power to permit entry on to a reserve. I understand that the work force at the Point Pearce Reserve is at present more than is necessary.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Do you mean the farm land?

Mr. FERGUSON: I am referring to the whole of the working activity at Point Pearce. After the right is given to the council to permit entry, if people requiring employment come on to the reserve will they be added to the present work force there?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No, the council in granting permits will be required to ensure that anyone coming on to the reserve, who is not, say, a pensioner or somebody with some other adequate income, has employment available on the reserve or off it, but that nobody on any southern reserve will be able to remain on the reserve unless he or she is employed. Any other situation will result in an immediate decline in standards on the reserve. The whole policy initiated by my predecessor, with which I entirely agree, is that people on the reserves must be required to work, to obtain an income, and to pay for the normal things they require. A situation of working for income and paying for what is obtained is created on the reserve, as in the general community.

In fact, as the member for Flinders knows, officers resigned from other departments (in which they received emoluments greater than those available in our department) to come to South Australia because they believed that that policy was the right one. The policy has been very effective and we wish to maintain it. What is more, after some period we shall have to say to numbers of reserve councils that there will be a limit to our running uneconomic employment on the reserves. We are out to provide training programmes, and when those training programmes are largely completed we must be able to have economic employment on the reserves, or to have provided people with training for economic employment off the reserves. We cannot provide uneconomic employment on reserves indefinitely. This, of course, is one of the troubles that occurred at Point McLeay, as the member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell) may know. The people there wanted the dairy to remain.

Mr. Nankivell: But they didn't want to work it.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No; they wanted it there because of the provision of cheap milk and one or two other facilities, but it was providing no training programme for anyone. It was costing the department a lot of money and the Aborigines could get their milk perfectly properly from other supplies. That is not a useful thing for the department to carry on in those circumstances. I have said to every reserve council that we will endeavour to provide economic employment, and that is part of the work in which the research officer and the craft officer in training now will be involved. We want to provide economic employment on reserves wherever possible but there must be a limit to the provision of uneconomic employment on the reserves.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am pleased to hear what the Minister says about this matter because I feared from his earlier remarks that Point Pearce could become over-populated socially and economically. I am glad he intends to take some action to limit the number of people who go there. He has power under the Act to deal with this matter and I think it is essential for him to exercise that power. If and when the reserve council attains legal status the Minister can get Aborigines to discipline their own conduct. That is the only way to handle the problem, because where authority is exercised only by white people this becomes a source of ill-feeling amongst the Aborigines. All Aborigines must be treated in the same way as are other citizens.

I do not know whether the Minister will be able to maintain this policy on Davenport Reserve, which is on the fringe of the unsophisticated Aboriginal population, and many of those people are in the habit of coming there from the north for medical treatment and so on. Knowledge of good-time country spreads rapidly amongst Aborigines and I am concerned that Davenport might attract more unsophisticated Aborigines than it could cope with. I should like the Minister's assurance on this matter, if he can give it.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: About 12 months ago Davenport was a difficult problem but with the work of Mr. Lennard and his staff the problem has been mostly solved. This reserve presents nothing like the problem of Point Pearce. I should like to invite all members to go to Davenport because today it is one of the show places of the department. There has been a remarkable change, and a great tribute must be paid to Mr. Lennard and his staff for what has taken place there. Davenport, because of its peculiar situation, provides for several classes of person. First, there are aged people who are, in fact, geriatric cases. They are centred around the old people's centre at Davenport. The new cottages that have been built there are very good indeed.

I was there with Dr. Shea and officers of the Health Department only 10 days ago, and they were extraordinarily impressed with the set-up and the work being done there by the sister-in-charge and her assistants. The place is an absolute picture. Mr. Lennard and his staff have been responsible for the planting by Aborigines of 5,000 trees and shrubs on the reserve which are attended with fierce, possessive pride. The work at the old people's centre is going well. The initial instalment is about to be completed and a long line of pensioner cottages now have water and electricity. There is also the general village in which there are families in training on the reserve. Generally these people are in transition; that is, they are getting used to settled housing and are getting to the stage where they can move into the general community. In fact, numbers of these families are moving into Housing Trust houses in the general community at Port Augusta.

In the single men's quarters there are a number of single men who are let on to the place if they can be provided with employment on the reserve in the making of roads, in building programmes and so on or if they have employment in Port Augusta. We were able

to erect the single men's quarters cheaply because we obtained some old single men's railway cottages for an absolute song from the Commonwealth Railways Department. This area is kept tidy and brightly painted. It is very attractive. In addition, there is the section of the reserve where the transients' cottages are situated. They house sick people who come from the bush to Port Augusta for treatment, and these people are there for limited periods only. The cottages are fairly rudimentary; they are of galvanized iron with a concrete floor and a central fireplace. There are no sandhill humpies or wurlies on the reserve at all.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Are there any outside?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: There are two out at the villa, and that is all. The situation in Port Augusta is now satisfactory. Many roads on the reserve have been formed and water tables laid down in numbers of areas. They have much equipment there now. The houses in the village are fenced and painted and we have on the reserve a complete maintenance staff of Aborigines. The store operates successfully and is worked by Aborigines. Laurie Bray, the secretary of the council, works in the store as does another Aboriginal lad who lives on the reserve. In fact, the whole reserve is working extremely well. When I was there 10 days ago, I met the reserve council and, again, its members were articulate in their demands both regarding wage levels and general conditions on the reserve. I must pay a tribute to the work that Mr. Lennard has done there. We have in him a very experienced officer, who has done an extraordinarily fine job.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: If the Minister will look at the accounting arrangement for these items of the Estimates, he will see at the bottom of page 46 a heading "Contingencies—General", and that continues on page 47. The total vote this year is \$429,100. It includes a number of items that obviously will be shared between reserves and probably will be used as special circumstances require. The first reserve mentioned is Point Pearce, but my remarks now apply to all the other reserves. For Point Pearce, we see an item "Provisions and expenses incurred in normal operation, maintenance and training, \$36,000". The next item is "Supplementary expenditure, \$25,730", making a total of \$61,730. So far I can follow that, except that I do not know what is covered by "supplementary expenditure".

What type of item is included there? The explanation given causes me some difficulty—"Salaries and wages (page 46), \$95,728. Contingencies (as above), \$61,730." The \$61,730 obviously refers to the line I mentioned a few moments ago, but they are not the contingencies that appear under the heading "General". Therefore, I think the line "Supplementary expenditure" is vague and must be in addition to the contingencies set out under "General".

In the case of the Gerard Mission an increase of \$3,800 occurs, but that is the only case in which there is an increase: in all other cases the amount voted has been cut back heavily. For instance, for the Koonibba Reserve there is a decrease this year of \$24,599; at Davenport Reserve the decrease is \$23,246; at Coober Pedy it is \$3,391; at the North-West Reserve the decrease is \$22,594; at the Point McLeay Reserve it is \$7,059; and at Point Pearce it is \$4,837. Obviously, there has been a change in policy in connection with that line. Can the Minister explain that?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The supplementary expenditure at Point Pearce Reserve is required for a staff house, the replacement of two vehicles, the purchase of a workshop and farm equipment, the replacement of a water main, and the final payment on the sewerage scheme. The reason for the reduction in the allocation for Point Pearce is that there was a considerable amount of the sewerage scheme and there was the final payment for the electricity reticulation made last year; but those do not recur. That was on the supplementary expenditure line last year. The supplementary expenditure on a number of reserves has been reduced this year because last year we provided a good deal of additional equipment that is a non-recurring item at each of these reserves. For instance, at Koonibba a considerable amount of extra equipment was provided last year, including a concrete mixer and extra provision for the very extensive workshops. However, these are non-recurring items. Therefore, we do not need to provide the same amount of money this year.

At the Davenport Reserve a considerable amount of equipment was provided last year, including a grader. My friends at Davenport told me that the Superintendent had said to them, "Whatever happens, for goodness sake see that the grader is in use when the Minister is here next week." That was when I was last at Davenport. It was said because the Superintendents at other reserves had cast a fairly jealous eye at some of Mr. Lennard's

equipment. It is necessary equipment, purchased advantageously and cheaply for the department, and we have been able to make good use of it. Consequently, we have been able to budget for lower supplementary expenditures on other reserves because not so much new equipment is needed.

There is a new reserve line that the honourable member has not perhaps noticed, the new Indulkana Reserve. That is an area of 12 square miles purchased from Mr. McLachlan on the Granite Downs pastoral lease. It is proposed for the provision of an entirely new Aboriginal reserve. It is a beautiful area incorporating land of important tribal significance to people on the North-West pastoral leases. It will be an important development to ensure that assistance is given to the most under-privileged people in the State, the Aborigines in that area. We are providing this year \$8,000 for the acquisition of this area. The Aborigines are, of course, living on it at the moment.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I had hoped that the supplementary expenditure would emphasize medical services to some of the less sophisticated reserves.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: That is under "Salaries and Wages" generally.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have looked to see whether there was some departure compared with last year. I had noticed the new reserve that the Minister has mentioned. Can the Minister say whether it would be possible to provide better medical attention to the more remote reserves? I assure him that in saying this I do not intend any criticism of the department. However, I think that anyone visiting the North-West Reserve, and the associated mission close to it that is run by the Presbyterian Church, would notice that the medical services provided by the Presbyterian medical services were better than those provided in our North-West Reserve.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: I don't think that is correct.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Well, that was my firm impression, and I assumed that that was so because the mission had been there longer and was more firmly established. In any event, I considered that in both instances there was a considerable problem, particularly with eye diseases amongst the children, and indeed the supplementary report the Minister was pleased to give me in Parliament showed that there was a serious problem with eye diseases. Also, the

medical authorities at the Presbyterian mission told me that there were some serious problems regarding other diseases which are at present not sufficiently controlled on the reserves.

Can the Minister say whether it would be possible to obtain a report on this matter or arrive at some new approach to this problem? Frankly, I have never been to Point Pearce to see what the problem is there, and even though I have been to Point McLeay I have not looked critically at the situation there. However, it is my firm opinion that the problem in the Far North-West is something that requires attention. I know that some years ago the same problem occurred in a Far West reserve. I am not sure of the name of that reserve, but it was the reserve adjacent to Yalata before Yalata was actually purchased.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: There was the Fowlers Bay Reserve before Yalata was purchased.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: At that time I paid a visit there and saw there was a problem, and at least there was an attempt to get some medical provision for the reserve. I agree with other speakers that anything that can be done to make these reserves a training centre in order that the inhabitants can be made responsible is a first-class approach to the problem. However, I also believe that we can do a considerable amount in education and in the provision of medical services. Quite frankly, I do not believe we are doing enough with medical services; that was my firm impression recently when I visited the North-West of the State. I had some discussions with the authorities on the reserve there, and the unanimous opinion was that we were not doing enough in education and in the provision of medical attention.

Although I acknowledge the problems that exist, I suggest that they present a challenge to us. I had hoped that the "Supplementary Expenditure" line would have covered this aspect rather than the items mentioned by the Minister. Incidentally, the items he mentioned appear to be duplicated in the "Contingencies" line, so I expected that the "Supplementary Expenditure" line would have shown something entirely different. I hope that next year we shall be able to see some advance, particularly regarding medical attention. Indeed, I hope that by that time very much better educational facilities will have been provided in the remote centres.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member will find under "Missions, Institutions and Other Bodies" details of nursing and welfare staff and other employees at the various places. He will also find under "Contingencies—General" provision for medicine and medical attendance. We have a hospital building upon the North-West Reserve and a trained nursing sister constantly in attendance. The Patrol Officer on the pastoral leases in the North-West between Oodnadatta and the North-West Reserve is Sister Forbes, who is a fully qualified nursing sister and who carries with her medical supplies, so that the children there are inspected in every camp at least once a fortnight by a trained nursing sister. Supplementary feeding is given where necessary, and where children require the attendance of a doctor provision is made for this.

We also have plans for building a large hospital and new medical centre on the North-West Reserve, which plans I announced last year. It is the next building to go on the North-West Reserve, and it has been delayed only because of the difficulty of providing additional buildings there until an adequate water supply is found. Fortunately, only about four months ago a bore was sunk and this is giving a very good water supply, so we are able to go ahead with the development of buildings. This bore is only about a mile and a half out, towards Operinna, and almost in a direct line from the homestead. It will give us an adequate and guaranteed supply to the Musgrave Park station. In consequence, we can go ahead with this building which is, after the erection of the ablutions block, the next one to go on the North-West Reserve, that is, pending the establishment of the school there.

I assure the honourable member that considerable attention is given to medical assistance on the North-West Reserve and the pastoral leases. What we would do without Sister Forbes, I do not know. She is one of the finest and hardest working officers I know in the Public Service, and a person of the utmost dedication. The lives she has saved must be very many indeed.

Mr. FERGUSON: The purchase of Yalata has been mentioned. Can the Minister say whether negotiations have taken place for the purchase by the department of that mission?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The mission is under lease, and to terminate the occupancy by the Lutheran mission would require the payment of a substantial sum as compensation for improvements. We examined the

financial position and the officers recommended strongly to me that, although it was desirable to take over Yalata as soon as we could, there were two obstacles in the way.

The first was that we did not have sufficient staff to enable us to take it over. We are training staff and I am recruiting as many officers as I can. Several of our officers are visiting reserves and advantage has been taken of the opportunity given by the Commonwealth to train senior officers at the Australian School of Pacific Administration.

Secondly, if we took over the mission this year, we would not be able to develop Indulkana Reserve for the next two years. That reserve is of more vital interest to us than is the taking over of Yalata. Although the Government and the Lutheran mission authorities consider that it is desirable to transfer Yalata to the department as soon as possible, the present administration and staff at Yalata are adequate. However, this is not the case on the North-West pastoral leases, where most of the under-privileged people are and where we ought to be spending our money urgently.

Therefore, it was decided to negotiate with the Lutheran mission with a view to having the mission retain Yalata for the next two years. This has been agreed to and the position will be reviewed after two years, when we should have adequate staff and the necessary money to pay compensation for improvements.

Mr. RODDA: The Minister has said that there is a need to spend money urgently in the North-West, but the economy in the South-East is expanding and there are opportunities for the employment of Aborigines if they are ready to be assimilated. Earlier this year I discussed with the Minister the prospects of stationing a welfare officer at Naracoorte. However, because of recent newspaper publicity, I am not sure that Naracoorte is the correct place. Perhaps the officer could be stationed at Penola, Kalangadoo, or somewhere in that area, where there is a source of employment for Aboriginal people.

Line passed.

Department of Social Welfare, \$2,747,487.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Can the Minister say how often the Social Welfare Advisory Council has met since its appointment and what matters it has considered?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Minister of Social Welfare): I cannot remember all the matters that have been referred to the council. When the initial list of questions was referred to the members, they looked remarkably

daunted. The council has met fortnightly since it was appointed in April last. The matter which has presented most difficulty to it and which is not yet concluded is the whole question of public relief standards and how the public relief system is to be operated, together with the maintenance relief recovery system. This creates many accounting problems, quite apart from the matter of proper standards of public relief assistance. Many investigations have been conducted by members of the council.

The council has also considered the training of officers of the department, the proper forms of in service training, the standards to be sought in recruitment, and what training outside the service is to be given. These matters have been of particular concern to Dr. LePage. The council has considered the Magill Home and the role of the department in providing homes for indigent people. Miss Doris Taylor has given much assistance in these investigations. I have received one or two interim proposals from the council, but all matters referred to it have been of a long-term and complex nature. Professor Brown told me at the outset that I would not get answers quickly because of this. The council has been working extraordinarily hard in trying to provide suggestions and recommendations for alteration of policy.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Do the members visit all welfare institutions?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: They do not all visit all institutions, because the council has divided the work given to it and has designated to individual members the work of collecting material on specific matters. More work would be done more quickly if the specific abilities of each member of the council were used in the area in which they were qualified, and each member is specifically qualified in some area of social welfare.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Page 190 of the Auditor-General's Report refers to various institutions engaged in child welfare: details are given, and it is obvious that high costs are involved. However, costs at new homes opened this year are much higher and at the remand home at Glandore the average for the 64 children (and this is not low compared with other homes) is \$54.11 a child a week. Cottage homes have been established but the average cost is about \$26 a child a week. The Minister should refer the question of costs to the advisory council because obviously they are exorbitant and could have been achieved only with a total disregard to economy. Can the Minister say whether attention has been given to these costs and whether

steps have been taken to reduce them? If not, what attention can be given?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: These costs have always worried me, but the cost at a cottage home is much less than the cost of running a large institution. Cottage homes are the cheapest form of institution that the department provides; they are a satisfactory form of institutional care, but cannot cope with the specialized needs of people who cannot possibly be placed in them. The remand home at Glandore is a special institution with a high turnover of children. As there are girls and boys in the same institution, there must be separation of parts of the institution from one another and a fairly high staff ratio in consequence. Also, children are there for limited periods and have to be equipped. They are equipped at that stage by the department because they are inadequately clothed. We are finding that we have to provide more children's clothing than we expected, and this was a significant increase above our estimate for Windana. It is not possible to equate the costs for a remand home with costs of a cottage home—staff needs, equipment, and clothing needs are different. With the opening of the new institution at the boys training school at Magill, the cost will be higher because we are inadequately staffed for the new building, which will require an expansion of staff because of the design.

At present, one man can survey a dormitory but in the new home there will be a series of staggered dormitories with 14 boys in each, and an increased number of people on shift work will be needed to maintain the necessary surveillance. The new workshop and the new segregation of boys that is necessary and laudable will require additional staff, too. Also, in the security block there are 11 staff members, but often there may be only three or four boys. This matter has been referred to the advisory council to ascertain the correct form of treatment in the security block. I found that boys were cleaning up old equipment from the Engineering and Water Supply Department, and that did not seem to be constructive training. The boys in the security section are, invariably, significantly emotionally disturbed, and we should have the advice of the Mental Health Department about the proper course of training, as that department is extremely experienced in work of this kind. In fact, Dr. LePage, a member of the council, is concentrating on this question at the moment, amongst the others referred to him by the council. In the kind

of institution run at Magill, we are faced with a high cost for each child. I have tried to keep wherever possible the ratio of boys to staff as high as I could. This was one of the problems at Struan. Indeed, I have been distressed that during the last year the numbers at Struan have been down, but they are now up. I have examined with the placement committee the samples of the examination of the boys who could be sent to Struan.

The numbers recently at Struan have been kept much higher than previously and, in fact, we are now up to capacity there. That capacity is 28 to 30. Keeping the numbers up at Struan reduces the total cost for each boy there, because the staff is not altered, regardless of the number of boys in the place. That is a fixed cost. I assure the member for Gumeracha that a constant watch is kept by the department on costs in the homes. As he may well know, the Director of Social Welfare, who came to the department from the Audit Department, keeps a jaundiced eye on costs of institutions in the department. We try to watch every penny in this way wherever we can.

Mrs. STEELE: An increase of \$109,446 is provided for the salaries of various staff mem-

bers throughout the department. Is that increase the result of extra staff recruited into the various branches, or does it represent increases in salaries? Further, is any in service training course undertaken within the department? Does this line indicate the success of a recruiting scheme? Has the department expanded in terms of appointments to the various disciplines?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: This extra money is almost entirely taken up in increases in salary as a result of the basic wage changes. There is not a great increase in number of people in the department. Little expansion in staff appointments has occurred. Some in service training is taking place, but not as much as I should like. The Social Welfare Advisory Council is advising on an in service training course, and we are having the assistance of the Institute of Technology in the development of courses that will be available to officers of the department.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 10.26 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, September 22, at 2 p.m.