

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, July 11, 1967.

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

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that His Excellency the Governor's Deputy will be pleased to receive members for the presentation of the Address in Reply at 2.10 p.m. this day. I ask the mover and seconder of the motion and other members to accompany me to Government House for that purpose.

At 2.2 p.m. the Speaker and members proceeded to Government House. They returned at 2.16 p.m.

The SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that, accompanied by the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Governor's Deputy's Opening Speech, together with other members, I proceeded to Government House and there presented to His Excellency the Address adopted by this House on July 6, to which His Excellency has been pleased to make the following reply:

I thank you for your Address in Reply to the Speech with which I opened the third session of the thirty-eighth Parliament. I am confident that you will give your best attention to all matters placed before you. I will convey to His Excellency the Governor your hopes for an early recovery from his illness. I pray for God's blessing upon your deliberations.

QUESTIONS

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Mr. HALL: As the Government has announced the appointment of a Director of Industrial Development (I am gratified that it has followed Opposition policy in this regard) will the Premier say, first, whether the Government will take an additional lead from the Opposition Party on this matter and appoint an advisory council of development to assist the Director in his work; and, secondly, whether the Government will re-organize its policies to provide incentive for industry to expand in South Australia and, in particular, re-examine and shelve its announced policy to institute an extra week's leave for Government employees, a move that would adversely effect the general costs of South Australian industries?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The appointment of a Director of Industrial Development has been raised by many people in the com-

munity over a long period. The member for Torrens (Mr. Coumbe) had something to say about it some time ago; the Australian Workers' Union raised the matter; and the member for Frome (Mr. Casey) made a speech on the subject in the House. We had, of course, for the first time in South Australia, under our Government, established an Industrial Development Branch. That course was always open to the previous Government, but it did not do anything about it at a time when every other State Government in Australia had constituted a fully staffed, properly equipped Industrial Development Department, and despite the fact that it could be simply provided administratively in South Australia, without requiring any alteration whatever in legislation. No such action was taken in South Australia under the previous Government.

Mr. Millhouse: We had a good Premier then; we didn't need it.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If the honourable member thinks that the situation under the previous Premier (Hon. Sir Thomas Playford) and two typistes constituted the development section of South Australia compared with what happened in some other States, I can only say he has not had a look at the facts. When our Government took office the Premier's Department was constituted for the first time in the history of the State, and we introduced a development section of that department that has already done sterling work in attracting industry to South Australia.

Mr. Heaslip: Which one?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I shall be glad to give the honourable member a list if he requires it. I shall also be able to point shortly to some quite signal results for South Australia that have been achieved already by this section. When I took office as Premier I believed it was essential that the work of the department be expanded. In consequence, on the very day I took office I commenced discussions in South Australia both about the appointment of a fully qualified director to this department and the possibilities of having some sort of advisory body. Various propositions were then put to me, in order to inform the Minister in charge of that section who, of course, would be the Premier. Discussions on this score were undertaken not only with members of our own Party but with people who are publicly known to support the Party opposite. Members opposite obviously knew perfectly well what discussions I was having.

At that stage of proceedings we heard an announcement from the Leader of the Opposition that he fully supported what I intended to do. I am happy to know that there is such widespread public support for what the Government intends to undertake. I assure the Leader that we have proceeded with utmost celerity to provide a fully qualified Director for the department. The appointment announced yesterday will, I think, meet with widespread support in South Australia and, I hope, with the support of every member opposite. Mr. Currie, the new Director of the department, is pre-eminently qualified for his post. I assure the Leader that an advisory body to the Premier on the subject of industrial development will be established. If he wishes to hear further announcements, perhaps he will watch a little session tomorrow evening on Channel 7, when I will have something further to say in this area which has not so far been covered by any of the other statements made.

Mr. Millhouse: Why can't you say it in the House? This is where it should be said.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am not going to say it at the moment, because members opposite do not know what it is. However, I will make an announcement to the public at the appropriate time. In doing that, I will follow precisely the pattern followed by the previous Premier. I can assure the Leader that we have pressed on, and will continue to press on, with industrial development in South Australia. The publicity given in recent weeks to the possibilities for industrial development in South Australia has been signally effective, and already we are getting an increasing flow of inquiries about major industrial development here. Regarding the Government's policy about equal pay and an additional week's leave for Government servants, I can only say this is not an added cost to industry in South Australia. It was a policy on which this Government was elected overwhelmingly at the last elections, and we are going to carry out what the people voted for.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Will the Premier outline the functions of the Director of Industrial Development? Will the Director be able to negotiate direct or only through the Minister? Further, will he be able to negotiate direct with other departments (which is indeed an important matter in the establishment of industry) or will most of the negotiations go through the normal channels of one Minister to another Minister? In other words, will the Director be given a large amount of freedom or will he be subject to the fairly

rigid formal procedure that normally applies between Government departments in an atmosphere not generally conducive to getting new industries here?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Director will be given a great deal of initiative to exercise. It will not be required of him that all his negotiations be subject to normal Public Service procedure of passing minutes backwards and forwards. Our aim is to get the job done. The honourable member will, I think, have been aware by now that my own attitude in these matters is that it is pointless to go through needless exercises in paper work to get a job done, and I am trying to facilitate effective negotiation by the Director. Necessarily, of course, where this involves Government obligations, there must be a reference to his Minister. It would be impossible for the Director, without informing his Minister, to give undertakings that would involve the expenditure of public moneys and the like. However, I have not the slightest doubt that Mr. Currie and I will be able to work closely together and that we will have confidence in one another in this area. Already we have discussed pending industrial developments in South Australia, and I am certain that he will be an effective negotiator, and that he will have the complete confidence of the Government.

PUBLIC SERVICE APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: It has been noticeable that ever since the Walsh Labor Government came into office some appointments have been made outside the ambit of the Public Service Act, and the appointment of Mr. Currie is the latest of these. I think the first one was that of a public relations officer for the Attorney-General. Can the Premier, as the Leader of the Government, say, in view of the Government's desire for celerity (I think that was the word the honourable gentleman used this afternoon in answer to a previous question) whether the Government intends to bring down legislation to amend the Public Service Act to avoid the necessity (in most cases, anyway) of observing the procedures laid down in that Act regarding the appointment of persons to the Public Service?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No, Sir. The Government intends to introduce an amendment to the Public Service Act, but that will not be included. The Act already provides specifically that certain offices may be proclaimed as being outside the Public Service.

Mr. Millhouse: It must be a pretty wide ambit.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: This is the Public Service Act to which the previous Government gave its support. It did not amend the Act, yet the power was there.

Mr. Nankivell: You were a member of that Government!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am sorry. If the honourable member wants to be precise in that fashion, it was a Public Service Act which was enforced for the whole period of the Butler and Playford Governments' terms of office, and it included this power. True, certain provisions of the Public Service Act were not very well observed by the previous Government. That Government did not proceed to produce reports from the Public Service Commissioner as to the efficiency of the Public Service, in accordance with the Act, and it allowed the Public Service regulations to go out of print so that the people of South Australia did not know what they contained.

There has always been a provision that certain posts could be declared outside the Public Service. Such a declaration will be made in Mr. Currie's case. It was essential that we should obtain for this most important office the best qualified person that we could find, and that we should be able to negotiate with him for emoluments comparable with those obtainable outside the Public Service by someone with his qualifications. He is to be engaged for a limited period, and will not enjoy certain privileges that public servants enjoy; therefore, we wanted to do the best job we could for the State. I see nothing wrong with doing that, and no amendment to the Public Service Act is necessary for it to be done, because the power is already there.

The honourable member has mentioned the appointment of a public relations officer, but such an officer was appointed to the Public Service.

Mr. Millhouse: A couple of days after you came into office! He wasn't a public servant at all.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member is incorrect. If he is referring to the appointment of Mr. Combe, he was appointed to the Public Service. Applications were called for the post, and Mr. Combe was one of 15 applicants. All the applicants were examined and a certificate was given by the Public Service Board. I do not know whether the honourable member is impugning members of the board?

The SPEAKER: Order! It is not proper for the Premier or other members to debate answers to questions.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am simply giving an answer to the honourable member to correct the statement he has made about this matter. Mr. Combe received a certificate from the Public Service Board (I do not know whether members of the board are being impugned here today) that, because his qualifications were so much better than those of any other applicant, he should be appointed from outside to that post in the Public Service. His is a Public Service appointment, and that action was perfectly within the terms of the Public Service Act.

DESALINATION.

Mr. CASEY: During the past week I have read in the *Advertiser* and in the *News* statements attributed to oversea personnel regarding the cost of the desalination of sea-water. Apparently these people claim that desalination can be carried out in South Australia for about 33c a thousand gallons. The latest information I have received from the Office of Saline Water in America (with which I have been in close contact during the last two years) is that, to desalinate sea-water at 33c a thousand gallons, a nuclear reactor plant and a desalination plant costing about \$U.S.100,000,000 would be required. That figure might be beyond the resources of this State. As something will undoubtedly have to be done about desalination at some stage, can the Minister of Works say whether his department is taking steps towards introducing soon some practical form of desalination?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Engineering and Water Supply Department is continually studying the possibility of desalination and is working and co-operating with Commonwealth bodies and private enterprise interests. As the honourable member explained, at present the cost of a suitable plant for large-scale desalination would be too high for it to be able to provide water to consumers economically. The best and cheapest form of desalination available at present is the solar system, which we have operating experimentally at Coober Pedy. The department is considering making certain additions to this plant for the conserving of water, so that this experiment can be fully carried out. I assure the honourable member that the matter is being keenly observed; before long we hope that something will turn up that will permit economic desalination.

INTAKES AND STORAGEES.

Mrs. BYRNE: At the week end, on visiting the Millbrook and South Para reservoirs (both of which are situated in the Barossa District), I noticed that the water level was low. Can the Minister of Works say what is the present state of reservoir holdings and whether the Engineering and Water Supply Department is at present pumping water from the Murray River?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Four pumps are operating in the off-peak period at present and two of these are retained on full-time pumping. There has been a slight addition to the water supply above the consumption rate. In future, when I give figures for the metropolitan reservoirs, those figures will include figures for the Barossa and South Para reservoirs. As a result, the total holding capacity of metropolitan reservoirs will increase from about 23,000,000,000 gallons to 36,099,000,000 gallons. At present, the reservoirs hold 10,046,200,000 gallons, whereas at this date last year the holding was 10,727,100,000 gallons. The position is not as good as we should like it to be and, although I consider that there is no real reason for concern, I urge all consumers to refrain from the unnecessary use of water, because the position will become more difficult if the dry weather continues. We do not expect that the imposition of restrictions will be necessary at any stage: we think that pumping will enable the demand for water to be met. However, we wish to avoid, as much as possible, the cost of pumping.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I have lived in the Adelaide Hills all my life and I have never known the area to be as dry in July as it is now. I assume that no water will run into the reservoirs at this time unless a rainfall of about 5in. eventuates to enable the catchment to become saturated so that the water can run. Therefore, will the Minister obtain a report from his department about the condition of the catchment (because comparisons of quantities of water held in reservoirs are incomplete unless the condition of the catchment as well as the quantity of water is taken into account) with a view to ascertaining whether or not the present programme of pumping is adequate?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I shall obtain a further report so that we may be up to date. However, I add at this stage that this matter has been studied carefully and the honourable member is correct in saying that, in the opinion of the experts (as he will acknowledge there

are in the department), five inches of rain would be needed before there would be any substantial run-off. I shall inform the honourable member when the further report is available.

SWIMMING POOLS.

Mr. CUMBE: Because of the interest that has been aroused in the construction of swimming pools on a subsidy basis, can the Treasurer give an assurance that the subsidy and the conditions applying thereto that have prevailed for a number of years will be available on the same basis this year?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, there will be no alteration to the subsidy basis. However, I have also had a special submission from the Adelaide City Council regarding a swimming pool in the honourable member's district, but that is an entirely separate matter to which consideration is being given.

GARMENT CONTRACTS.

Mr. McKEE: I was pleased to read the statement by the Premier in yesterday's press in which he warned the people of this State about entering into contracts to manufacture garments and other articles for a Queensland company known as Junior Playware Distributors. I have had complaints from people who, having consented to do work for this company, have forwarded deposits of \$10, only to find that the proposition was most unsatisfactory. These people have lost their deposits. Can the Premier say what action can be taken to prevent the company from operating in this State?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Junior Playware Distributors is associated with Rowell & Company and Rotolux Rubber Stamp Manufacturing Company, whose addresses are in Brisbane and in regard to whose nefarious activities in this State I have already given some publicity. It is not possible under the Prices Act of South Australia to control these lines: they involve a matter of interstate operation. However, I want to give to the public as much warning as I can to avoid any activity with these people. Advertisements used by Junior Playware Distributors, which cannot in themselves be considered misleading, suggest that money can be earned at home from some activity promoted by that firm. In the case of Junior Playware Distributors, an initial payment of \$10 results in a "kit" being forwarded. This comprises a pattern of a child's garment, for example, boxer shorts, and enough material to make up one pair. An accompanying circular states that

a further payment of \$14.50 will result in the supply of 20 yards of sailcloth, 50 yards of jin. elastic, 16 reels of matching cotton, and 50 sew-in name tags, enough to make 48 boxer shorts, for which \$21.70 will be paid provided the garments are correctly made.

It has been ascertained that Ipec had carried three packages only of materials into South Australia before refusing further business. The only metropolitan recipient was interviewed but she had made only six pairs of shorts, and could not give details of payment or acceptance of goods. The material supplied is not sailcloth but is a light cotton headcloth, probably a cheap import from China or Japan, and the wholesale cost of the items supplied, including freight of \$1.60, is estimated to amount to \$10.70. It can be seen that the promoters are making profits on both the supply of patterns and materials. The home sewer could make \$5.60 a batch provided all garments were accepted, and it is here that the doubt exists. It is intended to approach all country newspapers in South Australia and ask them to publicize this matter. Also, it is intended to warn people in South Australia against engaging in activities with this firm, as this is not the first time we have had a complaint about it. Nor is this the first time that it has been clearly shown that the firm is trying to promote a mail-order business to take down the people of South Australia.

COONALPYN AREA SCHOOL.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Will the Minister of Education obtain a report about the advisability or otherwise of establishing an area school at Coonalpyn?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Yes.

KINGSTON BRIDGE.

Mr. CURREN: Last Wednesday I asked the Premier to consider engaging private consultants to carry out the design work for the proposed bridge over the Murray River at Kingston. Can he say whether this suggestion has been considered and, if it has, what action the Government intends to take?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Minister of Roads reports that although the date given for commencement of actual work on the main bridge is January, 1969, work on the second smaller bridge over Chambers Creek is scheduled for September, 1968. In addition, it is intended to commence work on the approaches early in 1968. This involves the hauling of some 1,300,000 cubic yards of fill

on the Cobdogla river flats some 2½ miles in length. There is also about five miles of new approach road on the Kingston side.

The reply given to the previous question of the honourable member referred to the date of commencement of the main structure. The design of both bridges is being carried out by the Highways Department's bridge section. In order to perform this work as quickly as possible, several smaller bridge works have been let out to consultants to relieve the work load on the staff. No saving of time would be effected by altering this arrangement.

TAX REIMBURSEMENT.

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on July 5 about the tax reimbursement formula?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The tax reimbursement arrangements were reviewed for a further period of five years from June, 1965, when the present Labor Government was in office. The formula accepted reluctantly by all States at the Premiers' Conference in June, 1965, was one which over the five years offered the States the greatest increase in grants. All States were agreed that the other alternatives put forward by the Commonwealth were less favourable. One of the factors in discussion in June, 1965, was the period over which wage movements should be measured. At the February, 1967, conference this factor was revised favourably to the States and brought up to date. The net effect is that the States obtained the best possible base figures in 1965-66 and, subsequently, have secured some advantages from a more up-to-date measurement of wage movements. All Premiers are agreed that they have accepted the best of any alternatives put forward.

The error in population estimates to which I referred last week in answer to the honourable member, and which has affected the South Australian grant, arose between the censuses of June 30, 1961, and June 30, 1966. The grant payable to the State in any one year is varied from the grant payable for the previous year proportionately to the estimated change in population over an earlier 12 months' period. Between the census dates the Commonwealth Statistician must resort to estimates. He has quite reliable information as to births and deaths in each State and quite reliable information as to arrivals in and departures from Australia as a whole, but his

information year by year as to mainland interstate population movements is rather inadequate, for fairly obvious reasons. He does the best he can and has, from time to time, revised his techniques, but inevitably when the next census is taken his estimates are shown to be in error. Some errors are over-statements and some under-statements.

Unfortunately, in the case of South Australia the Statistician's estimates for population at December 31, 1965, six months before the next census, fell short by about 14,000 people, or 1.3 per cent of what he subsequently re-estimated on the basis of the June, 1966, census. As a result our increases in grants calculated from the year-to-year changes earlier estimated by the Statistician fell short of what they would have been had he been able to arrive at an accurate population measure. Since the grant paid in each year is the basis for calculating the grant for the next year the error tends to be perpetuated, unless the Commonwealth can be prevailed upon to legislate for a special addition to make it good. It is calculated that South Australia's grant in 1967-68 will be about \$1,300,000 less than it would have been if the Statistician had been able to estimate our population accurately between census dates. I shall naturally continue to press the Commonwealth to increase future grants to make good this loss.

When I spoke to the Prime Minister he said that what we gained on the swings we lost on the roundabouts and that, if the question of population estimates was reopened, some States would be over and some under. He said that the formula was there and that the Government would stand by it, and he refused to consider an alteration. As we have made further representations to the Commonwealth Treasury, I hope that it will take a more generous view of the fact that, because of the Commonwealth Statistician's estimates, South Australia is not receiving as much under the formula as we had bargained for.

WILLALO SCHOOL.

Mr. QUIRKE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question concerning the electricity supply at Willalo school?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: An application has been lodged with the Electricity Trust for the necessary connection to be made to the school, and an urgent request has been submitted to the Director, Public Buildings Department, for the wiring to be effected. It is understood that the connection by the trust will be made in about two weeks.

MURRIE ROYAL COMMISSION.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I refer to the statement of the former Director-General of Education (Mr. Evan Mander-Jones) that appears in last Saturday's *Advertiser*, but my question does not relate to the part of the statement which refers to the actions of Mr. J. D. Murrie. I say that deliberately: it applies to the part dealing with the wider matters of principle, which the former Director-General sets out in two brief paragraphs, as follows:

I recommended the Royal Commission, also, so that an important principle should be established, as is indeed mentioned in the second leader in the *Advertiser* on July 7, namely, the right of free speech and free criticism on the part of teachers of this administration.

He continues to deal with what he calls the *de facto* sense and concludes as follows:

This, however, is not the same as being able to criticize the policies and actions of the administration as a matter of right. I hoped that this right would be established by suitable amendments to the Education Act after the finding of the Commission had been made public.

I remind the Minister that in his statements on this matter he has used such phrases as "problems of importance to the State education system and the community generally", and the "exceptional importance of this matter to Mr. Murrie, to the education service and to the community". Therefore, if the Royal Commissioner is not to continue with the inquiry on the terms of reference 5 and 7 (which relate to the broad principle) does the Minister of Education intend to introduce this session amendments to the Education Act concerning these matters, so that the House may debate them?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Last week I pointed out to the honourable member that the other matters referred to in the terms of reference would be dealt with, as stated in the statement agreed on by the three parties concerned. The present Government inherited from the past Liberal Government an Education Act which badly needed amending, which the previous Government had been requested to amend by the then Director of Education, but which the previous Government refused in relation to the particular matters with which I am now dealing. I intend (and this has been discussed with my officers) that all these matters should be amended. In fact, in my opinion, the whole Act needs revising. That is quite a monumental task, but the matters to which the honourable member is referring will be dealt with as expeditiously as possible and in the manner I have indicated.

MATHEMATICS COURSE.

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked last week about the new mathematics course?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The Education Department has already organized classes of parents to study the new primary school mathematics courses, with a substantial enrolment approaching 1,200. At present 32 classes are being conducted, most having waiting lists for further classes. As a matter of fact there is a large enough number of waiting students to provide 25 more classes but the limiting factor in most places has been the availability of sufficient teachers and limitations of finance. It is considered that the Adult Education Section of the Education Department is the best means of providing specialized courses of this kind, and that there is nothing to be gained by asking service clubs such as Rotary and Lions to undertake them.

STREAKY BAY SLIPWAY.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: About nine years ago a slipway was built at Streaky Bay at a cost of about \$40,000. However, one of my constituents who recently purchased a new fishing vessel found that the slipway was not sufficiently large to accommodate that vessel. Minor alterations are required that would cost the Marine and Harbors Department about \$100. However, the department has declined to effect those alterations, and my constituent has been told to take his vessel to Port Lincoln, a journey there and back that would take about a week. Will the Minister of Marine therefore ascertain whether the Government is able to spend \$100 in order to save the person concerned the trouble of taking his ship to Port Lincoln to be examined?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: This being the first time the matter has come to my notice, I will certainly ascertain from the department whether something can be done.

EYRE PENINSULA ELECTRICITY.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My question relates to the supply of electricity to the township of Lock and the pumping station at Polda. As the Minister is aware, the high tension line from Whyalla to Port Lincoln has now been energized, and, as a result of representations I made to the Electricity Trust, the line passes through a site near Rudall that has been procured by the trust for a sub-station. I understand the trust is reluctant to commit itself to expenditure in relation to the sub-station until it has some

assurance from the Engineering and Water Supply Department as to when and at what level the department's demands for power for pumping water from Polda to Kimba are decided. This delay is a great disappointment to residents of Lock and the districts between Lock and Kimba, as well as other towns in the area, which could all benefit from the erection of a sub-station using 11,000 volt lines to serve them. Will the Minister of Works ascertain the date by which the department expects to require power for its existing pumps at Polda, at the booster station at Lock, the booster station at Arno Bay on the east coast trunk main, and also the booster stations proposed for the Lock-Kimba water supply scheme?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I will have to inquire in order to ascertain the exact position. The member for Eyre (Mr. Bockelberg) and the member for Northern in another place (Hon. A. M. Whyte) have been continually discussing with me the Kimba water scheme. A case has been submitted to the Commonwealth Government under its \$50,000,000 projected assistance scheme for rural water supplies. The Commonwealth Government has asked for further details, which are now being prepared and which will be submitted to that Government. Following that, we hope that we shall obtain assistance that will permit us to make a much earlier start than is otherwise possible. That work will, in turn, enable the Electricity Trust to set a firm date for a connection. In relation to the other matters raised by the honourable member I will have to obtain further particulars, and I will inform the honourable member when the information is to hand.

ABORIGINES.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Last Thursday the member for Wallaroo (Mr. Hughes) asked the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs a question concerning a press report of remarks alleged to have been made by Dr. Fay Gale. I was interested in the question and the reply, because it was fairly obvious that the question was a Dorothy Dix—

The SPEAKER: The honourable member is commenting.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I was interested particularly to know why it was necessary for the Minister to produce a statement by Dr. Gale, bearing in mind that Dr. Gale does not work for the Minister. Did the Minister or his department approach Dr. Gale about this statement before a reply was given in the House? If that approach was made, will the Minister say why the Government is so obsessed

with the matter of publicity that it has to intervene in such a situation, instead of allowing Dr. Gale herself to straighten out the matter with the press?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Dr. Gale approached the Director of Aboriginal Affairs, and apologized for what had happened. I have known Dr. Gale for some years and I have a high regard for the interest she has taken in Aboriginal affairs. In view of the circumstances in which this article was published, I felt, in justice to her, that the information passed on to the Director of Aboriginal Affairs, and then to me, should be made known to the House.

DAMAGED HOUSE.

Mr. BROOMHILL: A week or two ago I read a newspaper report regarding a house in the Burnside area that was badly cracked. Has this matter been drawn to the Premier's attention and, if it has, can he assist the person referred to?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: On being requested to do so, I visited this house, which obviously had not been built in accordance with the provisions of the Building Act. Precisely what legal remedies are available to the widow concerned are not, as yet, clear. However, I have asked her solicitor to get in touch with me so that we can discuss the possibility of legal action. The Government hopes, this session, to introduce a measure for the registration of builders to ensure that where builders leave essential parts of the structure out of a building their registration as builders can be dealt with by the appropriate tribunal. In this way the public will be protected from what is, quite clearly, extremely shoddy building.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

Mr. HALL: Yesterday I discussed with fishermen on the south-east coast of South Australia their views on current fishing methods and problems. An issue not really of concern to the whole industry, but still of importance to the fishermen in that area, is a complaint that the surveyors who, in accordance with the Act, inspect fishing vessels of over 25ft. in length do not have a uniform rule to apply to all boats. It was suggested that one surveyor might demand a lead-lined battery box, whereas another surveyor might not. It was further suggested that other surveyors differed in their opinions regarding the guard rails required on fishing vessels. As this has obviously led to some confusion, will the Minister of Marine

review the methods of survey and see to it that the same standards are used by all surveyors?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The complaints the honourable member has raised are not new, by any stretch of the imagination. When this Government assumed office we were immediately made aware of these complaints and, accordingly, we set up a Select Committee, which has heard evidence on these and other matters. It is hoped that the committee will make a report to this House in September or October.

Mr. Lawn: Were members of the Opposition invited to be represented on the committee?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: They were invited, accepted, and then withdrew. However, that is by the way. It would be wrong for me now to anticipate (although I have some ideas) what might be recommended by the committee, because final recommendations and evidence have yet to be taken. Therefore, I would rather not comment except to say that the committee has travelled all over South Australia and has gone to no end of trouble to give the utmost time to people desiring to give evidence. It has gone to great lengths to get evidence from every section of the fishing industry in South Australia.

MODBURY INTERSECTION.

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Roads, a reply to my question of July 6 about plans of the Highways Department for making safer the intersection of the Main North-East Road, Montague Road and Golden Grove Road at Modbury?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague reports that the many roads intersecting at this location produces an involved traffic complex that is difficult to treat. Accordingly, the department is currently investigating a proposal to re-align the Main North-East Road along Smart Road, as shown on the development plan of the Town Planner. Such a proposal would remove the Main North-East Road from the intersection in question and considerably simplify its treatment. Although some urgency is being given to the investigation, unfortunately no specific indication can be given at this time as to when it will be complete.

STRATA TITLES.

Mr. LANGLEY: Recently many favourable comments have appeared in the press concerning the Government's intention to introduce legislation regarding strata titles in South Australia. In the inner suburbs many dwellings fall into this category. Most of them are built on small allotments and many of the owners

have leases in common with access available to neighbouring properties. Can the Premier say whether action is being taken to provide for single titles in such cases?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The strata titles legislation will not include the provision of additional titles for allotments that are already too small, under the provisions of the Real Property Act or the Planning and Development Act, to obtain a separate title. This legislation will not simply get rid of legislation previously enacted by the House in order to retain a reasonable area for strata titles. The new Bill relates to the provision of what are, in effect, titles above ground level. In consequence, it is not intended that these old cottages, which are built on allotments too small to provide for separate titles for each one, should now get what are, in effect, separate titles. It is essential that we maintain that position in order to have proper title provisions in South Australia.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Mr. McANANEY: I have noticed that the Commonwealth Government and some of the State Governments have issued their Financial Statements for the past year. Can the Treasurer say when some statement from the Treasury about this State will be made available?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I expect this will be done either at the end of this week or early next week. I can tell the honourable member that the result of last year's trading has shown a reduction in accumulated deficit for South Australia, but I will give details shortly.

PETROL.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: A statement has appeared in the press to the effect that the Government favours the sale of petrol through resellers only. When I recently addressed a question about the Government's policy on this matter to the Minister of Social Welfare, as acting Leader of the Government, he said that he would refer my question to the Premier. Can the Premier say whether the Government intends to introduce legislation to provide that all petrol must be sold through reselling agencies, or does the Government intend to continue to allow the use of industrial pumps?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We do not intend to introduce legislation, but negotiations will be undertaken with the oil companies to see that industrial pumps are not used simply to cut out the ordinary trading of

people who lease stations from oil companies and who, at the oil companies' demand, are on a tight margin.

The Hon. T. C. Stott: What about primary producers?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Reasonable arrangements will naturally be allowed for primary producers. In our view it is unfair for an oil company to lease an oil reselling site to a lessee, who is in a competitive situation in reselling petrol and who is on an extremely tight margin as to his returns, and then to install an industrial pump in the area and sell generally from the industrial pump at a lower price than the reseller is required to sell at. Of course, as this places the reseller in an almost impossible position economically, it is not a fair situation.

Mr. Rodda: Would it be an offence to sell that way?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No. The oil companies had undertaken that they would not do that, but they have been doing it in some areas, one case in point being not far from the honourable member's district.

The Hon. T. C. Stott: Wouldn't they be breaking a contract?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No. I have undertaken to negotiate with the oil companies about this to see that they are not putting the resellers in South Australia into an impossible economic situation by engaging in this kind of deal.

ARDUNE CROSSING.

Mr. RODDA: I have been approached by residents of the Ardune crossing area, about three miles west of Lucindale, with a view to having action taken to broaden the road that now forms an S bend. The department placed a 35 miles an hour advisory speed sign on this bend earlier this year, and that has been most helpful. However, residents are still expressing concern. Will the Minister of Lands confer with the Minister of Roads with a view to requesting the authorities to examine the matter?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes.

RIVERTON-SPALDING LINE.

Mr. QUIRKE: Has the Minister of Social Welfare, representing the Minister of Transport, a reply to my question about the re-railing of the railway line from Riverton to Clare? I was given a tentative sort of reply and there was a suggestion that the work could be done when the line between Broken Hill and Port Pirie had been standardized and secondhand rails were available.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I have no reply at present.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HALLS.

Mr. NANKIVELL: There is interest in the construction of a school assembly hall at one school at least in my district, the Bordertown High School. However, to the best of my knowledge, no plans for assembly halls have been approved as yet and the matter is still being dealt with by the Public Buildings Department. Can the Minister of Education say when these suitable plans (that is, standard plans to which additions can be made) will be prepared and when applications will be accepted?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I shall be pleased to get that information for the honourable member.

INDUSTRIAL STOPPAGES.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: It was reported in the newspaper over the weekend (I think on Saturday) that the South Australian Trades and Labour Council had agreed on a day for stoppages in support of the protest against the total wage decision. I remind the Premier that last Tuesday, in answer to a question I asked him, he said:

It is the custom of the South Australian Trades and Labor Council to inform the Government of any likely or intended stoppages in this State, and the Government always uses its good offices to conciliate and to see that stoppages are minimized. That will continue to be its policy.

Will the Premier now announce to the House the day on which the stoppages are to be held (because this was not reported in the newspaper) and also tell the House what action the Government has taken to use its good offices to conciliate in this matter?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have certainly not been informed about any day for a stoppage.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: In view of the Premier's answer to me last week, I am surprised at his answer today.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member cannot comment.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I am sorry. Will the honourable gentleman give an undertaking to inform this House of the date of the proposed stoppages when he is informed by the Trades and Labor Council?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No, I will not. I shall have discussions with the Trades and Labor Council and, if the council wishes

that publicity be given by me, I shall consider the matter. However, if the honourable member thinks that everything that is in my hands as a result of confidential discussions is available to him, then he is mistaken.

HORTICULTURAL ADVISER.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: On June 28 last, when I was speaking in the Address in Reply debate, I pointed out that Mr. Spurling, who had been stationed at Nuriootpa as Horticultural Adviser for some time, had been transferred. Doubtless, the Minister of Agriculture realizes the importance of horticulture and viticulture to the Barossa Valley. Will the Minister of Lands, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture today, say whether it is intended, in the near future, to fill the vacancy created by the transfer of Mr. Spurling?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be happy to obtain a report on the matter and to inform the honourable member when it is available.

SHOPPING HOURS.

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Labour and Industry, a reply to my question about the sale of certain commodities in extended trading hours?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Minister of Labour and Industry has supplied me with the following information:

The committee appointed by the Government to inquire into shop trading hours presented its report on June 17, 1966, but pointed out that a number of the submissions made to it in evidence dealt with matters outside the committee's terms of reference. It expressed the opinion that some of this evidence indicated that certain other aspects of the present shop trading laws were more in need of review than those included in the terms of reference. Accordingly, the Government decided to consider, in conjunction with the committee's recommendations, these additional matters which had been raised in evidence; and several organizations were invited to comment specifically on some of those submissions. The committee's recommendations and the further comments received are still being examined by the Government.

STATE'S FINANCES.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Last week the Premier, in answer to a question, said that savings had been made in the Engineering and Water Supply Department and the Railways Department and that those savings had enabled Loan funds to be made available for certain projects that had been previously

placed upon the Revenue Estimates. I asked the Minister of Works what projects in his department had been cut down and he said that the information was on page 146 of *Hansard*. However, on checking *Hansard*, I found that the information for which I asked was not on that page. Is the Minister of Works now able to give me the information?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The fact remains, of course, that in the 17 years I have been in this House not once have all the foreshadowed works been commenced or completed. However, the Director and Engineer-in-Chief reports:

Kangaroo Creek dam: Some minor contract work was undertaken but the calling of the main tender and commencement of major construction has been deferred to the 1967-68 year.

Tea Tree Gully to Salisbury main: Deferred to 1967-68.

Mannum-Adelaide augmentation: Through involved technical inquiries major expenditure cannot start until 1967-68.

Happy Valley sewage treatment: this is a small plant to meet subdivisional requirements, and will probably now be completed in the coming year.

At no time was the department requested to delay works, and to say that the department was instructed to underspend its allocation is not in accordance with fact.

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question concerning any delay in Loan works carried out by the Engineering and Water Supply Department?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The honourable member asked what works had been deferred or postponed because of the transfer of money from Loan Account. The Director and Engineer-in-Chief informs me that this action has caused no delay in Loan works carried out by the department.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: I understand the Treasurer has been investigating precedents concerning the payment of Loan moneys into Revenue. Has he some information to give members on the matter?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The authority given by the Public Purposes Loan Act to the Treasurer to transfer appropriation between lines set out in the schedule to the Act has been used in every year since 1950. I now refer to a few of the major transfers of appropriation approved by the honourable member in his capacity as Treasurer. In June, 1964 there were transfers aggregating about \$2,550,000, the main reductions of appropriation being for Government buildings and land and har-

bours accommodation, and the main increases being in advances to the State Bank and loans to producers.

In June, 1963, transfers aggregated about \$2,500,000, the larger reductions being for Government buildings and land and harbours accommodation, and the main increases being for loans to the Electricity Trust and for waterworks and sewers. In June, 1960, transfers aggregated nearly \$3,300,000, the principal reductions of appropriation being for railway accommodation and for expenses and discounts on loans, and the larger increases in appropriation being advances for homes, loans to the Electricity Trust, and loans to the Housing Trust.

FRUIT FLY.

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Lands, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, a reply to the question I asked on June 27 about the treatment and inspection of the fruit fly epidemic in the Prospect area?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The continued application of bait sprays at weekly intervals and cover sprays at three-weekly intervals throughout the winter months is considered necessary because of the large numbers of ever-green fruit varieties in the area. Citrus varieties, particularly Valencias, ripen and carry susceptible fruit during this period. It is, therefore, possible for fruit fly to carry over in these fruits if not treated. It is expected that spraying in the outbreak area will be completed by the end of September, 1967.

HOLDEN HILL SEWERAGE.

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on June 28 concerning an area requiring sewerage at Holden Hill?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Director and Engineer-in-Chief informs me that Graham Avenue, and The Parade between the Parkway and Graham Avenue, were examined in December, 1966, and, at this time, the homes built represented only 45 per cent development and sewerage could not be recommended, because of the low revenue return. In view of the additional information given by the honourable member, a further investigation will now be undertaken to see whether sufficient development in these streets, Malcolm Avenue, and in part of Southern Terrace, has occurred to enable the laying of sewers to be recommended. The Director and Engineer-in-Chief will submit his report on completion of the investigation.

BIRDSVILLE TRACK.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Last week, on Thursday I think, I asked the Minister of Lands a question about the Government's intended programme of works on the Birdsville track. The Minister did not have the answer then, although I think the Premier gave some information the following day. I understand the Minister now has an answer, and I should be glad if he would give it.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I take it that the honourable member asked me the question because I represented the Minister of Roads, and I wonder how he would expect to receive a reply to this question on the day he asked it.

The Minister of Roads reports that preliminary investigation and planning is in hand to carry out improvements to the Birdsville track, but details of the expenditure of the \$1,000,000 grant from the Commonwealth have not yet been finalized with the Commonwealth. It is envisaged that the work on the road will be carried out by contract, and could commence later this financial year. The extent and duration of the work will depend largely on whether additional funds can be made available, as the Commonwealth grant of \$1,000,000 is subject to a contribution of \$600,000 from the State, which sums together represent about half the cost of providing even a minimum standard rubble road. I am sure that the honourable member for Frome appreciates the interest being shown in his district.

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS.

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Premier a reply from the Minister of Health to the question I asked on June 28 concerning the making of artificial limbs in this State, and particularly why limb making was discontinued at the Royal Adelaide Hospital?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In past years artificial limbs were made in the splintmaker's workshop at the Royal Adelaide Hospital to the extent that the resources of the workshop were available for this work. More recently, however, the staff and resources of the workshop in this hospital have been fully employed in the making and repairing of splints, calipers, and other minor surgical appliances. It is considered that the provision of artificial limbs is best carried out by organizations or firms which are specialists in this work and which have the facilities to provide a prompt and efficient service.

It is the policy of the Royal Adelaide Hospital to arrange for any of its patients who require artificial limbs and have Pensioner

Medical Service entitlement to have such artificial limbs provided by the Repatriation Limb Factory at the hospital's expense. This arrangement has proved to be most satisfactory and has enabled the splintmaker's workshop at the Royal Adelaide Hospital to cope with the requirements of the hospital for the manufacture and repair of splints and other minor appliances.

SEISMIC PLANTS.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Last week I asked where the two seismic plants owned by the Mines Department were working at present and how many boring plants were operating in the Great Australian Artesian Basin. In the absence of the Minister of Agriculture, has the Premier this information?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I understand that a reply to this question is available but that it is not in the Chamber at present. I shall inform the honourable member when it is ready.

NAILSWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked last week concerning the improvements I desire to have made at the Nailsworth Primary School?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Plans for combined new toilet facilities and shelter at the Nailsworth Primary School as a replacement of the old units have been drawn up by the Public Buildings Department, which has been requested to have the work carried out soon.

PUBLIC RELIEF.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: On June 27 I asked the Minister of Social Welfare whether or not up to October, 1964, Class A widow pensioners in this State had been entitled to supplementary relief and whether they were still eligible. I subsequently followed up the question with the Minister but he did not have an answer. As he asked me to ask the question again today, I ask him whether he will give the reply to the House.

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: I will have it ready at the appropriate time.

Later:

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. Were increases in social service benefits to widows, made in 1964 by the Commonwealth, taken into account in adjusting the State scale of relief payable to widows at that time?

2. If so, how was the scale adjusted?

3. How have increases in social service payments, made by the Commonwealth since March, 1965, affected the State scale of relief payable to widows?

4. If so, what adjustments have been made, and when?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: It is presumed that in referring to the State scale of relief, the honourable member is referring to amounts of relief payable to widows. As has been previously explained to the House, relief in South Australia is granted to the amount of the difference between an allowable income standard fixed for different kinds of families and the actual amount of the money income from all sources. In 1964, when the Commonwealth Government increased payments to widows, the only alterations in the allowable income standard were for families in excess of five dependent children. Therefore, since the allowable income standard for all other families remained the same, the reduction in the amount of public relief paid to widows in families of less than that number occurred equal to the amount of the increase in Commonwealth pension.

Since March, 1965, no reductions in amounts of public relief payable to widows in respect of public relief at the time of increases in Commonwealth benefits have occurred. Pending the report of the Social Welfare Advisory Council, which is now to hand and under current consideration by Cabinet, no alterations in the allowable income standard have been made, but alterations were made to the means test allowing people to receive public relief, without their being required to be completely destitute before qualifying. As Minister for this department, I have discussed the matter with my Cabinet colleagues. I shall be unable to accomplish as quickly as I desire to accomplish a reasonable standard so that everyone will be able to understand their entitlement. However, as soon as it is practicable to make known publicly what this State is prepared to provide that will be done.

I am not satisfied with the way in which these matters have been handled over the years. I have already asked for certain matters to be dealt with by the Director. The present position makes it difficult to get to the bottom of what is being paid in this connection. When I was Premier, I wrote to the Prime Minister asking him whether the Commonwealth Government would contribute in the case (and I cited this as an illustration) of a breadwinner who had been convicted and sent to gaol for six months and who had a wife and child or

children. Information about these matters should be made known publicly. After all, certain periods in our lives can be categorized in this connection. From when we are born to when we are 16 years of age our parents are eligible to receive child endowment. From when we are 16 years to 65 years (or from 16 years to 60 years in the case of females), if we are sick or unemployed some relief is extended by the Commonwealth Government. After we are 65 (or 60 in the case of females) we are eligible for the age pension. People are entitled to much information about this matter and, as soon as I have it ready and it has been seen by Cabinet, it will be made available.

TORRENS PARK ROADS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I ask the Minister of Lands a question, and I emphasize this, in his capacity as the representative of the Minister of Roads in this House. Last week I asked the Minister a question about the junctions of the Old Belair Road at Torrens Park, and the honourable gentleman was kind enough to say that he would seek a reply to that question from his colleague. I understand from the Minister that he now has it, and I ask him whether he will give the House the benefit of the reply.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague the Minister of Roads reports that the Old Belair Road, including the two junctions, is under the care, control and management of the Corporation of the City of Mitcham. The Highways Department, however, realizing the hazardous nature of the junctions, is currently negotiating with the corporation in an attempt to have improvements effected. No finality has yet been reached, but it is expected that it will be possible to carry out some improvements during the current financial year.

WALKERVILLE INTERSECTION.

Mr. COUMBE: Will the Minister representing the Minister of Roads obtain a report concerning any plans the Highways Department may have in respect of the intersection, at the boundary of Walkerville and Medindie, of Main North-East Road, Nottage Terrace, Northcote Terrace and Stephen Terrace? As accidents have occurred at this intersection, will the Minister ascertain what land has been acquired, whether any work to be undertaken will be so undertaken in co-operation with the Prospect and Walkerville councils, and when it is expected that plans for the work will be completed?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will obtain that information for the honourable member.

JUVENILE COURT.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: My question arises out of a question I asked the Premier last week concerning the operation of section 64 of the Juvenile Courts Act which excludes, in effect, press reports of proceedings in the Juvenile Court. I then asked the honourable gentleman whether it was intended to amend that section, and he said that it was not. I noticed in this morning's *Advertiser* that Lord Denning, who is here for the legal convention, said (or is reported to have said) that every court should be open to every subject of the Queen, and further, "I think it is one of the essentials of justice being done in the community." The report goes on in that vein. In view of the comments reported in this morning's *Advertiser* from so eminent a jurist, I ask the Premier, as Attorney-General, whether he is prepared to reconsider this matter so that we may get back to the situation that obtained under the previous Government in which some reports of cases in the Juvenile Court were permitted?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It is certainly not intended to reconsider the provisions of the Juvenile Courts Act. The honourable member cites an authority who has advocated a situation that has never obtained in South Australia: Lord Denning has suggested that all courts ought to be open to all Her Majesty's subjects. As the honourable member knows, this State was the first place in the world to institute a children's court. We have a longer experience of dealing with children's courts than has the United Kingdom. In addition, under the Playford Government, the honourable member knows perfectly well that the juvenile courts were closed courts.

Mr. Millhouse: I implied that in my question.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If that is so, the honourable member is certainly not referring to what Lord Denning is advocating. I have seen some statements of what Lord Denning has said in England on evidence legislation, the provisions of which were largely copied by the British Government from some provisions introduced into this House about two years ago.

Mr. Millhouse: They haven't been brought back again.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I suggest that the honourable member give the Government a little time to get some of its programme through. I have previously pointed

out to him that the present Government's legislative programme has been so heavy and so extensive that it makes the legislative programme of the Playford Government over its last 10 years look a little sick. I naturally respect the opinions of so eminent a jurist as Lord Denning, but I point out that other eminent jurists in England disagree with him. The Lord Chancellor, for instance, does not agree with the opinions of the Master of the Rolls on this score. In consequence, it is interesting to observe Lord Denning's views, which were uttered at a time when the present legislation in South Australia and its practice had not been accurately presented to him. However, I am preparing a full statement on this matter and will make it public tomorrow.

POTATOES.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I ask this question of the Minister of Lands in another of his representative capacities, this time as the representative of the Minister of Agriculture, who is away today. Has he now a reply to my question regarding the supply of potatoes to a firm for washing?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Minister of Agriculture is absent today, because he is attending the Agricultural Council meeting in Darwin, as a representative of this State, and he will be away for the remainder of this week. The Potato Board does not direct potatoes to washing plants. At the request of growers the board arranges delivery to the washer selected by the grower. Packout figures from washing plants over the last 12 pools show that the quantity handled by Tailern Fruit Supply, which made the complaint, is greater than that of any other washer. The packout, from June, 1966, to May, 1967, inclusive is as follows:

Tailern Fruit Supply.	Co-op.	Schubert.	Packers.
tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
6,871.95	5,850.07	3,803.96	1,669.73
37%	32%	22%	9%

OAKBANK AREA SCHOOL.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: My question concerns a district matter on which I have been negotiating with the Minister of Education and on which he has been helpful. The Oakbank Area School Committee entered into a contract for the erection of an assembly hall to cost about \$40,000. The Government has provided a subsidy of \$10,000, and the committee has raised nearly \$20,000. However, at the moment the committee is embarrassed in finding immediately \$10,000 to complete the

work. The Minister of Education has made certain suggestions which would assist the committee over a period of years. Can the Treasurer say whether the Treasury could assist on a temporary basis in providing \$10,000 to complete what is, after all, a very important adjunct to this area school?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I know of nothing, and I do not imagine that the honourable member provided assistance in such circumstances when he was Treasurer. However, I will look at the matter for the honourable member, but I am not entirely hopeful that I shall be able to assist.

The Hon. Sir Thomas Playford: Will you ask the Treasury officers to look at it?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, I shall.

HARBOUR PROJECTS.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (on notice):

1. What was the net expenditure from Loan funds by the Marine and Harbors Department in each of the financial years from 1960-61 to 1966-67, inclusive?

2. What harbour projects, financed from Loan funds, were completed during each of these years?

3. What such projects were commenced during each of these years?

4. What such projects are being effected at present?

5. What projects within the control of the Marine and Harbors Department:

(a) have been approved by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, but not yet commenced;

(b) are under consideration at present by this committee; and

(c) are under investigation by the Marine and Harbors Department, but not yet referred to the committee?

6. What is the estimated cost of each of such projects approved by the committee, but not yet begun, and also those at present under consideration by the committee?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The replies are as follows:

1. Loan Fund expenditure: 1960-61, \$2,814,040; 1961-62, \$2,842,896; 1962-63, \$2,962,794; 1963-64, \$2,439,218; 1964-65, \$2,142,198; 1965-66, \$2,608,546; and 1966-67, \$2,045,697.

2. Works completed (major items):

1960-61—Enlargement of swinging basin at Port Pirie; reconstruction of North Parade wharf at Port Adelaide; oil berth at Kirton Point, Port Lincoln; and new jetty at Moonta Bay.

1961-62—Deepening of Port Pirie channel and harbour; bulk loading plant at Thevenard; trailer ship berths at Port Adelaide, Port Lincoln and Kingscote; and new grab dredge *Andrew Wilson*.

1962-63—Bulk loading plant for grain at Port Pirie; and widening of swinging basins at Port Adelaide.

1963-64—Bulk loading wharf and plant at No. 27 berth, Port Adelaide; and deepening the approaches to the bulk loading berth at Port Lincoln.

1964-65—Deepening channel, basin and berths at Wallaroo; reconstruction of three ore berths and an oil berth at Port Pirie; strengthening of bulk loading berth at Ardrossan; Lake Butler boat haven at Robe; and new bucket dredge *H. C. Meyer*.

1965-66—Extension of bulk loading jetty at Thevenard; and reconstruction of Klein Point bulk loading berth.

1966-67—Road extensions and reclamation for a container depot site at Port Adelaide.

3. Works commenced (major items):

1960-61—Reconstruction of three ore berths and an oil berth at Port Pirie; bulk loading plant at Thevenard; trailer ship berths at Port Adelaide, Port Lincoln and Kingscote; and new bucket dredge *H. C. Meyer*.

1961-62—Bulk loading plant at Port Pirie.

1962-63—Bulk loading wharf and plant at No. 27 berth, Port Adelaide; and widening of swinging basins at Port Adelaide and Outer Harbour.

1963-64—Deepening approaches to bulk loading berth at Port Lincoln; deepening of channel, swinging basin and berths at Wallaroo; and Lake Butler boathaven at Robe.

1964-65—Deepening and widening of Port River; reconstruction of three berths at smelters wharf, Port Pirie; extension of bulk loading jetty at Thevenard; strengthening of bulk loading berth at Ardrossan; and reconstruction of Klein Point bulk loading berth.

1965-66—New passenger terminal and cargo building at Outer Harbour, Port Adelaide.

1966-67—Road extensions and reclamation for a container depot site at Port Adelaide.

4. Works now in progress: Deepening and widening of Port Adelaide River; and reconstruction of three berths at smelters wharf, Port Pirie.

5. (a) Projects approved by Public Works Committee (not commenced):

	Est. cost.
Isolated oil berth near Fibre Creek, Port Pirie	\$1,938,000
Bulk loading berth and plant at Giles Point	\$2,222,000
Tuna boat landing pier at Port Lincoln	\$510,000
Two steel handling wharf cranes for berths 13 and 14 at Port Adelaide	\$440,000
Upper Port Reach Development Scheme, jointly with Housing Trust	\$17,312,000

(b) Projects under consideration by Public Works Committee:

	Est. cost.
1,000ft. diameter swinging basin at Port Adelaide ..	\$378,000
New head office building at Port Adelaide	\$1,440,000

(c) Projects under consideration by Director of Marine and Harbors: Roll-on roll-off berth at Port Adelaide for a new interstate service; deepening of entrance channel at Thevenard; and fishing boathaven at Thevenard.

6. Estimated costs of projects. Supplied in answers to 5 (a) and 5 (b).

RAILWAYS.

Mr. McANANEY (on notice): Can the Minister of Social Welfare say what was the revenue and expenditure of all railway branch lines in this State that incurred losses on running expenses during the financial year, 1965-66?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Railways Commissioner reports:

It is not practicable to supply the information desired without considerable effort and, in any case, a great deal of arbitrary apportionment of costs and revenue would be necessary in such an exercise, because traffic originating on or destined for a branch line substantially affects the economics of contiguous lines.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice): Can the Minister of Social Welfare say what tonnage of general merchandise was carried by the South Australian Railways, in the financial years, 1964-65, 1965-66 and 1966-67, respectively?

The Hon. FRANK WALSH: The Railways Commissioner reports:

The tonnage of general merchandise carried by the South Australian Railways in the financial years 1964-1965, 1965-1966, and

1966-1967 (up to and including the month of May) was as under:

	1964-1965.	1965-1966.	July, 1966, to May, 1967, inc.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
	2,463,934	2,454,741	2,197,042

LAND LEASES.

Mr. NANKIVELL (on notice):

1. How many applications to convert perpetual, miscellaneous, and pastoral leases, to freehold, have been dealt with by the Government since assuming office?

2. How many such applications have been granted?

3. How many new perpetual leases have been issued since March 15, 1965?

4. What was the trend in unimproved values of Crown lands over the period from June 30, 1961, to June 30, 1966?

5. What was the trend in Crown rents over this period?

6. What formula is used in fixing these rents?

7. Who determines the rate of interest?

8. How many miscellaneous leases are still in existence?

9. What area is involved in these leases?

10. How long will it take to convert these existing miscellaneous leases into perpetual leases?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The replies are as follows:

1. 62.

2. 25.

3. 133.

4. Trend in unimproved values on Crown lands on comparable lands in each area:

Year.	County			Eyre Peninsula.
	Cardwell.	Buccleuch.	Chandos.	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1961	2.00	1.00	—	0.80
1962	—	—	—	1.00
1963	2.00	1.00	—	—
1964	—	1.50	0.75	—
1965	4.00	—	1.00	—
1966	10.00	—	2.00	4.00
1967	10.00	2.00	2.00	6.00

5. The trend in Crown rents was directly related to the unimproved values used and the interest rate; for example, County Buccleuch—hundred of Carcuma:

1961	\$1.00 x 5½%
1962	—
1963	\$1.00 x 5¼%
1964	—
1965	—
1966	\$2.00 x 6%
1967	\$2.00 x 6%

6. Unimproved value multiplied by interest rate.

7. Interest rate is determined pursuant to Interest on Crown Advances and Leases Act, 1944-1951:

1/9/1956 to 30/6/1961	5½%
1/7/1961 to 30/5/1963	6%
1/6/1963 to 31/7/1963	5¼%
1/8/1963 to 31/8/1964	5½%
1/9/1964 to 30/4/1965	5¼%
1/5/1965 to present	6%

8. 1,432.

9. About 2,868,000 acres.

10. This is not known.

POWER STATIONS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. What are the generating costs a kilowatt-hour of each of the following power stations:

- (a) Thomas Playford, Section A and Section B;
- (b) Osborne, Section A; Section B1; Section B2; Section B3; and
- (c) Torrens Island?

2. What is the present cost a million British thermal units of power generated from fuel oil used at the Torrens Island power station?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The replies are as follows:

1. (a) Thomas Playford—	Cents.
Section A	0.50
Section B	0.37
(b) Osborne A	8.68
Osborne B1	0.82
Osborne B2	0.62
Osborne B3	0.57
(c) Torrens Island power station: not yet available.	

2. As the first generating unit at Torrens Island power station is still in the commissioning stage, it is not possible to give costs of generation.

GOVERNMENT CARS.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. Are Ministerial cars cleaned?

2. If so:

- (a) by whom;
- (b) is such cleaning carried out regularly;
- (c) what is the cost of such cleaning;
- (d) why are they cleaned; and
- (e) is it proposed that such cleaning continue?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The replies to these most important questions are as follows:

- 1. Yes.
- 2. (a) By the respective Ministerial drivers.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Appearance and preservation.
- (e) Yes.

LAND EXCHANGE.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Lands): I move:

That the proposed exchange of portions of freehold section 216, hundred of Glen Roy, and section 406, hundred of Hynam, as shown on the plan and in the statement laid before Parliament in terms of section 238 of the Crown Lands Act, 1929-1967, on June 20, 1967, be approved.

The Highways and Local Government Department has need of the portions of section 216, totalling approximately six acres and one rood, for road widening purposes on the Bordertown to Port MacDonnell Main Road No. 19, and also as a site for stacking road-making materials. Portion of an area known as Water Reserve, now delineated as section 406, hundred of Hynam, and comprising nine acres, one rood, 13 perches is no longer required as a reserve and is in fact used by the adjoining owner, Avoca Para Pty. Ltd. Avoca Para Pty. Ltd. has offered to exchange the portions of section 216, hundred of Glen Roy, for section 406, hundred of Hynam. The Land Board has investigated the proposed exchange of land, and it is of the opinion that the terms agreed upon (\$1.75 to be paid to Avoca Para Pty. Ltd. as equality of exchange) are satisfactory. I, therefore, ask members to agree to the motion.

Mr. RODDA (Victoria): This land is in my district and I can see no objection to the proposal. As the Minister has pointed out, the land is necessary for the widening of roads in the area, and also for the stacking of road material that will be required when future works take place in the area. The arrangements seem to be acceptable to all concerned. Avoca Para Pty. Ltd. will benefit by \$1.75 as equality of exchange.

Motion carried.

PARLIAMENTARY DRAFTSMAN.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) moved:

That Standing Order No. 83 be so far suspended for the remainder of the session as to enable the Parliamentary Draftsman and his

assistant to be accommodated with seats in the Chamber on the right-hand side of the Speaker.

Motion carried.

LICENSING BILL.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) moved:

That the Licensing Bill, 1967, be restored to the Notice Paper as a lapsed Bill, pursuant to section 57 of the Constitution Act, 1934-1965.

Motion carried.

FRUIT FLY (COMPENSATION) BILL.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran, for the Hon. G. A. BYWATERS (Minister of Agriculture), obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to provide for compensation for loss arising from measures to eradicate fruit fly. Read a first time.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Lands): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It is in similar form to the Acts passed in 1959, 1963, and 1964, its object being to enable the payment of compensation for losses arising from the campaign for eradication of fruit fly. A proclamation relating to the fruit fly outbreak was made in January this year under the Vine, Fruit, and Vegetable Protection Act and, as honourable members know, the practice has been for compensation to be given for losses arising by reason of any act of officers of the Agriculture Department within a proclaimed area.

Clause 3 accordingly provides for such compensation and compensation for loss arising from the prohibition of removal of fruit from land in a proclaimed area. Clause 4 fixes the time limit for lodging of claims as August 31, 1967, which has been fixed having regard to the date the proclamation was issued and the modified stripping methods now possible with new insecticides and lures. Otherwise, the Bill is in the usual terms.

Mr. FREEBAIRN secured the adjournment of the debate.

CATTLE COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

Second reading.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Lands): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It amends the Cattle Compensation Act, which set up a Cattle Compensation Fund and provided that compensation may be paid out of that fund to owners who suffer loss by reason of the destruction of cattle or carcasses that are infected or suspected of being infected with diseases prescribed by or under that Act. The fund is built up by a levy, called cattle stamp duty, payable on the sale of cattle.

Since its passage in 1939 the Act has been amended several times and the end result of the amendments has been:

- (a) to reduce the levy payable under the Act, calculated on the sale of an average animal, by more than 30 per cent;
- (b) to increase the maximum amount of compensation payable under the Act for the destruction of an animal from the equivalent of \$40 to \$120; and
- (c) to provide an alternative means of paying the levy under the Act.

In spite of the substantial decrease in the amount of the levy and the even more substantial increase in the maximum compensation payable under the Act, the fund has developed considerably from, in round figures, the equivalent of \$112,000 in 1953 to \$275,000 on June 30, 1967.

To date, most claims against the fund have been in respect of bovine tuberculosis. For the year ended June 30, 1954, compensation was paid in respect of 248 head of cattle suffering or suspected of suffering from this disease and, in respect of the year ended June 30, 1966, this figure was 174. This drop occurred despite an increase over the period of more than 25 per cent in the number of carcasses inspected on the slaughter floor. No doubt this decline in numbers for which compensation was paid is related to the tuberculosis testing programme undertaken by the Agriculture Department. The success of the programme may be judged by the marked decrease in the number of reactors to the tests administered under the programme. In 1953-54 about 33,000 cattle were tested and 108 reactors were detected, whilst in 1965-66 about 43,000 cattle were tested and only 20 reactors were detected.

The number of reactors has declined at a faster rate than have the numbers of cattle for which compensation has been paid. This is accounted for by the fact that compensation is payable under the Act for cattle coming from

outside the area in which the programme is operating. This shows the need for an extension of the programme. The need for the programme cannot be denied. Bovine tuberculosis is a distinct health risk in that it can be transmitted through milk and, to a lesser extent, through meat to humans. So far, substantially all dairying areas and some agriculture areas in the State are covered, but there are indications that by 1975, at the latest, our valuable export trade to the United States of America and certain other countries will be effected unless the whole State is covered. It is likely that, after that year, the United States will only accept meat and dairy products from areas certified as being free of bovine tuberculosis.

At present most of the programme is undertaken by private veterinary surgeons paid out of general revenue. The expenses of the programme are continuing ones, as testing must be carried out at regular intervals. The availability of funds has, in consequence, determined the degree of expansion of the programme. The primary purpose of this Bill is to authorize the Minister to meet the costs of this programme out of the Cattle Compensation Fund. Clearly, the programme has already effectively reduced the claims for compensation under the Act, and the programme itself falls within the purposes of the Act, which was to facilitate the eradication of, amongst other diseases, bovine tuberculosis, by spreading the cost of that eradication over the industry as a whole. In considering the Bill in some detail, clauses 1 to 3 are quite formal. Clause 4 brings up to date references to the Stock Diseases Act, which appear in the Act under its former title, the Stock and Poultry Diseases Act. Clause 5 has a similar effect to that of clause 4. Clause 6 again has a similar effect to that of clause 4 and, in addition, ensures that both methods of payment of duty being:

- (a) the affixing of stamps on each record of a sale; and
 - (b) the payment by periodical remittance in respect of all sales taking place during that period,
- are fully recognized in the Act.

Clause 7 amends section 11 of the Act by re-enacting the provisions relating to credits to and payments from the fund. The only new matters of substance covered here are:

- (a) recognition of the fact that the Treasurer may pay interest on amounts standing to the credit of the fund (the

Treasurer is authorized to do this under section 33 of the Public Finance Act); and

- (b) provision for the payment from the fund of sums agreed to be paid in connection with the tuberculosis programme.
- Clause 8 adds a new Part IIIA to the Act, and this Part sets out the powers of the Minister in relation to the authorization of veterinary surgeons, and also empowers the Minister to enter into agreements with authorized veterinary surgeons for the testing of cattle.

Mr. RODDA secured the adjournment of the debate.

LAND SETTLEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

Second reading.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Lands): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It extends for a further two years the life of the Land Settlement Committee which would otherwise expire in December of this year. There is a corresponding two-year increase in the period during which the Minister may compulsorily acquire lands in the Western Division of the South-East. These powers have not, in fact, so far been used but it is thought that it may be useful to extend their duration to correspond with the life of the committee.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

HIGHWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

Second reading.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Lands): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its purpose is to provide legislation which is both more flexible and effective in relation to the lighting of roads. The Bill provides for amendment to section 26c of the present Act. Clause 3 provides, first, for an amendment to section 26c (1) and introduces a simplified

administrative procedure by which the Commissioner may, with the approval of the Minister, cause any road or part of a road to be lighted as the Commissioner deems requisite; the provision now out of date that "the Commissioner may cause the main road known as the Port Road or any part thereof, or any other road or part of a road approved by the Governor on the recommendation of the Commissioner" (to be lighted as the Commissioner deems requisite) has been struck out.

Clause 3 (b) provides for the insertion of a provision empowering the Commissioner to require any council whose district is traversed by a road lighted by the Commissioner to pay to him one half of the cost of lighting so much of the road as lies within the district. This provision has been agreed upon by the various local governing authorities and the Commissioner. Clause 3 (c) provides merely for a consequential amendment.

Mr. NANKIVELL secured the adjournment of the debate.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION BILL.

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

Second reading.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its object is to establish a State Government Insurance Commission. The insurance field is one which all other States in Australia have entered for two reasons: (a) to keep premiums low; and (b) to ensure by competition that adequate service is given to the public. Adequate service does not merely relate to rates of insurance but to conditions of policies and the ways in which claims against insurance companies are dealt with, and the ways in which insurance companies alter their liabilities unilaterally. The Government has received complaints, most of which are concerned not with premium rates but with the other matters which I have just mentioned. I propose to deal with a certain number of typical complaints in the comprehensive motor vehicle and personal accident and sickness insurance fields.

It is generally true that satisfactory service has been given to the public in fire and household insurance. However, in order to give service in the fields in which complaints are

made, it is necessary for an insurance office to cover other profitable avenues of business. In the comprehensive motor vehicle field, it has been quite common for insurance companies to give notice of alterations in the amount of franchise payable or to impose additional premiums where owners of vehicles have made claims, despite the fact that it cannot be shown that they are accident prone. It has been continually the case that insurances have been obtained by companies for amounts in excess of the actual market value of the vehicle, so that a higher premium has been paid than is justified, and where vehicles have been total losses the amount of insurance taken out by the insured has, of course, not been paid. It is quite standard for numbers of companies to include in their insurance policies a condition in the following terms:

It is hereby expressly agreed and declared that notwithstanding anything contained in the within policy or in the proposal the company may at any time notify the insured by writing sent to the address endorsed on the schedule hereto or to the address of the insured last known to the company that the amount of the excess to be borne by the insured has been increased to a specified sum in excess of the figure shown in the proposal and in the schedule hereto and as and from the date of such notification such increased sum shall be the amount to be borne by the insured in respect of any one claim or series of claims arising out of any one cause or event.

This has worked a decided hardship in numbers of cases upon people who have paid for adequate insurance coverage. There have been numbers of cases in which insurance companies have unfairly relied upon technical errors in the application for insurance to deny liability to the insured. There are many cases where insurance companies, which are largely owned by hire-purchase interests, charge premiums on insurance of secondhand cars well above the ruling market rate, and the hire-purchase company recovers interest on the premiums. The hire-purchase company refuses to write business unless the insurance is with its insurance company despite the provisions to the contrary of the Hire-Purchase Agreements Act.

The difficulty for the proposed hirer in working his remedies under the Hire-Purchase Agreements Act is that he generally is not aware of the other companies offering insurance at much lower rates, but it will be simple for him to be aware of the proposals of a Government Insurance Office and that he will be able to get a better deal from the Government Insurance Office, not than from all insurance companies, but certainly than from those

insurance companies associated with hire-purchase interests. I set forth a table of the contrasting premium rates as between companies associated with hire-purchase companies and others competing with them in South Australia at the moment. Although, since this table was presented to the House last year, there have been certain alterations by companies, I intend to use the same table, because it simply illustrates the point. I seek leave to have the table incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

COMPARISON OF PREMIUM RATES FOR VEHICLES UNDER HIRE-PURCHASE AND VEHICLES NOT UNDER HIRE-PURCHASE.

	Under hire-purchase. A year.	Not under hire-purchase. A year.
Up to \$400	\$60	\$44.20
\$600	\$78	\$53.00
\$800	\$86	\$58.80
\$1,000	\$92	\$64.60
\$1,200	\$100	\$69.80
\$1,400	\$107	\$75.60
\$1,600	\$112	\$79.00
\$1,800	\$116	\$81.60
\$2,000	\$120	\$84.20
\$2,200	\$124	\$86.80
\$2,400	\$128	\$89.40
\$2,600	\$132	\$92.00
\$2,800	\$134	\$94.60
\$3,000	\$138	\$97.20

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In the personal sickness and accident field certain policies are carefully drawn to exclude many classes of sickness which the average person taking out a policy would feel were covered. For instance, a policy of the Australian Metropolitan Life Assurance Company Limited provides on the face of it accident and sickness benefits amounting to several dollars a week, payable for not more than 26 consecutive weeks in the event of the assured's suffering temporary total disablement by accident or temporary total disablement by sickness, and an assurance benefit of several hundred dollars in the event of death or permanent total disablement.

Permanent total disablement, according to conditions on the back of the policy in small print, includes "Permanent total disablement by sickness" but later (in even smaller print) this is confined to the loss of the sight of both eyes caused solely and directly by diseases (other than venereal disease) contracted after the date of the policy and certified by a medical practitioner nominated by the company as being complete and irremediable, or the complete and permanent inability of the assured to follow any trade, occupation or calling, as

a result of paralysis caused solely and directly by disease (other than venereal disease or paralysis of the insane) contracted after the date of the policy and which is certified by a medical practitioner nominated by the company as being permanent and complete in at least two limbs.

In consequence, a serious back injury permanently and totally incapacitating the assured, but not producing paralysis in two limbs, does not qualify. This is the sort of careful exception which is written into policies and designed to obtain premiums from assured persons in the belief that they are adequately covered, where in fact they are not.

Mr. Millhouse: These things are most exceptional.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: They are not exceptional. Trade unions have had members enter into sickness and accident policies with this kind of exception inserted in large groups.

Mr. Millhouse: You are not saying that is the rule.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I cannot say exactly how far it is the rule. However, I can say that the number of complaints about policies in this area is very considerable. There is no reason why policies should not be designed effectively to assure to the assured what he thinks he is paying for without careful exceptions, as to which many other examples could be given, designed to evade liability for sickness or accident. One of the most unfair provisions standard amongst insurance companies (and this is the rule) which prevents the average citizen from getting his claim properly dealt with is this: almost universally insurance companies insert in their policies a clause as follows:

All differences arising out of this policy shall be referred to the decision of an arbitrator to be appointed in writing by the parties in difference or if they cannot agree upon a single arbitrator to the decision of two arbitrators, one to be appointed in writing by each of the parties within one calendar month after having been required in writing so to do by either of the parties or, in case the arbitrators do not agree, of an umpire appointed in writing by the arbitrators before entering upon the reference. The umpire shall sit with the arbitrators and preside at their meetings. The making of an Award shall, subject to any relevant Statutory provisions to the contrary, be a condition precedent to any right of action against the company; but if such action be not commenced within one year of the making of an Award the right of action shall be deemed to be abandoned and released. After the expiration of one year after the accrual of the cause of action the company shall not be liable in respect of any claim therefor unless such claim shall in the meantime have been referred to arbitration.

Not only do they cut down the normal time for a claim from six years to one year, or after an award, to one year; but in addition they require that a person go to arbitration under the Arbitration Act, the provisions of which have hardly been touched since 1891. This is an extremely cumbersome, expensive and difficult procedure. I can cite cases in South Australia of arbitration related to insurance claims undertaken by senior members of the legal profession, and the costs involved in such arbitration have been enormous. As the member for Mitcham knows, under the Arbitration Act there are not reasonable means available for bringing an arbitration to a speedy conclusion. The same provisions that are available in courts of law for the speedy settlement of claims through the taking out of interlocutory proceedings to get summary judgments and the like are not available in arbitration. Nor is it possible to ensure that the arbitrator will sit within a certain period: it is at his discretion when he sits once the arbitration has been agreed upon.

Mr. Millhouse: You pick your arbitrator.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, but if an arbitrator is not agreed upon there must

be three arbitrators and there must be agreement among them as to when they sit. The insertion of an arbitration clause by insurance companies in South Australia can be for only one purpose: to prevent settlement of a dispute by the ordinary recourse to law. This has meant that insurance companies have been able to say that claims are settled and do not go to law. However, there is a big obstacle in the way of people's coming to law when claims are in dispute.

Mr. Coumbe: Can you amend the other Act?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Rather than amend the other Act, I think various things can be done (and have been shown to be done by Government insurance companies in other States) by way of competition to stop this sort of thing and to stop some other matters to which I refer. State Government insurance in other States has proved successful and I seek leave to incorporate in *Hansard* without my reading it a table setting forth the insurance fields covered in other States.

Leave granted.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCES—COVERAGE BY STATES.

	Life.	Fire and Marine.	Workmen's Compensa- tion.	Motor Vehicle Comprehensive.	Motor Vehicle Third Party.
New South Wales . . .	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Victoria	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Queensland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Western Australia . .	No	Government and Local Government	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tasmania	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The other State Insurance Offices have been able to give good service to the public, to give a general service of insurance by competition, and to be of assistance to Government revenues in a modest way. In South Australia the State Government at the moment covers its own insurance. It would be possible to carry this insurance on in the Government Insurance Office specifically rather than in the Treasury as at the moment. There would be immediately available to the Government a sufficient build-up of business, without any immediate likely claims, for it to be unnecessary to set aside substantial reserves or to involve the Government in more than minimal establishment costs. The gradual build-up of business in a Government Insurance Office can be undertaken in the same way as with other insurance companies recently entering the field

in South Australia (but without the promotional costs which have involved some of them in losses), so that the establishment will not present the Government with financial or administrative problems.

We have made a careful examination of the costs of various insurance companies in various fields in South Australia and we have found that they are able to make good returns, given the type of cases they undertake. So long as they do not undertake heavy promotional campaigns, small insurance company offices can do well and can make good returns. It is not necessary in South Australia that we should engage in major promotional campaigns for the Government Insurance Office because business is already widely available.

Mr. Millhouse: I take it you have had the advice of the Public Actuary?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No, but I have had the advice of research students in this field.

Mr. Millhouse: Surely the Actuary is the man to go to: he is your servant.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If the honourable member likes to go to the Actuary and discuss the matter with him, I will see that the Actuary is made available to him.

Mr. Millhouse: Is that a definite undertaking?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes.

Mr. Millhouse: I will take you up on that.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am pleased that the honourable member will do his own research.

Mr. Millhouse: I take it I can make public his advice?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Certainly. It is significant that certain commercial insurance companies in South Australia have mounted a campaign (some considerable time ago a campaign was conducted) against the establishment of a Government Insurance Office. Broadly speaking, this campaign is based publicly on two grounds. (There were a number of other grounds used before but they have been answered and not pursued.) The first ground is that competition from the Government Insurance Office would not be effective and that it is unnecessary in view of the highly competitive nature of the field. If these organizations have anything whatever to fear from competition by a Government Insurance Office, then since the field is so competitive it is difficult to understand why they should be so alarmed at the thought of the establishment of a Government Insurance Office.

The second objection is that, because of the State Government finding itself in a situation of financial stringency, the provision of moneys for a Government Insurance Office would be an unwise burden on the finances of the State. As I have explained earlier, this allegation (touching as may be the concern of these organizations for this State's revenues) is illfounded. The Government will not be faced with any considerable outlay in the establishment of an insurance office.

Mr. Millhouse: Last week you said you had not even made an estimate.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I repeat that the Government will not be faced with any considerable outlay in the establishment of an insurance office, and I have already given the reasons why. I shall now explain the clauses of the Bill. Clauses 3 and 4 establish a State

Government Insurance Commission to consist of five members to be appointed by the Governor. Clauses 5 to 10 are machinery provisions. Clause 11 provides for payment of fees and remuneration as fixed from time to time. Clause 12 sets out the powers and functions of the commission which are to carry on the general business of insurance in the State including third party insurance. Clauses 13 and 14 are machinery provisions. Clause 15 provides that policies issued by the commission are guaranteed by the Government of the State, any amounts payable by the State being repayable by the commission to the Government as and when funds for the purpose are available.

Clause 16 enables the commission to invest its funds broadly in Treasury securities. Clause 17 requires the commission to pay the equivalent of income tax payments to the Treasurer and makes the commission subject to the normal provisions of the Stamp Duties and Fire Brigades Acts. It cannot be said that the commission is taking any undue advantage of its position as a Government instrumentality in competition with commercial insurance companies. This clause also requires the commission to carry to a reserve fund such portion of any profits which it may show in any year as is determined by the Chairman, the Under Treasurer and Auditor-General and to pay to Consolidated Revenue any balance as directed by the Governor. Clause 18 provides for the keeping of accounts and the auditing of the accounts of the commission by the Auditor-General. The Annual Report of the Auditor-General is to be laid before each House of Parliament annually. Clause 19 deals with the manner in which the funds of the commission are kept and clause 20 with the regulations. The whole of the Bill is really of an enabling and machinery nature, the primary provisions being those that deal with the establishment of the commission and its powers and functions.

There is another advantage which other State Governments have found from having State Government Insurance Offices and which ought to be available to every Government in Australia. State Government insurance funds can normally be invested in proper loan securities. In other States the Government Insurance Offices have from time to time given much support to semi-governmental loan raising, but we do not have a similar fund available in South Australia to cover any gap that may occur in these loan raisings. Indeed, the Government of South Australia can be subjected to much pressure from large financial

institutions which threaten that, unless certain financial policies are followed by the Government, they will not be prepared to assist semi-governmental raisings.

Mr. Millhouse: Have you had such threats?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am not going to say anything further than that: I simply say that it is a possibility. To preserve the independence of Government in this area and to ensure that we are able to achieve the semi-governmental loan raisings in South Australia in the normal way, it is desirable that we have available for the purpose facilities similar to those available to every other State Government in Australia. I consider that semi-governmental loan raisings have also been supported by State Government Insurance Offices to the considerable benefit of the citizens of the State concerned, and it is desirable that similar facilities be available here. So, apart from the two reasons I have given for the setting up of a Government Insurance Office, the added fact that at any time there would normally be available from that insurance fund moneys that could be made available towards meeting any gap in semi-governmental loan raisings could be of considerable assistance to any Government in this State regardless of its political complexion.

Mr. Coumbe: Did you have trouble filling those gaps before?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No. As the honourable member knows, recently the Electricity Trust loan was filled in an extremely short period, and investors in South Australia have come forward with enthusiasm to support the loan raisings of this Government.

Mr. Coumbe: As they have in the past.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As they have in the past, because they have confidence in the future of this State and in the present Government. On the other hand, with some changes in the Loan Council arrangements, which were made at the recent meeting of the Loan Council, and the fact that at some time in the future fairly heavy calls will be made on the semi-governmental loan market, assistance from a fund of this kind could be valuable in the conduct of Government in this State.

Mr. Coumbe: Of what magnitude do you think this fund will be?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: At this stage that is hard to forecast. The funds available in some other States run into many millions of dollars.

A member: Would they be healthy in trust funds?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The trust funds of this State are healthy. They are in a much healthier state than is the case in the neighbouring State of Victoria under a Liberal Government, where recently the honourable member's Party colleague has been urging every other Premier in Australia to increase taxes or to do as the Liberal Premier of Western Australia did recently, namely, put a special stamp duty on and take money out of every pay packet in the State.

Mr. Curren: A wages tax.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: That is the kind of revenue raising that the honourable member's colleagues elsewhere in Australia have advocated and, if that is what Opposition members are advocating here, let them say so instead of saying that we ought to spend more money in every area, raise less money in taxes, and at the same time balance the Budget.

Mr. HALL secured the adjournment of the debate.

MORPHETT STREET BRIDGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

Second reading.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The amendments proposed in this Bill should be considered against the whole background of Treasury finance through Revenue Account, Loan Account and special accounts, and, in particular, having regard to the relationship between the roads funds and other funds. The common situation with Government finance in all States appears to be that the demands of the community for works and services are in excess of the funds and resources available towards meeting those demands. Governments must then attempt to determine some order of priority for the various competing claims and to use available resources in a way that will meet the most urgent requirements first. Looking at the situation facing the South Australian Government today, it is clear that all sources of funds are under heavy pressure but that the pressure on Revenue Account in relation to available funds is greater than the pressure on Loan Account. The pressure on Loan Account is in turn greater than the pressure on the roads funds.

The situation of the roads funds in relation to other funds was explained by my predecessor when introducing the Revenue Budget on August 31, 1966. Briefly, it was then pointed out that the arrangements agreed upon between the Commonwealth and the States some years ago were for an adequate, regular and increasing volume of funds to be allocated for road purposes. To ensure that agreed targets were met in the earlier years of the arrangements, and that all Commonwealth matching grants were secured, advances were made from Loan Account to supplement the funds available each year from road taxes and charges.

In more recent years the funds available from such taxes and charges have been well beyond the amounts necessary to attract the Commonwealth matching grants. In 1964-65 and 1965-66, after making repayments to Loan Account of \$600,000 and \$640,000, the Highways Fund retained amounts of \$700,000 and \$1,140,000 respectively in excess of amounts required to secure the maximum Commonwealth matching grants. For 1966-67 the expectation was that the Highways Fund would have new State funds about \$1,600,000 in excess of the matching requirement. Having regard to this fact and to the relatively heavier pressures on Revenue Account, it was determined, in accordance with section 31a of the Highways Act, that a recovery of earlier advances from Revenue Account be made. The amount of the recovery was set at \$1,000,000 for 1966-67 and it was anticipated that the Highways Fund would still retain about \$600,000 beyond the full matching requirement. Because expenditure on the new office building (a type of expenditure not accepted by the Commonwealth for matching purposes) was greater than estimated, it now appears that the excess for road purposes was about \$400,000.

A current review of the whole situation shows that, while all the State funds available to the Highways Department could be used to good effect for road purposes, the demand for many other works and services is much more urgent in relation to the funds available for them. Therefore, it is proposed to require a further contribution of \$240,000 from the Highways Fund to Revenue Account in 1967-68 in accordance with section 31a of the Highways Act. This will complete the recoveries of earlier advances which may be made to Loan and Revenue Accounts pursuant to that section. After allowing for this proposed recovery and for heavy expenditures this year on the Walkerville office building, it is

clear that the amounts available for road purposes will still be well in excess of the amount necessary to attract the full Commonwealth matching grants.

In all the circumstances, the Government considers that the most effective use of available resources would be assisted by requiring the Highways Fund to provide the whole of the funds for the Morphett Street bridge project instead of providing half the funds from Loan Account, as contemplated by the existing legislation. The Morphett Street bridge project is of course an essential road work and there are good grounds for maintaining that the funds should in any case be provided entirely in the first instance from road funds, as is done for other bridges. In the long run the Highways Fund will fully recover these additional payments, because the repayments by the Adelaide City Council will go back to the Highways Fund and not to Loan Account, as applies under the present arrangements. The Adelaide City Council will not be affected in any way. The main effect of the proposed amendment will be to increase the ability of Loan Account to finance urgently needed works at a time when it is under extremely heavy pressure. The main figures to be considered are:

- (a) The Act refers to Government contributions towards a total estimated cost of \$3,000,000 or such higher figure as the Treasurer approves.
- (b) The Treasurer has agreed that the Government will contribute half of an estimated total cost of about \$3,400,000.
- (c) As the Act stands at the moment, this would mean the provision of about \$1,700,000 out of the Highways Fund and about \$1,700,000 out of Loan Account—the latter repayable by the council.
- (d) To the end of 1966-67 payments by the Treasurer had amounted to about \$2,140,000, being \$1,070,000 out of the Highways Fund and \$1,070,000 out of Loan Account.
- (e) In 1967-68 the project is expected to be completed, and payments by the Treasurer will be about \$1,260,000. In the absence of the amendment now proposed those payments would mean a charge to the Highways Fund of about \$630,000 and to Loan Account about \$630,000.

(f) The Government intends that the full impact against the Highways Fund in 1967-68 of recoveries to Revenue under section 31a of the Highways Act and special arrangements following this legislation be limited to \$1,000,000. The best estimate that can be made at the moment of the details of the \$1,000,000 additional charge to the Highways Fund is as follows:

	\$
Repayment to Revenue	240,000
Advance to council in 1967-68 previously intended to be made from Loan Account	630,000
Recovery to Loan Account of amounts previously advanced to council	130,000

The remaining recovery to Loan Account, about \$940,000, would be arranged in 1968-69 or in 1969-70.

I deal now with the Bill's provisions. Clause 3 amends section 9 of the existing Act by providing that, instead of one half of the works being provided from the Highways Fund, the total cost up to an approved limit may be so provided. Any sums paid out of the Loan Fund may subsequently be recouped from the Highways Fund. Amounts repaid by the Adelaide City Council will then be credited to the fund from which they have been paid.

Mr. CUMBE secured the adjournment of the debate.

PRICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second reading.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its object is to amend the Prices Act, 1948-1966, to provide for the continuation of price control until December 31, 1968. In proposing the amendment the Government's reasons are similar to those given in previous years. It is considered to be of advantage to the community and the State generally to continue this legislation. As honourable members are aware, the operation of the Act provides the following:

(1) Control of prices of a fairly extensive range of goods and services by which increased costs incurred by manufacturers and traders have to be established before price increases are approved.

(2) The examination of price movements of decontrolled items. This also includes the operation of agreements between the Prices Department and certain industries whereby prices are not increased without details first having been submitted for examination.

(3) The investigation of complaints of overcharges on both controlled and non-controlled goods and services.

(4) Special investigations including investigation of doubtful practices where excessive prices or charges may be involved.

(5) Fixing of minimum prices for wine grapes.

(6) Supervision of the unfair trading practices provisions of the Act including misleading advertising.

Prices and charges for many goods and services are still below those in other States, and there is pressure to bring many of them up to the levels in those States. For example, some major items concerned are petroleum products, bread, soap, footwear, certain clothing, men's haircutting charges, and superphosphate. On these seven items alone, the annual saving to South Australian consumers through lower prices is estimated at \$7,500,000.

Mr. Millhouse: From whom are the savings made?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: From people who would otherwise be overcharging.

Mr. Millhouse: They are South Australians!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Not always: sometimes they are the shareholders of firms from other States.

Mr. Millhouse: Not often.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If the honourable member pursues his general attitude about price control we await to see what support he gets from certain of his colleagues. Do I understand that it is the honourable member's proposal that, if the Liberal Party reassumes office, it will abolish price control?

Mr. Millhouse: You mean "when".

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: That is a different matter. Will the honourable member give an undertaking that he will abolish price control?

Mr. Millhouse: I am saying—

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Answer the question. The honourable member wants his bet each way. Some Opposition members condemn price control but others support it. With

what voice does the Opposition speak? The effect of increased costs on the economy of the State is well known, nevertheless, some increases are unavoidable. The \$2 basic wage increase last July and the interim margins increase this year, are still being reflected, on top of which is now this year's increase of \$1 in the wage. There are also increases in the cost of raw materials from time to time, and the metal trades margins application is still to be completed.

With regard to the consumer price index, the average increase for the six capital cities over the last 10 years has been 25 per cent. It might be claimed that, as the increase in the index for Adelaide in the last year or so has been about the same as in other capitals, the prices legislation has not kept prices down. However, several points should be borne in mind. First, the index covers a limited number of items only, many of which are not subject to price control. One example is meat which, as a result of increased prices due to the shortage of livestock, has caused the index for Adelaide to rise by the equivalent of 52½ cents a week in the past two years. Secondly, the index measures only price variations for the items concerned and not their comparative price levels as between capital cities. Price control cannot be expected to do a great deal more than maintain the favourable price differentials that already exist in this State. Thirdly, the index does not reflect the benefits accruing from items under control but not included in the index. Among the more important of these are various building materials and services, cartage rates, and superphosphate.

Statistics continue to show that house building costs in this State are the lowest in the Commonwealth. Price control over some essential building materials and services has been an important factor in maintaining this advantage for the State. The Prices Department has continued to investigate complaints of over-charges on both controlled and decontrolled goods and services. As in previous years, many of the complaints relate to disputes concerning charges for services rendered, in particular on house-building work and repairs. In the 12 months to May 31 this year, more than 350 complaints of overcharges were investigated and, in 174 cases, refunds or

reductions were obtained amounting to more than \$8,000. In addition, in some other cases, arrangements were made for work to be completed or re-done. An important aspect of this service to the public is its deterrent effect. Tradesmen and industry generally are well aware that the department will investigate thoroughly complaints of overcharges. That this service is appreciated is evident by many letters of thanks received from people for whom adjustments have been obtained.

During the year, a number of investigations were also made into a variety of doubtful trading practices. Some of these came within the provisions in the Prices Act concerning unfair trade practices and others did not. One of the more frequent complaints was that of misleading advertising. Where, after investigation, a complaint was found to be justified, the trader was required to correct the advertisement and a warning was issued against any recurrence. An example of a racket that was stopped was that of the sale of chain-wire manufacturing machines at exorbitant prices. These machines were placed under control and the price was fixed at nearly half of the original price. In some cases, which did not come within the unfair practices provisions in the Act, the department was successful in negotiating satisfactory agreements between traders and consumers. Other examples of action taken include investigations into misrepresentations in used car transactions, disputes over insurance claims, and hire-purchase contracts.

An extensive investigation was again carried out into wine-grape prices, and minimum prices were fixed for the 1967 vintage. Despite the wide variation of opinions between grape-growers and winemakers as to what constituted reasonable prices, reports indicate that the prices fixed have proved acceptable. I have outlined the benefits resulting from this legislation, and I ask the House to vote for an extension of the Prices Act until the end of December, 1968.

Mr. NANKIVELL secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 5.10 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, July 12, at 2 p.m.