

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, August 31, 1967

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

DEATH OF FORMER MEMBERS

The SPEAKER: It is my sad duty to inform the House of the passing of two former members of this Chamber—Eric John Shepherd, M.M., member for Victoria from 1924 to 1933, and Speaker of the House from 1930 to 1933, and Frank Keen Nieass, member for East Torrens from 1930 to 1933 and member for Norwood from 1938 to 1941 and from 1944 to 1947—both of whom made a valuable contribution to the work of this Parliament. On behalf of honourable members, I have conveyed expressions of deepest sympathy to the relatives, and I now ask members to honour the memory of these two former members by standing and observing a minute's silence.

Honourable members stood in their places in silence.

ASSENT TO BILLS

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the following Bills:

- Public Purposes Loan,
- Succession Duties Act Amendment,
- Supply (No. 2).

PRIMARY PRODUCERS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE BILL

His Excellency the Governor, 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.

QUESTIONS

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

Mr. HALL: The House is currently considering legislation whereby Government assistance may be offered to those in South Australia who are affected by drought conditions. It is expected that any assistance that may be forthcoming from the Commonwealth Government for this purpose may depend on the State Government's initiative in the matter. In reply to a question that was asked on this subject on August 2, the Minister of Agriculture said that he would like to discuss this matter with the Premier before revealing any further information that might be contained in the application that had been made to the Commonwealth Government. Will the Premier now table in

the House the letter sent to the Prime Minister, so that all members may know the basis of the State's application for drought relief?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Naturally enough, I would have hoped by this stage to have some reply from the Prime Minister. The application was made on the basis of the assistance in drought relief that had been given by the Commonwealth Government to certain other States, and similar assistance was asked for here. Although it was a lengthy and detailed submission, I will examine the possibility of providing it to members when Parliament resumes next Tuesday week. In the meantime, I hope I shall receive some reply from the Prime Minister. There has certainly been no indication from the Commonwealth that it required prior action on the part of this State in the matter. We have nevertheless taken action, regardless of any Commonwealth proposals. We have, of course, so far received no reply other than an acknowledgment of the letter to the Commonwealth.

Mr. NANKIVELL: In researching the funds that may be available for use under the Primary Producers Emergency Assistance Bill, I have seen that \$804,636 is standing in a trust account to the credit of the Debt Adjustment Fund. Can the Treasurer say whether this money could be used to provide drought assistance (as this was one of the reasons the money was originally provided), whether the Government intends to use it for that purpose, or whether it has in mind some other purpose for the money?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As I do not want to give an off-hand reply to this question, I will have the matter investigated and give the honourable member a considered reply.

STATE LIBRARY

Mr. CLARK: I am sure that the Minister of Education and other members have noticed recent letters in the press suggesting that it would be helpful, and a good idea, if the Reference Section of the State Library could remain open in the evenings until a later hour than the present closing time of 9.30 p.m. Indeed, I have much sympathy for this request, for I know that when I was a student visiting the Public Library (as it was known to us then) later closing hours would have been most helpful. Is the Minister prepared to comment on any change of hours for the library, or has he any statement at all to make about the suggestion?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The State Library has received requests from students (particularly matriculation students) who have no other suitable facilities for studying. Having considered the matter, Cabinet has decided that the Reference Section will be opened for an additional one and a half hours each day from Monday to Saturday inclusive. In other words, the hours will be extended to 11 p.m. for 14 weeks so that the extended period will operate until the time of examinations. As I believe this will be greatly appreciated by students, we are only too happy to provide this assistance.

GAUGE STANDARDIZATION

Mr. McKEE: I understand that the Commonwealth Minister for Shipping and Transport was reported to have told the Commonwealth member for Grey (Mr. Jessop) that the South Australian and New South Wales Governments had not yet reached an agreement regarding the section of railway line to be standardized between Broken Hill and Cockburn. Mr. Jessop was reported to have then said that, if that was so, it was about time the South Australian Government said why it had not reached an agreement regarding which the principles were first established 20 years ago. Will the Premier comment on that statement?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The New South Wales and South Australian Governments are not at fault here. The Commonwealth Government is demanding of South Australia that it agree to a proposition (the details of which are not covered in the agreement) that would deprive the State of its existing trade. I will obtain details about this for the honourable member and give them to the House. I have said previously in this place (and the Minister of Transport has said it in another place) that this State will not be railroaded out of its existing trade by a demand of the Commonwealth on this matter: South Australia shall be properly protected. If the member for Grey were doing his job for this State, he would not attack the State Government but would make representations on behalf of his people who otherwise, under the Commonwealth proposal, will lose out on employment they have now.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Although the Premier referred to a difference of opinion about rail standardization, he still did not say what was the real difficulty between the Commonwealth and the State. Has the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Transport, been able to obtain a reply to the

question I asked yesterday about a public statement made by the Minister regarding the Silverton Tramway Company?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: No.

KYBYBOLITE LABORATORY

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my question of August 24 about the Kybybolite laboratory?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: The strong emphasis on the current and future research programme at Kybybolite is in studying in detail pasture production and its most effective utilization by the grazing animal. It is expected that the outcome of this will be superior pasture mixtures and a far better understanding of stocking rates and pasture grazing techniques, such as the place of deferred grazing. The overall objective is, of course, to reduce the cost of wool and meat production by a more efficient and understanding use of pasture. The South-East, as a major wool and meat-producing district, has some overall problems of a rather basic nature; for example, growth rates in lambs are about 20 per cent slower than is the case in the cereal zone. Is this because of a low level of digestible nutrients in the feed, or a low intake of feed? We do not know.

New Zealand work indicates that growth rates on pure stands of white clover are two and a half times greater than on pure stands of perennial grass. What is the position with regard to our own local species? This is not known. The new laboratory will be equipped to answer this class of question and to give an understanding of what is happening in the field. Remedial measures may then be possible. The policy of the department is to build up an active group of research scientists in this region to provide a sound backing of research findings for a vigorous regional advisory service. Half of the cost of this laboratory will come from State Revenue and the other half from the Commonwealth extension grant.

WATER SUPPLIES

Mr. HUDSON: It has come to my attention that suggestions have been made that the Government has been remiss this year in not starting full pumping earlier and that, in contra-distinction, the Playford Government in 1959 had been fully responsible and ensured that the necessary pumping took place from a time early in the year. Can the Minister of Works answer the following questions: When was part-time pumping started in 1959 and in 1967? When full-scale pumping started in

those years, what quantity of water was pumped in June and August in each of those years? What quantity was used in 1959-60? What is the estimated consumption for 1967-68? What was the monthly precipitation and run-off in the period from April to August in the years 1959 and 1967?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: In 1959 pumping from the previous summer ceased on April 9 and recommenced on June 1. In 1967 pumping was continuous. In 1959 full pumping with three units commenced on June 8. In 1967 the pumping rate was progressively built up to full pumping with four units on

July 16. The quantities pumped, in millions of gallons, were as follows:

1959		1967	
June	1,393	June	857
July	1,516	July	1,938
August	1,630	August	2,040
Total	4,539	Total	4,835

The recorded consumption for 1959-60 was 23,110,000 gallons. The estimated consumption for 1967-68 is 31,300,000 gallons. The following table shows the precipitation in inches and run-off in millions of gallons:

	Rainfall (Adelaide)	Rainfall (Adelaide)	Run-off	River Torrens and River Onkaparinga
	1959	1967	1959	1967
April	0.34	0.40	182	53
May	0.15	1.03	205	80
June	0.36	0.36	154	133
July	1.48	1.97	297	448
August	1.85	2.28	927	1,134
Totals	4.18	6.04	1,765	1,848

For the purposes of this information the consumption data relates to the Adelaide statistical division of metropolitan Adelaide. The run-off figures are for the Torrens and Onkaparinga only, as the exploitation of Myponga and South Para streams have changed over this period.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Some market gardeners in the Barossa Valley, which is in my district, have for many years supplied a large part of the requirements of the metropolitan area in respect of carrots, onions, cauliflowers and cabbages. It was my privilege recently to attend the annual dinner of the Barossa Valley Branch of the South Australian Fruit Growers and Market Gardeners Association, where considerable concern was expressed about the small quantity of water held at that time in the Warren reservoir, on which these market gardeners depend for their production and livelihood. As the Minister of Works knows, the Mannum-Adelaide main is connected to that reservoir and, if water had not been pumped into the reservoir in recent months, it might well have been empty by now. These gardeners are concerned at the possibility of restrictions being imposed at some time in the future, thereby restricting their production and causing a considerable fall in their normal income. In view of his

earlier statement that the Warren reservoir held about 400,000,000 gallons or only one-third of its total capacity, can the Minister of Works now say whether restrictions are likely to be imposed soon on market gardeners in the Barossa Valley, or whether such restrictions are inevitable? If restrictions are likely, will he also indicate the extent of such restrictions because, with this information available, growers in that district would be able at this stage to limit their sowing of vegetable seeds?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Members are aware that it is impossible to indicate at this stage whether there will be restrictions. If the necessary rainfall is recorded there will be no restrictions. I admit that the position is causing grave concern, but the worst metropolitan run-off for 80 years makes the present position serious. Unless suitable rains are received there will be restrictions: there must be. I do not know what the nature of the restrictions will be in the Barossa Valley but the matter has been discussed and developments are awaited. When I have something definite I shall, with pleasure or with regret depending on the circumstances, inform the honourable member.

Mr. BOCKELBERG: Has the Minister of Works been successful in obtaining part of the \$50,000,000 to be made available by the

Commonwealth Government for implementing water schemes, so that work on providing a water supply for Kimba might be commenced?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The State Government has taken up with the Commonwealth Government the matter of making finance available for two schemes in South Australia, namely, the Poldo-Kimba scheme and the Tailem Bend to Keith scheme. Concerning the first scheme, the Government received a reply indicating that it came within the scope of the Commonwealth's provisions; we were asked for further details: those details have been forwarded to the Commonwealth Government, and we are now awaiting a reply. I have told people in both the district of the honourable member and the district of the member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell) that, in the event of money being made available, work will commence on both projects immediately.

BANKING SYSTEM

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I notice in this morning's paper that the Premier has referred to the will of the people expressed at the last election in connection with the failure of the State Government Insurance Commission Bill to pass. I know the Premier on several occasions has referred to the determination of his Government to give effect to the various items of policy put before the people by his Party prior to the last election. I am also reminded that one of the most prominent planks in the policy of the present Government before the last election, and one emphasized on television by the present member for Glenelg (billed as a lecturer in economics) was the amalgamation of the State Bank with the Savings Bank of South Australia, a step that is, I understand, in accordance with the policy of the Australian Labor Party. As far as I am aware, no steps have been taken to implement this particularly prominent plank in the platform, and I ask the Premier whether the Government intends still to go ahead with its proposal, which was put before the people prior to the last election. If it does, when will this happen? If the Government does not intend to go ahead with this matter, what has occurred since the election to make the Government desist from this course?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Studies have been made concerning the integration of the State banking system, because the Savings Bank of South Australia has been at a signal disadvantage in not having been able to offer

overdraft facilities as has been possible with the private banking institutions, which are running savings banks in the same office as their trading bank facilities. These studies have been continued, and some administrative arrangements are expected to be made—

Mr. Millhouse: This is not what you had in mind before the election.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member asked me for a reply. I understood that the next time he interjected, you, Mr. Speaker, would name him.

Mr. Heaslip: When did he say that?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Speaker said it yesterday.

Mr. Quirke: That applied only to yesterday.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Certain studies about the necessity of integration, its feasibility, and the method by which it could be undertaken, have been made and arrangements will be made on that score. It is not intended to introduce legislation this session, as the honourable member will have seen from the Governor's Speech, but much will be accomplished to provide additional banking facilities for the people of this State as promised by the Government.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I thank the Premier for his answer to my question, even though in the course of it he invited you, Mr. Speaker, to name me. That was the first time I had known such a thing to happen.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member knows very well that comment of that kind is not permissible in asking a question, and I warn him on this occasion, for the first time.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I ask the Premier whether, in the course of the integration of the two banks and the administrative rearrangement that I gather is to be made (I think that was the purport of his answer), that part of the Government's policy announced before the last election in terms of which all Government and semi-government institutions should bank with the State banking institutions (that is borne out in the policy of the Party that each public instrumentality shall bank with the State banking system) is to be implemented.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: That matter is being examined.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Has the Premier any idea when this examination will be completed? If he has, can he indicate the target date for

completion of the examination? Further, when the examination is completed, will any decision made by the Government be made public?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I cannot give the honourable member a specific date for the completion of the examinations that are being undertaken at the moment but, if the honourable member is in any difficulty about banking facilities and if he will let me know, I will see what I can arrange.

Later:

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I hasten to assure the Premier that I have no banking problems as I bank with one of the private enterprise banks, which gives me a satisfactory service. However, some people in the community who are most anxious about the proposal made by the Government before the last elections are particularly anxious to know whether any action is to be taken by the Government before the next elections. Will the Premier therefore say whether, in fact, the examination is likely to be concluded before the next general elections?

The SPEAKER: I think members are deliberately endeavouring to try the patience of the Chair this afternoon, and they must know what Standing Orders provide. That question is not in order.

DRUG ADDICTION

Mr. HEASLIP: Yesterday, I asked the Premier a question about the dangerous drug L.S.D. being manufactured and readily available in Adelaide.

Mr. Lawn: It is a dangerous drug, isn't it?

Members interjecting:

Mr. HEASLIP: If everyone else has finished—everyone seems to be speaking but me.

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask honourable members to give the Chair an opportunity to hear what is going on. Obviously, something went on during a previous question that I did not catch. It is necessary for the Chair to be able to hear questions in order to know whether they are in order, and it is necessary that the Chair should be able to hear the reply.

Mr. HEASLIP: I asked the Premier whether the Government intended to introduce legislation to prevent this dangerous drug being obtained by the young people of this State, an aspect that is extremely important to South Australians. Has the Premier considered this important question, and can he say whether the Government intends to introduce legislation, not to eradicate the drug but to make it more difficult for young people in this State to obtain this and other dangerous drugs?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In my reply yesterday I told the honourable member that I would refer the matter to my colleague and obtain a report. Obviously, there has not been time for a report from the various departmental officers concerned in this matter, and the honourable member must know that. I do not know why he is wasting the time of the House, because he must know perfectly well that when I have a reply I will tell him.

FRUIT PROCESSING

Mr. McANANEY: Yesterday, when I asked the Minister of Agriculture a question about the increase in charges at the abattoirs I quoted figures from the *Government Gazette* that did not allow for rebates on fats and offals: consequently, I overstated the amount of the increase which, in fact, was not of the proportions that I said it was. I correct any false impression that I may have created.

Has the Minister of Agriculture a further report on the Rosella Manufacturing Company?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: No. I referred this matter to the Premier and, not knowing what further action has been taken, I will inquire about the present position.

I appreciate the action of the honourable member in admitting that he had made a slight error yesterday in not allowing for fats. Having checked on the matter this morning, I was informed by the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board that no increase had occurred, other than an allowance that had been made for minimum charges, as many lambs and sheep are greatly under-weight this year.

CHOWILLA DAM

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: As much anxiety has been expressed throughout the State because of the deferment of work on the Chowilla dam, can the Premier say what the Government now plans to do, in conjunction with other State Governments concerned and the River Murray Commission, concerning this project? Is it intended to ask departmental officers and others to consider alternatives to the project, including the choosing of an alternative site? Further, when can we expect that the Government will receive a report on plans to proceed with the dam? What are the other Governments prepared to do?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The details concerning the proposals of the River Murray Commission itself have been given to the House in a report that I read from our own commissioner. It will take some time for further studies to be completed (time that

would go beyond the possibility of our obtaining a continuance of the tenders that had previously been given to the South Australian Government, the constructing authority). As far as the general policy on deferment of the Chowilla dam is concerned, we are awaiting a reply from the Prime Minister whom I telephoned immediately after the decision of the River Murray Commission had been made known. I asked him for urgent action concerning the matter and followed it up with a letter asking for his immediately convening Ministers from the States involved, together with himself and me, in order to ascertain whether we could not get the undertakings that this House unanimously asked for. As I have received no reply from the Prime Minister on the matter, I assure the honourable member that I shall press for one.

UPPER PORT REACH SCHEME

Mr. CUMBE: Has the Minister of Marine or the Premier, as the Minister of Housing, asked Cabinet to reconsider the decision not to proceed with the Upper Port Reach development scheme? I point out that this project was reported on favourably by the Public Works Committee and that the Government subsequently decided not to proceed with it. Much development and housing work could be carried on in the area if the Government decided to proceed with the scheme.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Without seriously adversely affecting the Housing Trust programme in South Australia, and seriously affecting the general Loan works programme in the State, the Upper Port Reach scheme could not have been carried out as planned and reported on, simply because funds were not available and had never been planned or provided by the previous Government. However, reconsideration of the project is taking place currently in order to ascertain whether we cannot find some means of proceeding with the work. I expect that an announcement will be made within two months.

MURRAY RIVER

Mr. CURREN: On August 23 last I asked the Minister of Works a question about Murray River water, and the Minister's reply indicated that the availability of water would be discussed at a future meeting of the River Murray Commission, and that the likelihood of imposing restrictions would also be considered. Will the Minister now say whether that meeting has taken place and, if it has, what decision has been made concerning restrictions on the use of Murray River water?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Having referred this matter to the Director and Engineer-in-Chief (and the River Murray Commissioner), I have received the following report:

The River Murray Commission is responsible for the administration of the flow of the river and as such provides to South Australia the flow stipulated under the agreement. Little opportunity exists in operating the river to either favour or injure any particular section by regulation of flow. Where saline or other undesirable waters reach the main river channel, the only effective means of disposal is by passing them down the river to the sea. One exception to this is that some dilution can be organized through Lake Victoria and this part of the operation is in the hands of the Engineering and Water Supply Department. However, care is taken to exercise the maximum degree of beneficial control by using this facility.

The River Murray Waters Agreement does refer to dilution water and specifies in clause 51 (4) (b) (iii) that dilution water shall be provided to South Australia in all times of declared restriction. It was under these conditions that dilution water was previously discussed. The Act provides that the following flow shall be provided to South Australia:

	Acre ft.
September	114,000
October	114,000
November	134,000
December	134,000
January	134,000
February	134,000
March	114,000

If the commission is unable to do this, a period of restriction must be declared. The dilution water to South Australia must be provided and the remaining resources divided between the States by the established 5:5:3 formula. Unfortunately, present indications are that restrictions will be applied in September. This could mean that instead of an average flow throughout the month of 1,916 cusecs, the available flow may be about 1,330 cusecs.

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: Some time ago I asked a question of the Minister of Works about the widening of the scope of the River Murray Commission to give the commission control over all saline water in the Murray River beyond Swan Hill, and the Minister said that he would consider the matter. Can he now say whether any progress has been made with the commission in that regard?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I was told during recent discussions with our commissioner that this matter will be seriously considered at the next meeting of the commission. It has been extensively discussed by the commission and we understand that advantages will accrue from the discussions.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: Can the Minister say when the next meeting of the commission will be held, and what matters will be discussed?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Yesterday I said that the discussions at the next meeting would relate to the possibility of restrictions being imposed. I outlined the possibilities when replying to the member for Chaffey. The matter raised by the member for Ridley will also be discussed. I have been told that October 6 has been fixed tentatively as the date for the next meeting.

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the Murray River and lake levels?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I have received the following report from the Director and Engineer-in-Chief:

At the present time the Murray River gates are about 3in. above normal level and there has been some spillage of fresh water to the sea. This is a normal condition following the moderate flows that have been moving down the river and the low evaporation occurring at this time of the year. The quality of the water in the lakes is fairly good and it contains about 500 parts a million total dissolved salts. Spillage under the conditions referred to is largely influenced by wind movement and is encouraged by winds in the northern sector.

Mr. McANANEY: Although I am not endeavouring to try the patience of the Chair, I point out that my question related to why (and not how) this occurs.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I think that the department may have interpreted the question incorrectly and that the honourable member is trying to be funny.

SHEARING

Mr. HALL: Yesterday, the Premier warned the public against doing business with two organizations, which resulted in publicity being given to those organizations. I am sure that, on the information available to him, the Premier was acting wisely, and probably in accordance with the wishes of the House, in saying what he did. However, his reference to the Tally-Hi Shearing School could cause some difficulty, as the tally-hi method of shearing is reputable and instruction in it is given under the auspices of Stockowners Shearing Limited, a reputable organization that has served South Australia for over 50 years. I understand that at present a team from this organization is somewhere in the Mount Pleasant area giving instruction free of charge to people learning shearing. I point out that

the instruction given under the auspices of this company is financed by the Australian Wool Board in order that more shearers may be provided for the Australian wool industry. In view of what I have said, will the Premier state the distinction between the organization to which he referred and the tally-hi method of shearing, so that his remarks of yesterday will not apply to a method of shearing which is taught under the auspices of two reputable organizations and which it is desirable should be learned?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, I certainly will. The organization to which I was referring is a disreputable organization that has made use of this name, under which it is advertising in South Australia. I did not intend to bring any discredit whatever on the people sponsored by Stockowners Shearing Limited or the Wool Board. What is proposed by the gentleman who has advertised in the press in Adelaide (that for some considerable sum paid to him he can train people to shear in three easy lessons) is something entirely different. I am glad of the Leader's question so that I can make this distinction clear.

BAROSSA VALLEY ROAD

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Last week I pointed out to the Minister of Lands that the main and picturesque road leading into South Australia's tourist paradise (that delectable Eden known as the Barossa Valley) via Lyndoch is badly eroded in some places and in a bad state of repair. Has the Minister ascertained from the Minister of Roads whether immediate and urgent repairs can be effected on this road?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: As I happened to travel to the Barossa Valley on Sunday, I can agree with the honourable member's remarks about the beauty of the area. However, he may have to direct another question to convince my colleague that the repair of the road is necessary, because the Minister of Roads reports that urgent major repairs on Sturt Highway Main Road No. 4 between Gawler and the Barossa Valley are not necessary and no such work is planned during the current financial year or in the near future. However, the Highways Department plans to carry out maintenance re-sealing work between Gawler and Tanunda during the summer of this financial year. I hope that that will suffice.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: As the Minister agrees with me about the condition of the road and the need to repair it, will he make

available to his colleague his corroborative evidence relating to the condition of the road with a view to impressing on his colleague the urgent need to repair it?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I agreed with the honourable member's comments on the beauty and attractiveness of the Barossa Valley, but I did not say anything about the condition of the road other than that I travelled on it. However, I shall again consult my colleague on this matter.

EGGS

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have a letter from Mr. S. G. Yoannidis of Mount Gambier, who no doubt has written to me because of my interest in the egg marketing legislation. This gentleman has been referred to in the House previously by the Minister of Agriculture. The relevant part of his letter states:

A detective, Mr. Bagg, of the South Australian Police Force, was last week in Melbourne questioning many people with whom I do business. From reports I received, the inquiries were directed only to my own business associates. This week Detective Bagg has been in Mount Gambier and again making inquiries with farmers who consign eggs through my firm to Melbourne. As our business activities are within the law, I am not concerned with the legal implication of these inquiries. However, it does deter from goodwill I have established by way of business relationships with both local poultry farmers and Melbourne agents to have the police inquire on my business. Today, Detective Bagg visited me and claimed to be carrying out an investigation into my activities as a poultry farmer and interstate egg merchant as a result of a request by Mr. Bywaters (Minister of Agriculture) to the South Australian Commissioner of Police. In reply to my question of whether this inquiry was to cover all persons engaged in interstate trading in eggs in South Australia, Mr. Bagg indicated he knew of no others and his investigations were to be with my activities only. In view of my recent public criticism of Mr. Bywaters's policy of the handling of the egg situation in South Australia, I take exception to being singled out for a police inquiry of this nature, and feel the Minister is dealing with me in a discriminatory manner in instigating such proceedings. Is such action in keeping with my democratic rights to criticize the Minister's policies?

I have heard the Minister say that he forecast that the Commonwealth authorities were going to take legal action; he did not say he would take action. Therefore, can he say whether he made the request to which the letter refers, and will he comment on the inference of persecution that can be drawn from the letter? Also, will he say who pays for

Detective Bagg to go to Melbourne to make inquiries? Does that money come from the funds of egg producers, from Government funds or from some other source?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: As the honourable member has asked a series of questions, I will obtain a considered reply for him.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Did the Minister request the police investigation into this gentleman's activities?

The SPEAKER: That question was specifically asked by the honourable member previously, and I cannot allow it again.

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Mr. QUIRKE: Has the Premier, in the absence of the Minister of Social Welfare, a reply to my question of August 1 about certain action taken in regard to physiotherapists?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As I do not have a reply at the moment, I will ask for it.

GOOLWA FERRY

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Local Government, a reply to my question about the Goolwa ferry, which operates in the playground of South Australia and in one of the State's outstanding tourist resorts?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Minister of Roads reports that the duplication of the Goolwa ferry involves substantial alterations to the railway crossing on the Goolwa side, and proposals in this regard have been forwarded to the Railways Commissioner for his approval. However, Railways Department approval has not yet been given, and it is not possible at this stage to state when finality will be reached.

Mr. McANANEY: I understand the District Council of Port Elliott previously asked the Railways Commissioner to divert the line around the northern side of Goolwa, thereby eliminating two dangerous road crossings and the necessary alterations for the new ferry. In view of that, will the Minister ascertain whether the Railways Commissioner will consider that suggestion to avoid the necessity of carrying out expensive work for a new crossing at the ferry?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes.

MARGINAL LANDS FUND

Mr. NANKIVELL: The report of the Lands Department for 1965-66 contains this statement about the Marginal Lands Act:

The operation has now almost ceased and the question of further activities under the scheme is now under consideration.

As part of the amount held in the fund, which stands at \$292,209 at present, is to be allocated for the purposes of the Primary Producers Emergency Assistance Bill, can the Minister of Lands say what is intended to be done with the balance of the \$142,000 that will remain?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I thought it was stated in the second reading explanation of the Bill that the balance of the money might be used in connection with the control of vermin. A decision has not yet been taken on that matter, but consideration is being given to the use of the money in that way.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: A Bill now before the House provides that \$150,000 from the Marginal Lands Improvements Account, which is at present a trust fund, will be used to provide necessary assistance. If my memory is correct, this money was first made available by the Commonwealth Government with certain provisos concerning its expenditure. Will the Minister of Lands ascertain whether the provisions in the Bill accord with the agreement made as to the use of this money when it was provided by the Commonwealth Government?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The provisos would not apply to this money, because the money received from the Commonwealth Government has been repaid.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: The sum provided by the Commonwealth Government concerning marginal lands was a grant made from the proceeds of the flour tax, and I believe that three conditions had to be observed concerning the expenditure of that money. Has the Minister checked on the terms under which this money was made available, in order to ensure that the present use of the money is not contrary to those terms?

The SPEAKER: I rule that that question is in substance the same as the question asked previously.

CHRYSOPRASE

Mr. McKEE: Can the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs say whether satisfactory progress is being made in the mining of chrysoprase by the Aboriginal people at Musgrave Park?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I am pleased to say that progress is very satisfactory. In fact, recently a comparatively small number of Aboriginal miners subscribed about \$4,000 to purchase a Bedford truck for use in their mining operations. They are certainly making better than ordinary wages at Musgrave Park and we can have every confidence in the

success of this mining venture. I shall be visiting that reserve and most other reserves in the North and North-West of the State next week and, on my return, shall be able to give the honourable member more information on the matter.

GLADSTONE RAILWAY STATION

Mr. HEASLIP: On August 2 I asked the Minister of Social Welfare a question about the lack of illumination at country railway stations, particularly Gladstone, and the Minister said that he would get a reply from the Minister of Transport. Has the Minister representing the Minister of Social Welfare that reply?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have not seen it as yet.

RATING

Mr. RODDA: People in my district and other people throughout the State have expressed concern about the present water position. Every water hole from back of Bourke to the black stump is dry. In today's *News* the Minister of Works is reported to have said that an alternative system of rating could be adopted in the State. If he has this matter in mind, will he heed the position of people who store their own water in rainwater tanks?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The introduction of a new system of rating or the variation of the present system has been considered by the department. Recently two officers of the department, Mr. Wright and Mr. Maxwell, went to the United States and studied the various rating systems in operation there. Our present system is the one used principally throughout Australia and I consider it to be the fairest method. As I explained, and as the article in this morning's paper states, many large establishments in the square mile of Adelaide use little water but, because they receive sufficient for protection against fires, they receive substantial rebates on their insurance policies. For this reason, they pay huge sums in water rates, about which they do not complain. However, if the system changed and they paid for only the water they used, these establishments would pay a small amount indeed and the householder and rural consumers might have to pay more for less water. I therefore feel that a better system would need to be found before the present system was changed.

PUBLIC SERVICE ACT

Mr. MILLHOUSE: In the May issue of *Public Service*, the journal of the Public Service Association, the following extract from the 82nd Annual Report of the association appears:

Owing to the Government's heavy legislation programme, one of the important matters not accomplished during the year was the redrafting of the Public Service Act. The association is confident that this will be done in the coming year.

In view of the confidence expressed by the association that this legislation will be redrafted this session, can the Premier say whether the Government intends to introduce a Public Service Bill or to introduce extensive amendments to the present Act?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member will, no doubt, be disappointed to know that a Public Service Bill will be put before the House shortly.

HOUSING TRUST STANDARDS

Mr. HALL: In reply to my question on the standards of construction to be used by the Housing Trust in respect of single-unit rental premises in the Christies Beach area, the Premier, as Minister of Housing, said yesterday that the variation in specifications from which I had quoted in my original question applied only to rental-purchase houses. I understand that, in the past when tenants applied to purchase them, the trust sold single-unit homes that had previously been rental homes. As the houses referred to are single-unit houses, future trust policy may well be to sell such houses. I therefore point out to the Premier that one inherent difficulty in their standard of construction which cannot be remedied later is the non-insulation of the interior dividing walls. Although I believe that no great expense is involved initially, the deficiency cannot be remedied after a house has been built. I have been told by experts that, if the interior walls are not insulated, the lack of interior insulation could inhibit the sale of the houses in the future if it were decided to sell them, because they would not be regarded as favourably by the public as houses having masonry dividing walls or insulated dividing walls. Will the Premier consult with officers of the trust to see whether the interior walls of the rental homes could be insulated?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will obtain a report from the General Manager of the trust.

FRUIT CASES

The Hon. Sir THOMAS PLAYFORD: A few days ago, in answer to a question regarding the policy of the Woods and Forests Department of disposing of forest products, particularly fruit cases, the Minister of Forests said that the department traded only with co-operatives and would not trade with individual purchasers. Further, he promised to obtain information on this matter. As I understand that the department is experiencing difficulty in disposing of cases and has had to retrench employees, will the Minister ascertain whether the trading restrictions arise from an agreement with the merchants or other millers? Alternatively can he indicate any other reason why such products are sold only to co-operatives?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: No change in policy has occurred since the honourable member was the Minister controlling this department. It has always been departmental policy to deal only with the co-operatives, as private boxmakers supply individual growers. Regarding the retrenchment of employees at Mount Gambier, when it became necessary recently to reduce production in the case-making section of the Mount Gambier sawmill, no male employees were put off, but 14 females (of whom two were married) were given notice. Of this total, six were placed in other employment immediately, and five registered for unemployment benefits.

CROP ACREAGE

Mr. RODDA: As this is the last day of winter and farmers have experienced difficulty in seeding because of the current dry season, will the Minister of Agriculture ascertain the acreage that has been sown to cereals, particularly wheat, for this season?

The Hon. G. A. BYWATERS: I will obtain that information.

WINDY POINT

Mr. MILLHOUSE: On August 2, a little over four weeks ago, I asked the Minister of Tourism whether he had information about the further development of Windy Point. Subsequently, the Minister told me that I should repeat the question in about three weeks. Last week when I did that, he told me that only a fortnight had elapsed and that he had no information. As on both our calculations three weeks must now have passed, I ask him whether he has a reply to my question.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I ask the honourable member to be patient a little longer.

ANGASTON CROSSING

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Has the Minister of Lands a reply from the Minister of Transport to my question of August 10 about the installation of flashing warning lights at the hazardous crossing known as Plush's Corner at Light Pass?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: A report to the Minister of Transport from the Railways Commissioner states:

I have to report that the Plush's Corner level crossing has been the subject of very careful examination by my officers, both in response to correspondence received from the District Council of Angaston and in consequence of the departmental policy of reviewing conditions at level crossings periodically. It is concluded that the crossing is not unique, and that, provided drivers comply with the provisions of the Road Traffic Act, no unusual hazard exists. Examination of departmental accident records for the past 14 years discloses no report of any collision involving a train. Standard level crossing signs are installed, and a "stop" sign was erected some time ago to control traffic on the Truro-Angaston road.

The installation of flashing lights at level crossings is undertaken having regard to priorities determined by a committee of officers representing the Railways and Highways Departments. The Plush's Corner crossing is not included in the current schedule of priorities. I may add that experience has demonstrated that the provision of flashing lights provides no assurance against collision. Currently, more than 30 per cent of accidents at level crossings take place at crossings where such equipment has been installed.

DESALINATION

The Hon. T. C. STOTT: Conservation of water is one of the most important problems facing this State, particularly as the population will increase. I understand that it has been suggested that by the end of the century Australia may have a population of between 30,000,000 and 40,000,000 people. Organizations responsible for water conservation believe that this population cannot be sustained unless something is done about water conservation. The previous Director and Engineer-in-Chief (Mr. J. R. Dridan) referred to the future possibility of extracting salt from seawater and using the water for industrial purposes. As preliminary surveys have to be made, has the Minister of Works information about experiments and examinations that have been conducted on this suggested project?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: This matter was discussed at the Water Resources Council meeting early this year. Much experimental work has been done in various parts of Australia, and the Engineering and Water Supply Department in its work is receiving much assistance from the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories, which are experimenting on the problem of desalting seawater. Also, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization is working on the problem. At present, experiments have not reached the stage of showing that this is an economical process, but I hope that continued experiments will show that the cost of desalting water will be eventually reduced so that water will be available for irrigation and industrial purposes in South Australia and Australia.

RAIL FREIGHTS

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister representing the Minister of Transport a reply to my recent question about a reduction in rail freights on the transport of livestock, in which I instanced what had recently taken place in this regard in Victoria?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: It has been decided to offer a rebate of 25 per cent on the rate for consignments of two vans or more of sheep and lambs—

- (a) forwarded to Pooraka for slaughter or sale from any station on the South Australian Railways;
- (b) purchased at country markets and off shears sales and consigned to any station on the South Australian Railways.

This rebate will be for an initial trial period of 10 months, from September 1, 1967, to June 30, 1968.

ELECTRICAL ARTICLES AND
MATERIALS ACT AMENDMENT BILL
Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

REAL PROPERTY ACT AMENDMENT
(STRATA TITLES) BILL
Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

TRAVELLING STOCK RESERVE:
HUNDRED OF LACEPEDE
The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Lands): I move:

That the travelling stock reserve adjacent to sections 423, 523, 522 and 520, hundred of Lacepede, as shown on the plan laid before

Parliament on March 14, 1967, be resumed in terms of section 136 of the Pastoral Act, 1936-1966, for the purpose of being dealt with as Crown lands.

This reserve, comprising about 180 acres, was dedicated in 1901 as a reserve for the travelling of stock. With modern methods of transport, the need for this reserve has largely disappeared. In addition, occupation of the area would help control noxious weeds and vermin. The district council and the Stock-owners' Association of South Australia have both recommended the resumption of the reserve, and the Pastoral Board concurs. In view of these circumstances, I ask honourable members to support the motion.

Mr. McANANEY secured the adjournment of the debate.

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended the House of Assembly to make appropriation of the several sums for all the purposes set forth in the Estimates of Expenditure by the Government for expenditure during the year ending June 30, 1968.

Referred to Committee of Supply.

THE BUDGET

In Committee of Supply.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): The revenue and expenditure proposals of the Government for the year ending June 30, 1968, are presented following a year of some budgetary difficulties, but in the course of which the Government managed to secure a balance in Consolidated Revenue Account, and to report a small surplus currently of \$106,000. The economy generally, despite a late and relatively poor opening of the rural season, is already showing quite clear evidence of a significant upswing in activity. It is against this background that the 1967-68 financial proposals have been prepared, recognizing the necessity to encourage the upswing and give strength in expansion of industry, commerce and employment, and to avoid any Governmental action which might inhibit increased activity in the economy.

It is inevitable that the State's finances will be materially affected by late opening of the rural season and the sparse winter rains. Expenditures in supply of both metropolitan and country water will be increased heavily, and there will be unavoidable reductions in the earnings of the public utilities and some adverse effect on other revenues. Fortunately,

the winter rains, though sparse and contributing little to stored water supplies, have been reasonably widespread in area and favourably spaced in time, so that with normal spring rains a large proportion of the grain land and the developed pasture areas can look forward to production not seriously below average. The Murray Mallee lands, unfortunately, are again this year the most seriously affected by drought conditions.

Despite the submissions from all State Premiers, supported by irrefutable data and information, that a considerable increase in financial transfers from the Commonwealth was needed to permit reasonable expansion of essential services without further unjustified imposts on the community, the Commonwealth has not been disposed to agree at present to a re-allocation of governmental financial resources more favourable to the States. In this situation, as the State must keep up its services in line with an expanding economy, the Government is faced with the alternatives of increasing charges and taxes or running a short-term deficit in Consolidated Revenue Account. It is clear that, in the present situation, any restriction of services or any further imposts, particularly imposts of the kind lately adopted in a number of other States, would tend to inhibit and strangle those improvements in economic activity which have lately been encouraged and come into evidence. Accordingly, this is a Budget specifically designed upon the basis of a moderate deficit, and calculated to give a local stimulus. It expects a current deficit of \$3,967,000. It makes provision for the necessary increases in the social services and for the proper maintenance and extension of the public utilities and other State activities. There will be no increases in governmental taxes, rates, and charges. Two relatively minor fee variations are incorporated in or have some effect on the Budget proposals. Approval is contemplated for the universities and the Institute of Technology to make some increase in fees operative in 1968 as a part contribution towards the cost of increased staff salaries. Even so, the greater proportion of the increased salaries cost will be met by State and Commonwealth grants. Moreover, in many cases the increased fees will be covered by Commonwealth and State scholarship provisions, and in cases of hardship the special vote for facilitating remission or deferment of fees will continue to operate. It is pointed out that, although on the face of it the Commonwealth will be contributing 35 per cent of

the cost of the increased academic salaries that it has sponsored, it will, in the final result, make a net financial gain out of the transaction. This will arise because the increased taxation paid by the academic staff of the universities upon their increased salaries will actually exceed the 35 per cent that the Commonwealth intends to contribute. Some part of the contribution which will be made by the State and of the contribution which will be made in fees will go to providing a net gain to the Commonwealth Treasury out of the arrangement.

The other fee adjustment contemplated is authorization of an increase from \$2 a year to \$4 a year for gun licences. This is designed not to help the Budget generally. It is likely to provide an additional \$35,000 this year which will be used substantially to expand the expenditures of the Fisheries and Fauna Conservation Department in the provision of game reserves, research, and facilities. In budgeting for a deficit on Revenue Account a State is very narrowly circumscribed. It must, of course, still find the funds necessary to meet its obligations, and it has only two means of securing those funds. It may borrow the necessary amounts, but as the amounts it may borrow are limited constitutionally by the Australian Loan Council and by practical circumstances, any of its borrowing used to cover a revenue deficit necessarily means so much less available for capital works. The Government has already presented its Loan works and borrowing proposals, and these have been approved by Parliament. It has proposed to recover the earlier over-spending of some \$1,206,000 and to secure by June next a close balance in Loan Account without any diversion of borrowed money to finance a revenue deficit. Indeed, the Government believes it would not be proper and in the interests of employment and progress in the State to make any such diversion.

Accordingly the only recourse open to the State is to finance its proposed deficit by some further utilization of balances held in its Trust and Deposit Accounts. These accounts, though varying from time to time, in the aggregate fluctuate around a figure of \$27,000,000 to \$30,000,000. At June 30, 1966, the Treasury had absorbed for temporarily financing deficits \$8,077,000 out of the total of \$27,322,000 of its balances held for Trust and Deposit Accounts. On June 30, 1967, as a result of having secured a current balance on Revenue Account and a reduction of outstanding deficit

on Loan Account, the Treasury had used for temporarily financing deficits \$6,711,000 out of a total of \$28,171,000 of Trust and Deposit Account balances. This was a reduction of \$1,366,000 in amounts so used. If the Budget deficit of \$3,967,000 now forecast for the forthcoming year on Revenue Account is realized and Loan Account is brought into balance, then it may be expected that on June 30, 1968, about \$9,500,000 from Trust and Deposit Accounts aggregating some \$28,000,000 will have been absorbed for temporary deficit financing. This would be a proportion of about one-third. In the present situation of adverse seasonal conditions and the obvious necessity to provide a stimulus to economic activity, the Government considers such a proportion fully justified.

There is nothing novel in the moderate and calculated usage of trust and comparable funds in the hands of the Treasurer to finance a deficit temporarily. The States of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, at the end of June last, had all financed out of trust fund and comparable balances larger amounts of deficits than had this State. As a matter of standard practice the other two Australian States, which rely upon special financial assistance recommended by the Commonwealth Grants Commission, depend from time to time upon temporary finance from trust funds whilst awaiting their final grant. The estimates of receipts have been compiled with some modest anticipation of improved revenues from an improving economy. A final result better than a deficit of \$3,967,000 may be expected if the improvement in the economy can be further effectively stimulated. The deficit forecast is actually rather less than the true deficit incurred in 1964-65, after allowing for the absorption of the surplus derived from the uranium project, and it is considerably less than that planned by the Playford Government for 1964-65, which was its last year in office.

Mr. McAnaney: Are you serious about that?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Of course I am. Although the honourable member does not look at figures normally, I invite him to do so on this occasion. The member for Gumeracha could probably inform the honourable member that what I say is true. This financial year the Hospitals Fund, which derives its revenues from the profits of the State Lotteries and the commissions from pools conducted by the Totalizator Agency Board, will for the first time play a major role in

providing additional finance for the maintenance and operation of hospitals. Last year the fund received \$50,000 from the profits of the State Lotteries and \$88,000 from T.A.B. commissions, and disbursed \$100,000 in grants for hospital maintenance.

During the first two months of this financial year the Hospitals Fund has received from lotteries and T.A.B. sources about \$450,000. For the next 10 months it is expected that receipts will run at an average rate of \$275,000 a month. Of the \$3,200,000 expected for the full 12 months, about \$2,500,000 is expected from lotteries and about \$700,000 from T.A.B. commissions and fractions. The Hospitals Fund will be called upon during the latter part of this financial year to commence making payments to racing and trotting clubs to reimburse them for half the amount which they will have lost from their share of the winning bets tax consequent upon the removal of that tax from the stake. These reimbursements may be about \$50,000 during the current financial year, so that the Hospitals Fund is likely to have a net \$3,150,000 or thereabouts for distribution to hospitals in 1967-68. There is authority in the 1966 Appropriation Act for a distribution this financial year of \$250,000 pending a new appropriation, and payments to this extent have already been approved.

There has been an understanding that the moneys available out of the Hospitals Fund shall not be used to reduce the provision from Consolidated Revenue either for public hospitals or for grants to subsidized hospitals. Accordingly, the Estimates of Expenditure now presented for the consideration of Parliament show in detail in a special statement (Appendix II) the provisions toward both Government and subsidized hospitals out of Consolidated Revenue and out of the Hospitals Fund last year, and as intended for this year. This indicates that, whilst the total payments out of revenue last year in respect of Government hospitals were \$24,680,000, the proposals this year are for a combined provision of \$26,768,000, of which \$2,085,000 will be met from the Hospitals Fund and \$24,683,000 from Consolidated Revenue. For subsidized hospitals, maintenance grants met from revenue last year were \$3,559,000 and from the Hospitals Fund \$100,000. This year it is intended that revenue shall meet \$3,563,000, or nominally more than last year, whilst the Hospitals Fund will meet \$1,065,000. The hospitals, which will receive

these additional subsidies toward maintenance out of the Hospitals Fund, number more than 50 and range over the length and breadth of the State. These contributions from the Hospitals Fund as increased provisions toward the maintenance and operation of Government and assisted hospitals will absorb the whole of the moneys likely to be available from the fund. Accordingly, the whole of the costs of major buildings, whether for Government or other hospitals, will continue to be met from Loan Account, and the whole of the provisions for minor building alterations and for equipment for subsidized hospitals will continue to be met by vote out of Consolidated Revenue.

So that adequate control of appropriation may be maintained by both Parliament and the Executive Government, it is intended that the whole of the expenditures for purposes of hospitals under the Ministerial control of the Chief Secretary will be met from normal vote, and the proportion to be met from the Hospitals Fund will be taken into hospitals revenue as a recovery. This latter procedure is in line with practices in most other States and in line with standard practice when the State receives from the Commonwealth contributions for the purpose of covering specific expenditures. Moreover, this procedure will ensure that the published accounts of the Government hospitals show their total costs, and do not omit that proportion met from the Hospitals Fund provisions. For hospitals in receipt of maintenance grants it is practicable to make grants directly from the Hospitals Fund as well as from Revenue Account without any loss of appropriation control. Accordingly, intended grants from the fund are shown as a direct deduction from the estimates under "Chief Secretary and Minister of Health—Miscellaneous".

THE YEAR 1966-67

The Budget presented 12 months ago expected receipts of \$255,702,000 and payments of \$258,018,000 and thus a deficit currently of \$2,316,000. It was planned that a current surplus of this order should be achieved on the operations of Loan Account to offset the revenue deficit and that overall there should be no deterioration in the cash situation in 1966-67. Had the revenue operations been allowed to follow the course originally intended, the final receipts would have been \$256,199,000, or \$497,000 in excess of estimate, and the final payments \$258,717,000, or

\$699,000 in excess of estimates. The net effect would have been to increase the planned deficit of \$2,316,000 by only \$202,000 to \$2,518,000.

However, because of the greater availability of funds in Loan Account late in 1966-67, due primarily to the maturing of certain major obligations rather later than expected, the Government decided to move fully into line with the long-standing practice in other Australian States and to meet all building grants for non-government hospitals from Loan Account, instead of about half of those grants as had been intended in August, 1966. As a result, Loan Account was called on to meet additional grants to the extent of \$2,624,000, which had been provided initially in the Estimates of Expenditure for 1966-67. In considering how to show the results of this policy decision in published accounts, the Government had the alternatives of offsetting the payments which had been made under "Chief Secretary and Minister of Health—Miscellaneous", or of allowing those payments to remain in the record and of taking the Loan contribution into Revenue Account as a receipt. The latter course has been followed and members will find the contribution from Loan Account shown on page 14 of the Estimates of Revenue. As a result, the total of receipts is shown in the published documents as \$258,823,000. The total payments, including all building grants for non-governmental hospitals made from Revenue Account during the course of the year, remains at \$258,717,000 and the current result is, accordingly, a surplus of \$106,000.

The excess of \$497,000 above estimate in other items of receipts was made up as follows:

	\$	
Taxation	336,000	below estimate
Public works and services—		
Business undertakings	1,204,000	below estimate
Other charges, recoveries, and fees	512,000	above estimate
Territorial	145,000	above estimate
Commonwealth	1,380,000	above estimate
	497,000	above estimate

The largest shortfall in taxation receipts was in stamp duties, \$708,000 less than taken into account in the Budget. The volume of business of practically all kinds failed to achieve estimate, a reflection of the general lack of life in the economy last year. An exception was stamp duty receipts in respect of insurance business. An additional \$109,000 for this item helped to offset falls elsewhere. On the other

hand, receipts from succession duties were surprisingly high—\$573,000 above estimate. It is always difficult to make satisfactory estimates of this item, as there is no consistent pattern or trend. Last year saw a sharp increase in the number of larger estates assessed and thus an unexpected lift in revenues.

Land tax receipts fell \$154,000 below estimate due partly to an increase in outstanding accounts following late completion of billing and partly to some reductions of values following objections to assessments. For business undertakings the main shortfall was in cash receipts of the Railways Department. The original estimate was that earnings for the year would be \$31,250,000 and that with little or no variation in the level of outstanding accounts, cash receipts would be about the same. The final figures for earnings of the department revealed a fall below estimate of \$833,000, the main shortages being for grain carriage \$420,000, for general merchandise \$520,000 and for livestock \$260,000. However, temporarily outstanding accounts at June 30, 1967, rose by \$333,000 above the corresponding figure of 12 months earlier and thus the fall of \$1,166,000 in cash receipts was greater than the shortage in the volume of business.

Receipts from the operation of the services of the Marine and Harbors Department were \$224,000 below estimate as the volume of business was less than expected. Wharfage, tonnage rates and bulk handling charges were all affected. On the other hand, receipts from water and sewer rates exceeded the estimate by \$167,000, as payments for excess water usage were somewhat greater than expected. For miscellaneous departmental charges, recoveries and fees, there were numerous variations above and below estimate, most of them small. The largest movement was in receipts from fines and fees of the law courts—\$330,000 above the original estimate. Territorial receipts exceeded the original estimate by \$145,000, about half being additional mining royalties, and half additional Crown land rents.

The increase above estimate of \$1,380,000 in Commonwealth general purpose grants may best be explained in two parts. At the conference of State and Commonwealth Ministers held in Canberra in February last the Commonwealth agreed to a variation in the formula for calculating the annual taxation reimbursement grants. The grants are varied each year according to three factors; the movement of population in each State, the movement in average

wages throughout Australia, and a betterment factor. Prior to February last the movement in average wages had been calculated by reference to changes in wage levels in the previous financial year. In February the Commonwealth agreed that the calculation each year should be based upon the 12 months ending on March 31 of the current financial year as compared with the immediately preceding 12 months. The bringing up to date of the wage measurement factor had been favourable to the States in 1966-67. After taking account of the amended formula and of the latest figures of population available, the grant finally calculated for 1966-67 for South Australia was \$809,000 above the earlier estimate. In February last the Commonwealth also agreed to make available a special grant of \$5,000,000, distributed among the States in the same proportions as the main grant. South Australia's share of the special grant was \$571,000. The increase in Commonwealth grants above estimate was thus \$1,380,000.

The excess of \$699,000 above estimate for payments in total was the net result of many variations, some of them above and some below the original appropriations approved by Parliament. The main causes of the excess were wage and salary awards that became effective during the course of the year, the two principal awards being an increase in margins with general application to all departments and new scales for members of the Police Force. The Government was able to meet the cost of these awards and some of smaller determinations by using the special appropriation given by section 3 of the Appropriation Act. However, as other excesses cannot normally be offset against underspendings to secure appropriation authority, it was necessary late in the year for Parliament to consider Supplementary Estimates totalling \$1,360,000. In documents now available to members the original Estimates and the Supplementary Estimates are combined to show the appropriation available, and the variation in actual results from the Parliamentary appropriation is calculated by reference to the combined figure. In commenting now on variations in payments my references will be to variations from the original estimate.

The largest excess above estimate last year was \$692,000 for the Railways Department. This was due partly to the effect of awards, and partly to unforeseen contingency items, including heavy costs incurred in track repair following floods on Eyre Peninsula and heavier costs in repair and maintenance of rolling

stock. The special contingency requirements were covered by Supplementary Estimates. The excess of \$692,000 for payments, together with the shortfall of \$1,166,000 in receipts from freights and fares, shows that the adverse impact of the railway undertaking on the 1966-67 Revenue Budget was \$1,858,000 heavier than expected.

On the other hand, within the group of business undertakings there were savings as against expenditure estimates for the Engineering and Water Supply and Marine and Harbors Departments. For the Engineering Department, the favourable spring and cool summer enabled the costs of pumping water from the Murray River to be held \$724,000 below the original appropriation. Despite the additional cost of awards the department was able to control other expenditures so well that they were only fractionally above estimate. As a result the departmental saving on all items was \$720,000.

The social services departments were all more costly than expected originally. For Police, Hospitals, and Education Departments, there were heavy costs of awards and, in addition, in the latter two departments increased requirements for general operation were such that special provision had to be sought in Supplementary Estimates. The increases in costs beyond those expected for the three departments were \$278,000 for police, \$654,000 for hospitals, and \$272,000 for education. For the Hospitals Department the unforeseen additional costs were largely in respect of laundry services, drugs, and appliances for the Royal Adelaide and the Queen Elizabeth Hospitals. Education Department special requirements were in school bus contract rates, conveyance allowances for student teachers and lump sum payments on death or resignation of teachers. In January last a new occurrence of fruit fly was found at Devon Park, the first major outbreak since the summer of 1963-64. The unforeseen costs incurred in protective measures, such as stripping and spraying trees and disposal of fruit, were responsible for most of the excess of \$131,000 in the payments by the Agriculture Department.

ESTIMATES FOR 1967-68

RECEIPTS

I estimate that in 1967-68 receipts on Revenue Account will amount to \$274,022,000, which would be \$15,199,000 more than actual

receipts in 1966-67. The Estimates of Revenue give full details of the expected receipts, which may be summarized as follows:

	\$
Taxation	44,277,000
Public works and services— charges, recoveries and fees	123,595,000
Territorial receipts	2,042,000
Commonwealth grants	104,108,000
	\$274,022,000

For State taxation the total of \$44,277,000 expects receipts \$2,008,000 in excess of actual receipts last year. Land tax receipts are expected to reach \$7,725,000 or \$79,000 above the 1966-67 receipts. The small increase will arise from a combination of factors including collection of arrears from last year and a better collection this year of tax due currently, but offset somewhat by the effect of decreases in assessment following successful objections. Motor vehicle taxation receipts in 1966-67 were about \$550,000 above receipts in the previous year. It seems reasonable to expect a continuation of this rate of growth and therefore, the estimate for 1967-68 is set down at \$13,000,000, which would be \$562,000 above last year's receipts. Stamp duty receipts of all kinds are estimated at \$12,010,000, an improvement of \$802,000 on the actual result of 1966-67. The major part of the increase in receipts is expected to follow from a full year's operation of higher rates, which came into force for conveyances and certain credit transactions during the course of 1966-67. Returns of share transactions since the beginning of July indicate that revenues in this field will probably be greater than earlier expected. It is difficult to say to what extent this may be from movements in values and to what extent it may be at the expense of New South Wales and Victoria as a result of the provisions of the Marketable Securities Act.

Succession duty receipts are notoriously difficult to estimate. Some reasonable estimate may be made of the probable number of deaths in any year and of likely trends in the economy, and thus of general movements in asset values. However, it has been found in practice that the size of individual estates is a much more important factor, that there is no pattern in this and that succession duties receipts often move in ways which bear no continuing relationship to movements in other revenues. Last year's receipts were almost \$1,200,000 above receipts in the previous year and \$573,000 above the estimate made 12

months ago, despite the fact that stamp duties last year were well below estimate. It would be quite unrealistic to expect a repetition of last year's upward movement, and after looking back over recent years and having regard to all factors I have set down an estimate of \$7,450,000, an increase of \$127,000 or less than 2 per cent.

Increased rates of liquor taxation were effective for the 1967 licensing year. Because this meant only half a year's receipts in 1966-67 at the higher rate there will be a further increase due to a full year's application of the new rates this financial year. Additional revenues of about \$375,000 will arise from this factor. Revenues will also be higher because of an increase in the value of liquor turnover. Taking both factors into account I expect that total receipts from publicans' licences will reach \$2,100,000, an increase of \$477,000. In assessing likely receipts by the Betting Control Board from commission on bets and winning bets tax regard must be had to two factors, the major one being the effect of off-course totalizator facilities, and a minor one being the variation of the winning bets tax provision. It seems that the availability of off-course facilities is causing some decline in betting on-course, and this decline may be expected to grow as off-course facilities are extended. For winning bets tax, the tax is to be removed from the stake on a day to be determined during the latter part of the current financial year. At the same time racing clubs will cease to share in the tax. It has been calculated that in a full year the adverse impact on Revenue Account would be about \$50,000, so that the effect this financial year is likely to be about \$12,000 to \$15,000. For the purposes of these estimates it is expected that the two factors will cause the receipts of the board to fall by about 5 per cent to \$1,250,000.

For the Fisheries and Fauna Conservation Department receipts from licences are expected to increase by \$37,000, of which \$35,000 will arise from increased gun licence fees to come into force at the beginning of 1968. The increased revenue will be applied primarily to the development of the facilities and work of the department, and I shall comment further on that a little later in this review. The estimate of receipts from public works and services (\$123,595,000) is for an excess of \$4,915,000 above last year's actual receipts. It is expected that the increase will come from:

	\$	\$
The operation of public undertakings—		
Transfer items which do not affect the Budget result	2,000,000	
Normal receipts from services	404,000	
		2,404,000
Recoveries of interest and sinking fund		1,049,000
Other departmental fees and recoveries		1,462,000
		<u>\$4,915,000</u>

It is expected that revenues from the operation of the State's marine and harbour services will be about \$6,560,000 this year, a decline of \$116,000 or nearly 2 per cent from the actual receipts of last year. This estimate takes account of poorer seasonal conditions and a possible reduction in throughput of grain bulk-handling facilities. Overall it is expected that the volume of port traffic will be comparable with that of 1965-66.

The estimate of \$30,440,000 for cash receipts from fares and freights of the railways services is \$356,000 above the actual receipts of last year. An increase of about \$300,000 will flow from the operation for a full year of increased book rates which came into force last year, and about \$330,000 will be due to the fact that no further increase in outstanding accounts is expected in 1967-68, whereas 1966-67 cash receipts were reduced because of a temporary increase in outstanding accounts at the year's end. There will, undoubtedly, be several variations as between the two years 1966-67 and 1967-68 in the volume of carriage of various commodities and in special contract rates, and the net effect of these variations could be to reduce revenues by almost \$300,000. Overall then, cash receipts are expected to increase by \$356,000. I expect that cash receipts from the State's water and sewer services will be about \$22,400,000, an increase of only \$83,000 above actual receipts in 1966-67. The normal expansion of water and sewer services would be expected to bring increased revenues to the extent of some \$700,000, but two factors will combine to offset the major part of this increase. The revenues in 1966-67 were relatively high because of heavy excess water usage in the previous year, but because the mild summer excess usage in 1966-67 was below normal, this will, of course, be

reflected in reduced revenues this year. Further, quarterly billing has commenced this year and it will be unavoidable that some bills rendered for the fourth quarter of 1967-68 will not be paid until early next financial year.

For the Woods and Forests Department the annual contribution to Revenue Account is to be maintained at \$1,440,000. The problem arising from slow timber sales at the moment is one of reduced cash availability rather than less profitable operation. The temporary difficulty of selling stocks now on hand will reduce the ability of the forestry undertaking to make cash payments to Loan Account and Revenue Account in total. The calculated surplus on forest exploitation continues to justify the maintenance of a contribution to Revenue Account of \$1,440,000, but the reduced cash availability will mean restricted repayments to Loan Account as I have explained on an earlier occasion.

I estimate that recoveries to the Budget on account of interest and sinking fund will increase by \$1,049,000 to reach a total of \$23,918,000. Of this increase, \$409,000 will be received from the Electricity Trust and \$511,000 from the Housing Trust. Debt services on all borrowings to finance the Government's Loan programme for works and housing are charged to Revenue Account in the first instance. The Electricity Trust, the Housing Trust, other authorities which operate outside the Budget, and certain special departmental working accounts then repay in full to Revenue Account the debt services applicable to the borrowed funds allocated to them which remain outstanding from time to time. Interest earnings on bank fixed deposits and current accounts are expected to be about \$1,250,000, or \$132,000 greater in 1967-68 than in 1966-67. This will be earned on higher cash holdings which arise from the fact that the overall situation on Revenue and Loan Accounts combined has been improved over the past year, and from the fact that funds in special deposit and working accounts are somewhat greater.

For other departmental fees and recoveries I estimate total receipts of \$27,277,000, an increase of \$1,462,000 above last year's receipts. This increase is expected to be the net result of several factors, which may be summarized as follows:

	\$	
Contribution from the Hospitals Fund toward increased costs of running and maintaining Government hospitals as I have explained	2,085,000	
Net increase in various departmental charges for services, fees, and recoveries	2,761,000	
	<hr/>	4,846,000
Less—	\$	
Reduced recovery from the Highways Fund	760,000	
Non-recurrence of special transfer of non-government hospital building grants to Loan Account in 1966-67	2,624,000	
	<hr/>	3,384,000
		<hr/> \$1,462,000

The reduced recovery from the Highways Fund of earlier contributions made from Revenue Account is the difference between the actual recovery of \$1,000,000 made last year and \$240,000 to be recovered this year. This year's recovery of \$240,000 will complete the recoveries of \$2,480,000 to Loan and Revenue Accounts as authorized by section 31a of the Highways Act.

Within the group of various departmental charges for services and recoveries the principal increases expected are in Commonwealth grants towards universities and institutes of advanced education, patients' fees for Government hospital services, and fines and fees of the law courts. Territorial receipts are expected to decline by \$78,000 from the 1966-67 actual receipts to \$2,042,000 this year. Receipts from mining royalties last year were \$82,000 above estimate, and on present information it seems that 1967-68 production and payment of royalties are likely to move back towards the original estimate of last year.

The taxation reimbursement grant from the Commonwealth is estimated at \$102,700,000, an increase of \$8,354,000. At the conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers held in Canberra late in June all States brought very strong pressure to bear on the Commonwealth to review the general purpose grants arrangements to make more realistic provision towards meeting inescapable and rapidly growing State needs. The Commonwealth Government made only a minor concession toward the States' genuine and considerable needs for financing expanding services. That concession was to write the special \$5,000,000 additional

grant in 1966-67 into the base figure for the purpose of calculating the grants in 1967-68 and subsequent years. The calculations made by the Commonwealth of the grants likely to be paid to each State in 1967-68, including the \$102,700,000 for South Australia set down in these Estimates, have been based on estimates made by the Commonwealth Statistician of probable State populations at December 31, 1967, and of the probable changes in the level of average wages throughout Australia in the 12 months to March 31, 1968. It is practicable to make fairly accurate estimates of population movements in the period under review, but extremely difficult to make a reliable assessment of future wage movements, which depend not only on major awards but also on such factors as the amount of overtime being worked. The estimate of the extent of increase above the 1966-67 grant must be regarded as only a broad assessment made on the basis of scanty information.

PAYMENTS

Before dealing with provisions for departments and services I comment briefly on some small changes in the form and order of the Estimates of Expenditure. Appendices have been added to give members additional information about several major items of interest, which appear only in abbreviated form in the lines of appropriation in the Estimates or which appear in parts in several different places. For some years a schedule showing details of estimated superannuation pension payments apportioned to departments has followed immediately after the "Special Acts" section in which the total proposed provision is listed. This schedule has now been transferred to become Appendix I, which follows immediately after the departmental appropriations. Appendix II gives details of the recent and intended operations of the Hospitals Fund to which I referred earlier, and Appendix III sets out the main financial aspects of the operations of the Group Laundry and Central Linen Service.

In June last, in giving members information about the Government's proposals to grant an extra week's leave to Government employees other than teachers and police officers, for whom special leave entitlements already applied, I estimated the maximum cost of the proposals at about \$1,750,000 in a full year. This figure was calculated on the assumption that a sufficiently enlarged work force would be required to provide the same aggregate of days actually on duty as were being secured annually from

the existing total Government work force. I expressed my confidence that in practice the costs would prove to be significantly less. No separate or specific calculation department by department has been made of additional costs for leave during the second half of this year, but each department has compiled its estimates having in mind the work loads expected for all purposes. The staffing allocations have been laid down by the Ministers responsible after examination of departmental submissions and in the light of policy and funds available. All departments will be required to make every reasonable effort to operate within the provisions now proposed. I repeat my belief that in practice the cost of the additional leave will be much smaller than the formal work load calculations may have indicated.

In the Estimates of Expenditure provision is included for:

	\$
“Special Acts”—being payments for which appropriation is contained in special legislation	71,060,000
Proposed payments for departments and services for which the financial authority will derive from the Appropriation Bill	206,929,000
	\$277,989,000

Under “Special Acts” the intended payments totalling \$71,060,000 are expected to exceed last year’s actual payments by \$4,784,000. The largest increase will once again be in interest and sinking fund payments in respect of Loan funds borrowed to finance capital projects. Interest alone is expected to amount to \$49,050,000, an increase of \$3,593,000 above payments last year. Sinking fund payments to be made as required by the Financial Agreement, and intended in general to repay State debt over a period of 53 years, are expected to be \$9,450,000 an increase of \$611,000 above last year’s payments. The combined increase expected for debt services, \$4,204,000, may be compared with increases of \$3,470,000 in 1966-67, and \$3,516,000 in 1956-66. The variation in payments for debt services each year occurs because of four major factors. The first is the normal increase due to the excess of new borrowings over retirement of debt. The second is the change to current rates of interest on issues which are converted on reaching maturity. The third is the selection of half-yearly interest dates for loans that often leads to a cash payment in a financial year substantially different from the interest

which actually accrues in respect of that year. The fourth is a change in interest rates on new borrowings, if so determined by the Australian Loan Council.

The sharp increase in this State’s commitments in 1967-68 as compared with 1966-67 will arise from the combined effect of the first three factors, the normal increase due to new borrowings being further increased by the effect of higher interest rates on a large part of the conversions of almost \$190,000,000 last year and this year, and still further increased because of the net effect of interest dates. The net impact on Revenue Account for debt services, after having regard to special appropriations under “Premier and Treasurer—Miscellaneous” for interest and repayment in respect of loans for housing and rail standardization, and taking account of all recoveries shown in the Estimates of Revenue, is expected to be about \$41,100,000. This would be some \$3,800,000 above the net impact in 1966-67.

The contribution to the Renmark Irrigation Trust is estimated at \$237,000 to cover the Government’s commitments under recent legislation. Last year only \$3,000 was required from Revenue Account towards preliminary work, but this year the Government will be called upon for much heavier grants towards a new pumping station and rising mains, and also to assist in channel rehabilitation and drainage. Other major increases under “Special Acts” are \$206,000 in the Government’s contribution to superannuation pensions to support greater numbers of pensions at the more liberal rates recently introduced, and \$107,000 in the net transfer to the Highways Fund. The appropriations for departments include large increases for the continued expansion of the major social services, medical and health, education, and law and order. The Hospitals Department, with \$22,150,000, has the largest provision within the medical and health group. This provision will give an increase of \$1,642,000 or about 8 per cent above payments in 1966-67. As I have explained, the total increased impact on the Budget of all Government hospital services, including those provisions met by Public Buildings Department and elsewhere, is expected to be about \$2,088,000, of which the Hospitals Fund will contribute about \$2,085,000. For the Department of Public Health this year’s provision of \$1,007,000 is \$135,000, or more than 15 per cent, above the actual payments in 1966-67. This will be the second year in which the department will have provision specifically for

a dental therapist training scheme. The employment of trained dental therapists will enable a far better dental service to be given as part of the school health services.

“Chief Secretary and Minister of Health—Miscellaneous” may be divided into two parts, the first being medical and health payments, and the second other social service payments, war obligations, committee expenses and sundries. The total of proposed medical and health payments listed in the Estimates is \$6,938,000. Payments last year for comparable purposes were \$5,866,000, so that an increase of \$1,072,000, or about 18 per cent, is intended. As I have explained about \$965,000 of this increase is to be provided by increased payments from the Hospitals Fund (making \$1,065,000 in all), so that an increase of \$107,000 is to be met from Revenue Account. The Education Department will have a total provision of \$49,492,000 this year. This will be \$4,322,000, or almost 10 per cent, above the actual payments of last year. The additional cost above last year for special items such as major awards and the second instalment of the five-year programme of equal pay for female teachers, offset by a somewhat reduced requirement for the free books scheme for children in primary schools, is estimated as a net \$1,115,000. There will thus remain to finance general expansion of the department’s services an increase of \$3,207,000, or more than 7 per cent. Under “Minister of Education—Miscellaneous” the intended provision is \$12,197,000, an increase of \$1,545,000, or nearly 15 per cent. The major part of this provision is for grants to the University of Adelaide, the Flinders University of South Australia, and the South Australian Institute of Technology. Grants to the University of Adelaide are also provided under “Special Acts” and for the Waite Agricultural Institute section of the university under “Minister of Agriculture—Miscellaneous”.

As was the case in 1966-67 the Government is again providing for all building grants for the three institutions to be paid from Loan Account. The provisions in these estimates are for normal recurrent purposes and for approved research purposes. General agreement has now been reached between the Commonwealth and the various State Governments, the Australian Universities Commission and the universities, for a new scale of academic salaries to apply from July 1, 1967. The suggested new scales provide

broadly for a 15 per cent increase in academic salaries, which were last increased as from January 1, 1964. The final details and costs have not yet been worked out, but the Government has considered it desirable to include provisions which are expected to measure closely the additional costs in this State after having regard to the portion likely to be covered by increased university fees. In accordance with established practice the intended grants set out in the Estimates are gross, that is, they include the amount to be recovered from the Commonwealth as well as the State’s net contributions. The Commonwealth grants will continue to be paid to the credit of Revenue Account as received.

For the Libraries Department the provision of \$909,000 is best looked at in two parts, \$732,000 for the running of the State Library on North Terrace and \$177,000 for subsidies on capital expenditure, books, and administration expenses of approved country and suburban libraries run by local government authorities. For the State Library the sum of \$732,000 is \$72,000, or about 11 per cent, above the actual payments of last year. The provision takes into account the necessity to staff and operate the new Bastyan Wing.

For the services of law and order the main provision is for the Police Department, \$9,246,000. This is \$751,000, or about 9 per cent, above last year’s payments. Over the two years to June 30 last the active strength of the force increased from 1,558 to 1,660. A further strengthening of the force will be possible this year. For the Prisons Department an appropriation of \$1,663,000 is proposed. This is \$110,000, or about 7 per cent, above actual expenditures in 1966-67. In the two years to June 30 last the number of prison officers increased from 236 to 266. A further strengthening of this staff is also expected this financial year.

Extensive provisions are again included in the Budget proposals for operating and maintaining the public undertakings, the major increases being for the Engineering and Water Supply, Marine and Harbors, and Railways Departments. The appropriations set down for the Engineering and Water Supply Department total \$12,978,000, an increase of \$1,792,000 above payments in 1966-67. This year’s provision includes \$314,000 being South Australia’s expected contribution towards maintenance costs incurred by the River Murray Commission, \$2,150,000 for electric power for pumping water from the Murray River

through the two major mains, and \$10,514,000 for other departmental costs of operation and maintenance. The costs of power for pumping over a 10-year period (including the estimate for this year) have been tabulated, and I ask leave to have the following table incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

POWER COSTS FOR PUMPING

	Mannum- Adelaide main and bores \$	Morgan- Whyalla main \$	Total \$
1958-59 ..	328,000	357,000	685,000
1959-60 ..	1,404,000	462,000	1,866,000
1960-61 ..	295,000	256,000	551,000
1961-62 ..	1,201,000	467,000	1,668,000
1962-63 ..	647,000	502,000	1,149,000
1963-64 ..	360,000	371,000	731,000
1964-65 ..	296,000	543,000	839,000
1965-66 ..	965,000	577,000	1,542,000
1966-67 ..	610,000	516,000	1,126,000
1967-68 ..	1,550,000	600,000	2,150,000
(estimated)			

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The table shows the wide fluctuation in pumping costs caused by seasonal conditions, particularly for pumping to the metropolitan area, and to a lesser extent for pumping to Whyalla and other northern localities. To find a cost of pumping at all comparable with the present estimate for 1967-68 it is necessary to go back to 1959-60 and 1961-62 before the Myponga and enlarged Mount Bold dams were able to contribute towards meeting metropolitan demands. Of course, the requirements for power for pumping, as always, will depend on seasonal conditions, which may yet vary so widely. Twelve months ago, on the best information then available, it seemed that provision of \$1,250,000 would be required for pumping through the Mannum-Adelaide main. Because of most favourable spring rains and a mild summer the actual cost was only \$610,000 and thus a saving of \$640,000 against estimate was achieved. However, the present holdings of reservoirs which contribute towards metropolitan supplies are about 8,000,000,000 gallons below the volumes held 12 months ago. It is possible, though on the balance of probabilities now unlikely, that seasonal conditions through the spring and the coming summer could be as favourable as last year. In the expectation that the department will face a prolonged period of full-scale pumping, I have estimated the cost of power for the Mannum-Adelaide main in 1967-68 as \$1,550,000.

The Marine and Harbors Department has allocated a provision of \$3,634,000, which will be \$135,000 more than was spent last year for maintenance of wharves and facilities, operation of bulk loading installations, and other current purposes. For Railways Department the cash payments in 1966-67 were about \$1,800,000 above comparable payments in the previous year. However, I would not expect the increase this year to be anywhere near so great, as awards were more costly last year, and the department was also involved in heavy non-recurring costs for repair of track and rolling stock. This year's provision of \$32,489,000, which is \$861,000 above last year's payments, will cover the cost of increased wage and salary awards and provide a nominal increase for other purposes.

There are several smaller appropriations which have some unusual features this year or which may be of particular interest to members and I mention them briefly. For the Government Printing Department this year's provision of \$955,000 is \$37,000 less than recorded 1966-67 expenditures. This is due to two factors, one being the transfer to Public Stores Department of the responsibility for handling Government stationery requirements, and the other being an improved accounting procedure whereby purchase of certain materials previously debited directly to Revenue Account will be handled through the department's deposit account. The provision of \$441,000 for the Public Service Commissioner's Department includes \$200,000 for the Automatic Data Processing Controlling Authority. In the Estimates of Revenue, members will see an estimated recoup of \$318,000 from other departments for which computer services are to be given. The charge to the user departments, principally Engineering and Water Supply, Education, Agriculture, Motor Vehicles, and Highways, includes direct salaries of the processing authority's officers, and a charge for computer time to cover maintenance, depreciation and general costs of the authority. For the present, the costs of certain development services, particularly in valuation records, which are not applicable to any one department, will remain as a charge to the processing authority.

For the Premier's Department the intended appropriation is \$352,000. This includes provision for the recently appointed Director of Development and his staff, and for industrial promotion purposes. Because of the prospective serious problem of drainage in irrigation

areas, the Government has authorized a special investigation into the practicability of deep-bore disposal of irrigation seepage water in the Upper Murray areas. The programme, to cost about \$150,000, is to be carried out over two years, and \$75,000 is provided this year under "Minister of Works—Miscellaneous".

The Fisheries and Fauna Conservation Department has a provision of \$171,000 this year, an increase of \$42,000 or about 33 per cent above last year's payments. In the normal course the Government would not have been able to contemplate such a large increase, but it has decided that a special increase in gun licence fees is warranted to provide the necessary funds for the expansion and development of the work and facilities of the department. The major part of the increased development programme will be at Bool Lagoon. Included in the provision of \$3,049,000 for the Social Welfare Department is \$420,000 for public relief. The Commonwealth Government has

at last responded to the submissions that the States have made over a long period of years, that some assistance should be given in appropriate cases during the first six months in which a wife is deserted or left without income because her husband is in prison. In the recent Budget, the Commonwealth made provision to help the States in the special arrangements they have been financing for this first six-months' period. The extent of Commonwealth assistance to South Australia in 1967-68 is expected to be about \$60,000, and this amount has been included in the Estimates of Revenue as a probable receipt.

Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the first line of the Estimates.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.28 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, September 12, at 2 p.m.