

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, July 23, 1968

The SPEAKER (Hon. T. C. Stoff) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

ASSENT TO BILLS

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by message, intimated the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor's Deputy to the following Bills:

Appropriation (No. 1),

Supply (No. 1).

PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE

The SPEAKER: I refer to the questions raised in the House on the last sitting day, June 26, by the honourable Leader of the Opposition, the honourable member for Glenelg and the honourable member for Port Adelaide concerning a statement in the *News* of the same day attributed to the honourable Premier. The front page heading was "Dunstan 'Incited Crowds'—Hall". Before I read the report I think I should explain that I told the honourable members that I would look into this matter and give them a reply but, having looked into it, I think it is so important regarding privilege that it should be recorded in *Hansard*. Hence, I am making this statement today. The report that followed the heading to which I referred contained these passages:

Mr. Hall accused Mr. Dunstan and the Deputy Opposition Leader (Mr. Corcoran) of inciting the 200 demonstrators whom police had to herd from the House of Assembly public gallery last night. Mr. Hall said Mr. Dunstan had shown his contempt for the Parliamentary institution by two actions. "One is his insistence that we should settle the matter of electoral reform outside of debate in the House," Mr. Hall said. "The second is his action and that of his deputy leader in so inciting the group in front of Parliament House last night that they disrupted debate from the galleries." Mr. Hall said he had not been personally annoyed by the sight of 200 people in the galleries. But he had seen Mr. Dunstan make gestures to the demonstrators from his seat in the House. "I just believe it is not good for the future of the institution that Mr. Dunstan should be in communication with them from his seat in Parliament, and be directing their actions by signalling to them," Mr. Hall said.

Upon questions being asked in the House concerning these statements, the honourable Premier stated, *inter alia*:

. . . I do not in any way say that I did not say what was in the newspaper—

and—

I have dealt with the Leader's gesture in the House and, as I say, I have no desire to misinterpret it. If I did misinterpret it, I apologize for that. This does not mean that I personally approve a number of other subjects concerned in my statement; of course, that is my opinion, which I stated. I understand that the Leader was particularly worried about my reference to his gesture in this House. If I have misinterpreted this, as my colleagues tell me I probably have done, I apologize for that.

Although I considered at the time that the Premier had made suitable amends by his apology, I, as Speaker, had undertaken earlier to meet the request of the honourable member for Glenelg and to examine whether any questions of Parliamentary privilege were involved in the press statements alluded to. Section 38 of the Constitution Act, 1934-1965, provides:

The privileges, immunities and powers of the . . . House of Assembly . . . and of the committees and members thereof respectively, shall be the same as but no greater than those which on the twenty-fourth day of October, eighteen hundred and fifty-six, were held, enjoyed, and exercised by the House of Commons and by the Committees and members thereof, whether such privileges, immunities, or powers were so held, possessed, or enjoyed by custom, Statute, or otherwise.

In other words, our privileges, immunities and powers are the same as those of the House of Commons as at the date, in 1856, of the proclamation in South Australia of the Royal Assent to our Constitution Act: so it is necessary to advert to the House of Commons to ascertain the law of Parliamentary privilege and its application and then to make use of the Commons law and decided cases in relation to the local circumstances. As a general observation, on statements made by members outside the House, I wish to adopt the words of the House of Commons Committee of Privileges report on the complaint concerning a speech at a public meeting outside the House made by the Rt. Hon. Quintin Hogg, Q.C., M.P., then Lord President of the Council and Secretary of State for Education and Science:

The law of Parliamentary privilege should not, except in the clearest case, be invoked so as to inhibit or discourage the formation and free expression of opinion outside the House by members equally with other citizens in relation to the conduct of the affairs of the State. Your committee and the House are not concerned with setting standards for political controversy or for the propriety, accuracy or taste of speeches made on public platforms outside Parliament. They are concerned only with the protection of the reputation, the character and the good name of the House

itself. It is in that respect only and for that limited purpose that they are concerned with imputations against the conduct of individual members. (House of Commons 1963-64 Reports: Committees (3) No. 247, page VI).

Erskine May's *Parliamentary Practice* (Seventeenth Edition, at page 117) states:

In 1701 the House of Commons resolved that to print or publish any books or libels reflecting on the proceedings of the House is a high violation of the rights and privileges of the House, and indignities offered to their House by words spoken or writings published reflecting on its character or proceedings have been constantly punished by both the Lords and the Commons upon the principle that such acts tend to obstruct the Houses in the performance of their functions by diminishing the respect due to them. Reflections upon members . . . are equivalent to reflections on the House.

This principle, described by Erskine May, has been reiterated in matters considered by the House of Commons Committee of Privileges, and I quote extracts from one of its reports in the 1946-47 session:

Aspersions on the general conduct of members are not reflections involving a breach of privilege unless they relate to the actual transaction of the business of the House (including any committee of the House). Reflections upon members, even where individuals are not named, may be so framed as to bring into disrepute the body to which they belong, and such reflections have therefore been treated as equivalent to reflections on the House itself. (House of Commons 1946-47 Reports: Committees (5) 138, pages 123, 126).

I revert to the question of privilege raised by the honourable member for Glenelg. The honourable Premier agreed that he said what had been attributed to him in the newspaper report. In part, the statement had relation to members' conduct during proceedings in the House itself; and, further, it contained elements which in my view amounted to a serious reflection upon named members of the House. The Premier's statement would appear, by Parliamentary criteria, to constitute a *prima facie* breach of privilege. In advance of this considered opinion of mine, however, the honourable Premier has suitably apologized in the House for the breach, and I suggest that the interests of the House will be served best if my statement now is allowed to bring this matter to an end.

Mr. HUDSON (Glenelg): On a matter of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member for Glenelg has asked to speak on a matter of privilege.

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Mr. HUDSON: As a matter of privilege, I produce and table a copy of the newspaper the *News* (last edition) of Wednesday, June 26, 1968, printed and published by News Limited at the office of the company, 116-120 North Terrace, Adelaide. The statements about which I complain are contained on page 1, are attributed to the Premier, and are those which you, Mr. Speaker, quoted in your pronouncement to this House. I suggest that the passages referred to be taken as read. I move:

That the statements attributed to the honourable member for Gouger and published in the *News* of June 26, 1968, are a breach of the privileges of this House.

In moving this motion I should explain to you, Sir, and to members that there is a particular reason why I and other members are not satisfied with the partial apology already made by the Premier in this matter. I accept your rulings with respect to what is the standard Parliamentary practice in this matter, namely, that a breach of privilege is constituted only when a member makes a public statement outside the House which reflects on a member of the House or on the House and which refers to proceedings that took place in the House. A portion of the statements quoted in this article (in particular, the accusation made by the Premier in the *News* article that Mr. Dunstan made gestures to the demonstrators from his seat in the House) refers to proceedings that took place in the House of Assembly. I quote:

I just believe it is not good for the future of the institution that Mr. Dunstan should be in communication with them from his seat in Parliament and be directing their actions by signalling to them.

The Premier in reply to Mr. Dunstan in the House stated (and at that stage he had not withdrawn):

If I could substitute the word "excite" for "incite" perhaps it would satisfy the Leader.

Later, as a result of my question to you, Mr. Speaker, and of that asked by the member for Port Adelaide (Mr. Ryan), the honourable Premier again replied and, without withdrawing or without apologizing, made a further explanation amplifying in some respects, and qualifying in other respects, the statement that had been reported in the *News*. But at that stage there was no withdrawal. Ultimately, the Premier said:

I understand that the Leader was particularly worried about my reference to his gesture in this House. If I have misinterpreted this, as my colleagues tell me I probably have done, I apologize for that.

I would not have taken this matter further today, and would have considered that partial apology to be reasonably satisfactory, had it not been for the fact that I came across a previous reference to this matter earlier in the debate on that Wednesday morning, and this was prior to any statement being given to the *News*. This previous reference took place on the second motion to move into Committee, when the Leader of the Opposition had spoken for a second time, and the honourable Premier replied. It took place at about 5 a.m. on that Wednesday, prior to any possibility of the Premier's having made the statement to the *News*. The honourable Premier said, at page 125 of *Hansard*:

I do not know whether the Leader is in control of the mob or whether the mob is in control of him, although it looked last evening as though it was in control of him as he waved to the gallery trying to quieten it.

So at 5 a.m. on the Wednesday, Mr. Speaker, the honourable Premier had no doubt about what the Leader of the Opposition was trying to do—that he was making a gesture to the gallery by pushing down his hands and thereby telling the people concerned to be quiet. Some hours later, however, when a statement was made to the *News* this had altered, and the honourable Leader of the Opposition was accused of inciting the crowd in the gallery by making gestures to it and controlling its actions by means of gestures. That statement, if it was incorrect, was defamatory and, in view of the earlier passage that I have quoted, it is my view that it was deliberately defamatory. It is because of that statement, and because of the fact that later that same day, when the Premier was challenged in relation to this matter, he finally (after a series of questions and a number of statements had been made, spread over about three-quarters of an hour or an hour of the proceedings of this House) said:

If I have misinterpreted this, as my colleagues tell me I probably have done, I apologize for that.

Mr. Speaker, the record of what was said some hours earlier makes it clear that the Premier knew that what he had stated in the *News* was incorrect and that he had at that stage clearly interpreted the Leader's gestures as being an attempt to quieten the gallery. Further, it is clear that his statement to the *News* was false and that he made it knowing it to be false. It is for these reasons that I think the Leader in particular, and members in general, are entitled to a complete and unreserved apology and withdrawal in

this matter. I for one will be satisfied if such an apology and withdrawal is forthcoming. I for one do not want to see (neither do I think that you, Mr. Speaker, nor any other member of this House wishes to see) an apology that contains "ifs", "buts" or other qualifications.

The record in *Hansard* that I have quoted clearly demonstrates that, prior to the statements in the *News* being made by the Premier, he knew that they were false. Mr. Speaker, you have said, correctly, that statements that reflect on a member in relation to proceedings that have taken place in the House, if they reflect in a manner that is a reflection on the House or can be taken that way, are a breach of privilege. In understanding what you have said and with my knowledge of the events that took place, there could be no clearer breach of privilege than the one about which I am complaining. Therefore, at this stage I persist in this matter and move as I have indicated.

Mr. BROOMHILL seconded the motion.

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier): The member for Glenelg approached me before the House sat today and told me that he, his Party, and the Leader of the Opposition were distressed at my statements and were not satisfied with the apology I had made. It is not my intention (and in saying this I am not putting "ifs" or "buts") in any way to weaken the system of privilege that protects members of this House. I am sorry that the Leader and his members are distressed at what they have alluded to here when saying that a breach of privilege has resulted from my statement. Consequently, I unreservedly withdraw it and apologize.

The SPEAKER: Order! I must ask the Premier to withdraw from the Chamber.

The Premier having withdrawn:

The SPEAKER: In asking the Premier to withdraw from the Chamber, I wish to make it clear that it is the usual practice that, when a motion concerning breach of privilege and involving a reflection on a member comes before the House, the member against whom the allegation has been made shall leave the Chamber so that the House may debate the question in his absence. I call upon the member for Glenelg.

Mr. HUDSON: I had consulted May's *Parliamentary Practice* before I raised this matter. It is clear there that it is a matter of courtesy that when a matter such as this is raised the member concerned should be warned of it prior to the sittings of the House

and, as the Premier has indicated, I have done this. I am satisfied with the apology and withdrawal the Premier has expressed, and I ask leave to withdraw my motion.

Leave granted; motion withdrawn.

[ORDER IN DEBATE]

The SPEAKER: Before I call on Question Time, I think it might be opportune to remind all honourable members, both old and new, of the provisions of Standing Orders Nos. 152 and 153, which are as follows:

152. No member shall use offensive or unbecoming words in reference to any member of the House.

153. No member shall digress from the subject matter of any question under discussion; and all imputations of improper motives and all personal reflections on members shall be considered highly disorderly.

As Erskine May states, "Good temper and moderation are the characteristics of Parliamentary language." I look forward confidently to the co-operation of honourable members in observing the spirit of our Standing Orders, and in maintaining the high tone of our practice in the proceedings of the House.

QUESTIONS

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Before the House sat, I received a courteous note from the Treasurer informing me of the proposals for the sittings of the House and making it clear that the Government intended to proceed with the Address in Reply debate, sitting this afternoon and tomorrow afternoon (but not this evening or tomorrow evening). The Address in Reply was then to be proceeded with next week and thereafter, with sittings at night, until it was completed. The Treasurer added that the preparation of the Loan Estimates was now in the final stages and that he hoped then to bring them down as soon as the Address in Reply was concluded. Although I am grateful to him for that information, I point out to the Premier that much public disquiet has arisen and much discussion has taken place concerning the electoral situation in South Australia. A petition has been presented to this House seeking immediate action on electoral redistribution and the holding of new elections on the basis of a new distribution. The Opposition's view is that it is essential that this matter be dealt with immediately, both from the point of view of the benefit to Parliament as a whole and from the point of view of

ensuring to the citizens of the State a knowledge of the continuance of stable Government in South Australia. Consequently, can the Premier say whether he will agree to our proceeding immediately with any redistribution proposals that are to come before the House rather than our proceeding at this stage with the Address in Reply debate, as members have already had an opportunity to raise matters of grievance and will have further opportunities during the session? If the Government is prepared to follow that course we on this side will do everything we can to facilitate the business of Government so that proposals for electoral redistribution may be dealt with forthwith.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I thank the Leader for his offer of co-operation in the management of the House, bearing in mind the objectives he has outlined. However, the Government is diligently pursuing the matter of electoral reform and does not believe that the purposes and ideals involved in a new electoral system in South Australia will be helped at this time by bringing this matter forward before the Address in Reply debate is proceeded with. The Government intends to proceed with the Address in Reply debate and there is a distinct possibility that the Loan Estimates will be introduced immediately afterwards.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Not necessarily.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: True, but there is a distinct possibility. However, perhaps I need not go further than I have gone at this stage: the Government intends to proceed with the Address in Reply debate as laid down by Standing Orders.

GRAPES

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Has the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Agriculture, a reply to my question of last month on the payments for surplus grapes delivered to the 1965-66 pool?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have the following reply from the Director of Agriculture:

The Secretary of the Wine Grapegrowers' Emergency Co-operative Pool has advised that the only payment made for such grapes has been \$10 a ton. This payment was advanced by the State Bank of South Australia. It is expected that the bank advance will be repaid by September, 1968, and that payments to growers during the period October to December, 1968, will complete the whole transaction.

BLOCK ALLOTMENT

Mr. CORCORAN: During 1967 I was responsible, as Minister of Lands, for piloting through this Chamber legislation that would apply to the development of country situated in the counties of Chandos and Buckingham. In addition, field surveys were carried out in this area so that the first blocks could be allotted in February of this year. However, because of the drought conditions prevailing at the time and because some people had annual licence over substantial areas of this country, I decided that it was not in the best interests of these people, the State as a whole, or the future of the area, to open it up at that time, and I deferred a decision until later this year. Has the Minister of Lands considered the allotment of any of the blocks in this area and, if he has, can he say when it is intended to proceed with the matter?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: As details of this matter are on my desk at the moment, I shall be able to give a considered reply to the question tomorrow.

DAIRYING

Mr. NANKIVELL: As the Commonwealth and State Governments are at present discussing at Agricultural Council level the proposed Commonwealth dairying improvement legislation, will the Minister of Lands obtain from the Minister of Agriculture a report on what stage negotiations have reached? Also, does this Government agree with the principle involved and, if it does, can he say how the Minister of Agriculture intends to administer this Act in South Australia?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will get a report.

RURAL WATER SUPPLIES

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: During the last Commonwealth election campaign, the Commonwealth Government promised that, if it were returned to office, it would allocate \$50,000,000 towards helping State Governments provide rural water supplies. Immediately after the Commonwealth Government was returned to office, the State Government (through my office, as the office of the Minister of Works) applied to the Commonwealth Government for assistance in respect of water schemes in the Kimba and Tailem Bend to Keith areas. Prior to my leaving office, I gained the impression that the Commonwealth Government was about to inspect the areas prior to considering the applications. Can the

Minister of Works say what progress has been made in regard to providing water supplies for these two areas?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: The honourable member is perfectly correct in his impression: the Commonwealth Government has arranged to send officers to South Australia to inspect personally the Tailem Bend to Keith main. As those officers will be here within a few days (either at the end of this week or early next week), I have made available two officers from the Engineering and Water Supply Department, who have been working on this scheme for some time, to accompany the Commonwealth officers. I have also arranged for a light aircraft to be made available so that the inspecting officers may inspect from the air as well as from the ground. We have had advice from the Commonwealth Government that the Tailem Bend to Keith main is very high on the priority list. In other words, we are most hopeful that these investigations will be successful and will help South Australia. The Kimba main, to which the honourable member has referred, is a little farther down the list. At present the planning is concentrated on the Tailem Bend to Keith main. When I have further information from the Commonwealth Government, I shall be happy to give it to the House.

HILLS CORNER

Mr. GILES: An extremely dangerous corner on route 80, between Uraidla and Carey Gully, has been the subject of controversy for some time. Many accidents have occurred on the corner, as is proved by the number of scars on nearby trees. I understand that the Highways Department has investigated the matter and has erected a "15 miles an hour" speed limit sign on the corner. However, I do not consider that this will remedy the difficulty. Will the Attorney-General ask his colleague the Minister of Roads to investigate this matter and consider straightening the road to some extent?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will refer the matter to my colleague for investigation.

WESTERN TEACHERS COLLEGE

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: During the term of office of the previous Government I, as Minister of Education, continually stressed the high priority of teacher education and obtained some good results in getting Commonwealth money for the new Salisbury Teachers College. However, one black spot regarding

our teachers colleges is the Western Teachers College. I am sure that the Minister would have seen in today's *Advertiser* a description of this college as "Adelaide's educational slum", a description that I consider to be fairly accurate. Unfortunately, the future of this college and the matter of its removal and re-erection on the Adelaide Gaol site seem to be somewhat indefinite, because of different statements that have been made by the Minister of Education and the Hon. R. C. DeGaris, another member of the Government. Although the Minister has said, "I consider this site for the college to be an excellent one, worth waiting for," the Hon. Mr. DeGaris says something different: "I am more inclined to the view that the Adelaide Gaol should be preserved, even if not for prison purposes." As the Education Department officers, after making a most thorough examination, are satisfied that this is the best site for the Western Teachers College and also because of the very bad conditions at that college, can the Minister give an assurance that the new college will be constructed at the Adelaide Gaol site as soon as practicable?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: This matter is, of course, one of increasing public interest, an interest that was accentuated when this Government took office. I thought, as the matter was of such public interest, that I might be asked this question today and that it would be pertinent to give some background information regarding a new Western Teachers College. The present Western Teachers College was established by the Government in 1962 as temporary accommodation for the expanding number of teachers in training. Wattle Park had been similarly established as temporary accommodation for a new teachers college in 1957. In each case it was the Government's intention to build new accommodation on other sites as soon as possible.

Because of the need to use Loan funds to build new schools in rapidly developing areas of population, it has not been possible to provide funds to accommodate these two teachers colleges in modern buildings on an adequate site. When funds became available for new buildings for teachers colleges in 1966, it was decided to build a new college at Bedford Park adjacent to the new Flinders University. This provided for student teachers up to 1,200 additional places which were needed to supply sufficient well-trained teachers to staff our schools. Had the money for Bedford Park been used to build a new Western

Teachers College (or Wattle Park Teachers College), it would have been necessary to curtail the total number of students in training.

Funds made available by the Commonwealth for the building of new teachers colleges are being used to build an additional teachers college at Salisbury, which will provide 800 more places for students in training. Commonwealth funds have also been used to purchase a large property at Murray Park as a site for a new Wattle Park Teachers College.

On my appointment as Minister of Education, one of the first things I did was visit, in the company of the Director-General, the Western Teachers College and, as a result of that visit, I instructed that immediate steps should be taken to ameliorate the conditions that I could see for myself at that college. These ameliorating steps are already in train. Early in 1965 an announcement was made about the Western Teachers College being built on the Adelaide Gaol site, but nothing further was done by the previous Government to implement its decision. A note on the docket pertaining to this matter shows that, in a report from the Prisons Department, it was stated that this site could not possibly be available until 1971.

When we came into office, this matter became one of public interest and I stated that I considered that the Adelaide Gaol site, because of the building of a new oval on the Port Road adjacent to the site, seemed worth waiting for. However, on reference to the Chief Secretary, who administers the Prisons Department, a report was obtained which showed that, until alternative arrangements were made for accommodating the Adelaide Gaol on another site, the possibility of Western Teachers College being built on the Adelaide Gaol site was somewhat vague, because some accommodation had to be found, first, for the women in the gaol at Adelaide (and steps have now been taken to build a women's rehabilitation centre) and, secondly, a new site had to be found for a remand centre. Further, a maximum security gaol has to be built somewhere adjacent to the existing gaol.

With all these matters in mind, I instructed the officers of my department to look for alternative sites. This is the present position, but in any case it does not appear that funds for a new college for Western could be attracted from the Commonwealth Government until 1973, because the funds are

committed for this triennium to building the Salisbury Teachers College, and funds, if provided, for the next triennium would probably be committed for the Wattle Park Teachers College. So at present we are looking for alternative sites, bearing in mind that a new Western Teachers College is desirable.

CLARE HOUSING

Mr. ALLEN: Can the Minister of Housing say how many Housing Trust houses are to be erected in the Clare district this year?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Not offhand, but I will obtain a report from the General Manager of the trust and inform the honourable member when I have this information, although it may take a day or two. For the benefit of members I suggest that, if information is urgently required, it would facilitate providing the answer if they would let me know the question beforehand. I know that this present question is not such an urgent matter, and I will obtain the information soon.

DAWS ROAD HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. VIRGO: I am informed that prior to the Education Department's purchase of the site on Daws Road for the Daws Road High School, the department asked the Mitcham council whether it would agree, if the department purchased the land, to closing the two roads which traverse this property. I understand that the council informed the department that it possibly would, and the department proceeded to purchase the land, but then forgot to close the roads. The department built the school over the existing roads, and I understand that there has been some difficulty with some residents who had access cut off and who lawfully took gates off hinges. I am not sure if they were acting lawfully in throwing away the gates, but they were legally correct in using the public thoroughfare. I understand that my predecessor made an arrangement, which was approved by the school council and by the former Minister of Education, to provide pedestrian access for people so deprived of their right of access to Daws Road. As I am now informed that this decision has been reversed, can the Minister of Education say whether she reversed this decision and, if she did, why? If the Minister did not, will she ascertain which departmental officer did, and will she revert to the decision of the former Minister to give these people access to which they were

entitled when they purchased the houses from the Housing Trust?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will obtain a report for the honourable member soon.

BRIDGE AT MURRAY BRIDGE

Mr. WARDLE: Will the Attorney-General obtain from the Minister of Roads information about the site of the new traffic bridge at Murray Bridge?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will obtain a reply for the honourable member.

ABATTOIR INQUIRY

Mr. CASEY: In view of the investigation made by Mr. D. T. McCall, the manager and accountant of the Victorian Inland Meat Authority, and his report to the Government about the Gepps Cross abattoir, will the Minister of Lands obtain a report from the Minister of Agriculture concerning the future control of the abattoir, because statements have been attributed to the Minister suggesting that the constitution of the controlling body at this abattoir would be altered? Further, does the Government intend to subsidize the operation of this abattoir, because it has lost money in the last few years, and can he ascertain what other changes are contemplated by the Government following the receipt of the recent report from Mr. McCall?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will obtain a report from my colleague and inform the honourable member when it is available.

BAGGING PLANT

Mr. VENNING: In this House mention was made recently of the bagging plant at Wallaroo. Can the Minister of Works say what were the arrangements with the bagging company at Wallaroo; whether the wheat bagged there at present has been paid for; what is the expected future programme; whether any grain shipped from Wallaroo has been bagged by this company; and whether it is expected to bag grain there in future or to revert to Port Adelaide for future bagging operations?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I will try to obtain for the honourable member the information sought by these many questions.

FLUORIDATION

Mr. BROOMHILL: Public statements have been made recently, one by the Premier and others by other prominent members of the Government, supporting the addition of

fluoride to the State's water supply. Can the Minister of Works say whether a move in this direction is expected this session and, if it is, will any decisions be referred to Parliament before action is taken?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I am considering this important question, which has exercised the minds of many members of the public, and before anything is done I shall require the fullest possible information. When that stage is reached, I shall be happy to inform the honourable member accordingly.

LANGHORNE CREEK WATER SUPPLY

Mr. McANANEY: As investigations have been made concerning a water supply for Langhorne Creek and the possibility of its being connected to the Strathalbyn-Milang scheme, can the Minister of Works say when the report on the scheme will be available?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I shall obtain a report for the honourable member.

WINNING BETS TAX

Mr. McKEE: Can the Premier say whether the Government intends to remove the winning bets tax this session, as was promised in his election speech?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: If the honourable member reads the speech he will find that there was a condition placed on the lifting of this tax, namely, that the income from the Totalizator Agency Board must equal the previous revenue. The Government will honour its promise in this regard.

MOUNT GAMBIER HOSPITAL

Mr. BURDON: I understand that the Director-General of Medical Services (Dr. Shea), together with Mr. Colin Rankin of the Health Department and an officer of the Public Buildings Department, a few weeks ago inspected the Mount Gambier Hospital with a view to ascertaining what structural alterations could be made to make the top floor of the hospital functional. Can the Premier say what was the outcome of the inspection, and does the Government intend to carry out any work whereby the top floor of the hospital can be made available for patients?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be pleased to obtain a report from my colleague for the honourable member.

EQUAL PAY

Mr. RICHES: The previous Government embarked on a policy of providing equal pay for equal work in relation to women school-

teachers, and this policy was to be implemented in stages. As I understand that women teachers are expecting to receive a third increment at this time, will the Minister of Education say whether any delay has occurred in passing on this increment to the teachers concerned or, if that is not the case, when these teachers may expect the payment to take effect?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: There has been no change in the policy, and the third stage will be implemented when it becomes due for implementation.

BIRKENHEAD LAND

Mr. HURST: Having communicated with the Minister of Works on July 8 in relation to a block of land situated on Dunniker Road, Birkenhead, east of Adelaide Ship Constructions' yards, I understand that this land is at present leased by the Education Department and has been so leased for some time. However, the land in question is most unsuitable as a playing area and a hazard is created in respect of children from the LeFevre school who use it. Adelaide Ship Constructions, an organization which is expanding and creating much employment for people in this State, is anxious to lease this land from the Marine and Harbors Department, and I understand that that would involve obtaining from the Education Department an agreement to relinquish the land. So that Adelaide Ship Constructions might use this land, creating storage space and alleviating the present parking problem which exists in surrounding streets and which represents a menace, will the Minister of Marine, as soon as he receives a report from his department, confer with the Minister of Education with a view to granting the lease to the company, so enabling it to continue to progress and to expand its valuable activity?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: Having already initiated action in this regard, I agree that this block of land is most unsuitable for educational purposes and that its use by the children concerned creates dangers. As I desire to help Adelaide Ship Constructions to expand its activities in this area and to provide adequate car-parking facilities, I have already communicated my views on this matter to the Minister of Education and have said that a more suitable locality in the area might be obtained for use as a playground by the children concerned. As soon as I have received information on this matter from my colleague, I will communicate it to the honourable member.

HOUSE FOUNDATIONS

Mrs. BYRNE: When speaking in the Address in Reply debate on July 7, 1966, I made certain suggestions concerning the type of house foundations and footings to be used in house construction. I suggested at the time that I should like to see the Housing Trust set an example in this field. Will the Minister of Housing obtain from the trust a report on what type of house foundations and footings it uses at present?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes, I shall be glad to do that. I have had several discussions with the General Manager of the trust on this matter and on related matters, because of the extensive problem existing in regard to the construction of houses and buildings generally under the abnormal conditions that have been experienced during the last summer, followed by a rather unusually wet winter. Having also discussed these matters with private builders, I have been offered varied opinions on what is, in this or that circumstance, the best type of foundation to use. I believe that a useful field for research and experimentation exists here, although I point out that experimentation is somewhat costly and is associated with some risk: if an idea of a builder proves to be good, then the house is good, whereas, if his idea proves to be not so good, then the result is not so good either. In this regard, I think the metropolitan area of South Australia is probably the most varied area for the construction of houses and buildings generally of any capital city of Australia; and, because of the varied nature of our soil and the fact that our soils even vary almost from house to house in the same suburb, this matter is extremely difficult. However, I welcome the honourable member's question because it will enable me again to take up with the trust the whole question of foundations and of research and experimentation on them. However, I believe that new ideas are being evolved and that the conventional is not the only method of building foundations which we should adopt.

WALLAROO INDUSTRY

Mr. HUGHES: The Premier was reported in *Hansard* last year as saying that the South Australian representatives of the American syndicate that purchased 1,000 acres at Wallaroo had confirmed with him the fact that an industry would be established at Wallaroo if natural gas were available for a

nitrogenous fertilizer works. As the Premier has just spent a few weeks abroad, seeking new industries for South Australia, I am wondering whether he had an opportunity to visit Jackson, Mississippi, and discuss with members of the syndicate the latest developments in this industry. If he did, can he disclose the outcome of those discussions?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The possible establishment of this industry at Wallaroo has a long history, as the honourable member knows. Soon after coming into office, I wrote to the principals of the firm concerned in order to ascertain whether they were still interested in this project in South Australia. As yet, I have not received a reply, unless it came during my absence, but it certainly did not come before I left for overseas. My assessment is that the people concerned are no longer interested, and I say that because of what is contained in a letter on the file, a copy of which letter I have here, and which was written by the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) to the then Premier.

Mr. Hudson: Will you table it?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: This is a copy, and I shall be happy to table it. I brought it down for the honourable member's information, because I previously said I would.

The SPEAKER: The honourable Premier cannot table it at this stage; he may table it later.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be happy to table it for the honourable member's convenience because I do not want to be misinterpreted and I want to use the honourable member's opinion to back up my assessment of what is in the minds of the people concerned: that there seems to be a distinct lack of interest at present on the part of members of this firm. As my overseas trip was completely taken up with interviews, I did not have time to divert to see this firm. I shall again write to the principals of the firm to find out whether they have any interest whatsoever. Certainly, it does not appear that the forecast, which I understand was made before the election, that a representative of the firm would attend in South Australia or would take further interest, has been realized. I shall be happy to table the copy of the letter I have brought down.

Mr. HUDSON: I have not a clear recollection of the letter to which the Premier has referred. I understand, however, that it is one I wrote prior to going to Jackson, Mississippi,

to see Mr. Reed, in relation to certain difficulties I was having in making an appointment and contacting him. While I was in Jackson, I was able to have breakfast with Mr. Reed and Mr. Bridges and spent a part of the day with Mr. Bridges, who appeared to me to be the one who was mainly interested in the project at Wallaroo. Unfortunately, the ill-health of Mr. Bridges and the consequent passing over of his interests to others may have been one of the reasons for a lessening of interest. However, I understand that as a result of my letter to the then Premier (now the Leader of the Opposition) he wrote direct to the people in Jackson and put certain propositions to them in relation to the provision of gas in Wallaroo. Will the Premier bring down that letter from the file and make its contents available to members?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: This is one of those transitory moves that cuts across two Governments. I shall be happy to bring the entire file down for the honourable member to see and for him to read the letter I have added to it and the copy of the letter I have sent, which is the one substantial move that has been made in this regard. I shall be happy for the honourable member to read his own letter on the file or to read the copy I have here.

Mr. Hudson: I am interested in the other letter.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: You may read the whole file.

Mr. Hudson: Will you table it?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Yes, if you wish.

The SPEAKER: The matter of tabling documents gives me concern. I think that, if the Premier extracted a copy from the file, it would be better to table that copy because once a document is tabled in the House it must remain here for some time, as members know, and that might hold up departmental work.

CONTAINERIZATION

Mr. RYAN: On June 26, I asked the Minister representing the Minister of Transport what freight rate was to be determined on the container cargo travelling between Adelaide and Melbourne as a result of the cancellation of the feeder shipping service to operate between the terminal and South Australia. At that time it was agreed that the freight rate would be on a door-to-door basis, either delivered or picked up in Adelaide without additional cost. During the recess I received from the Minister of Transport a

written reply based on a report he had received from the Railways Commissioner saying that negotiations regarding freight rates for containers between Adelaide and Melbourne were not complete, but that discussions of this nature were confidential between the client and the participating railway system. Can the Attorney-General say whether I can take it from the tone of the reply received from the Minister that there will be an additional freight rate, either on export or import, from the port of the terminal to Adelaide, and whether this will be additional to the freight rate from port to port on container cargo?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I think we should ask the Minister to put his own interpretation on the letter, and I will ask him to do that.

GAWLER SEWERAGE

Mr. CLARK: During the weekend, when staying with my sister at Mannum I was most interested to notice the rapid way in which work on the Mannum sewerage project was proceeding. I know that the Minister of Works will be interested in this, because he had the honour to be a member of the Public Works Committee when this matter was investigated. On talking to some of the men employed on the job, I was pleased to hear that they expected that, when the main stage of the work on this project had been completed soon, work on the Gawler sewerage project would commence. Although I have never been described as a garbage man, I have always been intensely interested in the progress of planning for a sewerage scheme for Gawler, so will the Minister of Works ascertain when work on the Gawler project is likely to be commenced?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: Although I know that the honourable member can push his own barrow, I will ask for the information he desires.

WARNING LIGHTS

Mr. LANGLEY: Last year, an announcement was made by the then Minister of Roads that warning turning lights on motor vehicles were to be installed by July 1, 1968. Recently, the operation of this regulation has been postponed by the present Minister to a date to be fixed, although he believes that this measure is needed in the interest of safety. As the people of South Australia are expecting an announcement on this matter soon, because they believe that such lights are an important safety device which could

help businessmen and other members of the public, could the Attorney-General ask the Minister when he intends that this law shall be proclaimed?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: As I think I had better not rely on memory, I will obtain a report and let the member know.

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS (REDIVISION) BILL

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): I move:

That Standing Orders be so far suspended as to enable me to move the following motion forthwith:

That I have leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to provide for the appointment of a Commission to report upon the redivision of the State into electoral districts and for purposes consequent thereon or incidental thereto.

The SPEAKER: There being present an absolute majority of the whole number of the members of the House, I accept the motion. Is the motion seconded?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Is the motion agreed to?

Opposition members: Aye.

Government members: No.

The SPEAKER: There being a dissentient voice, a division is necessary.

The House divided on the motion:

Ayes (18)—Messrs. Broomhill and Burdon, Mrs. Byrne, Messrs. Casey, Clark, Corcoran, Dunstan (teller), Hudson, Hughes, Hurst, Hutchens, Jennings, Langley, Loveday, McKee, Riches, Ryan, and Virgo.

Noes (19)—Messrs. Allen, Arnold, Brookman, Coumbe, Edwards, Evans, Ferguson, Freebairn, Giles, Hall (teller), McAnaney, Millhouse, Nankivell, Pearson, and Rodda, Mrs. Steele, Messrs. Teusner, Venning, and Wardle.

Majority of 1 for the Noes.

Motion thus negatived.

Questions resumed:

WATERVALE WATER SUPPLY

Mr. FREEBAIRN: The previous Minister of Works was able to allocate \$26,000 in last year's Loan Estimates for work on the Watervale water supply to be commenced. The estimated cost of the scheme was then \$180,000.

Will the Minister of Works ascertain how much of the allocated sum of \$26,000 has been spent and what work has been done?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I will obtain this information for the honourable member.

DENTAL HEALTH

Mr. CASEY: During the time I have been a member of this Chamber, the Government policy regarding dental care for children in country schools has been to limit the number treated in some of the larger schools. In recent months, I have often been told that many children attending country schools do not benefit from mobile dental clinics. Whilst smaller schools in country areas are being visited once every 12 or 18 months, many children, particularly in secondary schools, are not being attended to and a few independent schools in the northern areas are not being visited. I understand the department's recent policy has been that only the children in two or three classes in primary schools are being attended to. The previous Government instituted a scheme whereby dental nurses would be trained and become available to the Education Department to work in mobile dental clinics. Can the Minister of Education say whether children attending secondary schools will be given some opportunity to have their teeth attended to and whether children in independent schools in some areas could be attended to by the mobile clinic where possible?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: School medical and dental services come within the jurisdiction of the Minister of Health. I am having discussions with my colleague and I shall let the honourable member have a reply as soon as possible.

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: During the term of office of the previous Government legislation was enacted to give Flinders University complete autonomy. In drafting that legislation, the Government took particular care to ensure that the constitution of the Flinders University Council would be much more representative and democratic than were the constitutions of the Adelaide University Council and some other universities in Australia. Because of the excellent experience of the Flinders University Council and because of the difficulty being experienced regarding people who would be more representative than is the case at present becoming members of that council, will the Minister of Education

(with the consent of Cabinet) introduce a Bill during this session to reconstitute the Adelaide University Council so as to make it more representative, to place it in a position similar to that of the Flinders University Council, and certainly to allow a representative of the student body to be a member of that council?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The Adelaide University Council has appointed a sub-committee, which is examining a revision of the University Act. I have had some discussion with Professor Badger, the Vice-Chancellor, on this matter and I have also said that I consider it proper that further consideration be given to the composition of the Adelaide University Council. This cannot be done until I am advised by the university council of the result of the subcommittee's deliberations. However, I am considering the composition of the Adelaide University Council.

VETERINARY SERVICES

Mr. EDWARDS: Recently I was told of the need for a veterinary officer on Upper Eyre Peninsula. Will the Minister of Lands confer with the Minister of Agriculture to ascertain what can be done to rectify the present situation?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will get a report on the matter.

WALLAROO HARBOUR

Mr. HUGHES: On June 26, when asking a question of the Premier, I stated that in three weekly editions half-page advertisements had appeared in the local press on behalf of the Liberal and Country League, one of the issues being, "We want to improve Wallaroo harbour and have it used more." I asked the Premier what had been contemplated when the advertisements appeared during the election campaign. He was unable to tell me and suggested that I refer the question to the Minister of Marine, but time did not permit me to do that during Question Time on June 26. Can the Minister of Marine now say what improvements are envisaged at Wallaroo harbour to have it used more?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The honourable member's reference to the advertisements is perfectly correct, as were the advertisements. Already we have taken definite steps to ensure that improvements will be effected to enable more use to be made of

Wallaroo harbour and to provide more employment in that town. The Minister of Agriculture, on behalf of the Government, has announced that extensions will be made to the silo. Tenders for these extensions will be invited next month. They will provide additional storage of 1,000,000 bushels and will incorporate 17 additional cells, making the total storage 4,500,000 bushels. Work will start as soon as possible and much of the work will be done during the present financial year. This is the first project to come from this report and I am very happy to repeat the announcement that the Minister of Agriculture was pleased to make regarding a project that will provide benefit for Yorke Peninsula in general and for Wallaroo in particular.

Mr. HUGHES: The Minister has been fluent in passing on stale information made available to me by South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited and the Minister of Agriculture. I have been approached by the Wallaroo District Development League comprising farmers and businessmen, asking me to seek information on deepening of the berths, deepening of the swinging basin and the channel, alterations to loading booms, and lengthening of the jetty at Wallaroo. As the Minister may not be able to answer this question this afternoon, I ask whether he will obtain a report on any plans that may have been made in regard to these items.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I will try to obtain that information. I recall that much deepening occurred at Wallaroo a few years ago following a Public Works Committee inspection.

METEOROLOGY

Mr. FERGUSON: Has the Minister of Lands, in reply to my question of June 26, obtained information about installations being provided by the Bureau of Meteorology at Troubridge Island?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have only a partial answer. The Bureau of Meteorology, which is a Commonwealth instrumentality, has stated that it has plans for the installation on Troubridge Island of some equipment for use in its work. Further information will be supplied upon receipt of a written request, and I have arranged to write to the bureau. When a reply is received, I shall make it available to the honourable member.

PORT AUGUSTA HOSPITAL

Mr. RICHES: Has the Premier obtained the report from the Minister of Health regarding progress of planning for work at the Port Augusta Hospital which he promised, in reply to my question of June 26, to obtain?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Minister of Health reports:

The planning for the development of the Port Augusta Hospital is proceeding as a priority work. Funds have been sought on the Loan Estimates for 1968-69 to enable design work to proceed on the project, which is estimated to cost more than \$2,000,000. It is expected that funds will be available during 1969-70 and 1970-71 to enable construction to be undertaken during that period.

SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Mr. LANGLEY: In September a conference will be held, in Melbourne, of the Australian Science Teachers Association and, as the Minister of Education will be represented by officers of the department, will she consider making money available in order to help practising science teachers attend this conference?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Although I believe that approval has been given for some teachers to attend this conference, I will obtain a report to make sure.

CHOWILLA DAM

Mr. HUDSON: Concerning the pamphlet entitled *Fourteen Facts about Chowilla* prepared by the Government, can the Premier say to what audience this pamphlet was directed, whom is it designed to convince, how many have been printed, and at what cost?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will obtain the exact figures tomorrow but, from memory, 15,000 have been printed at a cost of about \$1,000. Distribution through the magazine of the Murray Valley Development League has been about 8,000, and it has been sent to members of the Commonwealth and other State Parliaments. It is not a pamphlet designed to convince some people, although some need more convincing than others; but it is already evoking interest, and I have already had a Labor Senator writing for more information following the issue of this pamphlet.

Mr. Hudson: Did any of your colleagues write in and ask for further information?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Yes, we have received much correspondence. This is a non-Party effort to show those who read the pamphlet that this Government is still interested

in the project and that there are simple facts that can be used to correct the misconceptions that have been evidenced, in the Commonwealth Parliament for instance.

METROPOLITAN DRAINAGE

Mr. BROOMHILL: Has the Attorney-General received information from the Minister of Roads in reply to my question of June 26 concerning an application by the Woodville council for a loan of \$50,000 toward the cost of a drainage scheme, costing \$100,000, for the Henley Beach and Fulham Gardens area?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Minister of Roads informs me that the Woodville council has applied for a subsidy of \$48,935 (representing 50 per cent of the total estimated cost of \$97,870) for the continuation of Drain 1 in the Fulham Gardens scheme along Cheadle Street to Tapley Hill Road. This application was received on June 12, and the design has been checked. It is intended to recommend approval for the subsidy to be granted now that the funds available for the metropolitan drainage for 1968-69 are known.

RAIL SERVICES

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Recently, the Minister of Transport announced that he contemplated altering the schedule of some country passenger rail services in order to reduce the heavy annual deficit of the Railways Department, and as a result of that announcement there has been considerable discussion in my district. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Transport what is the approximate annual cost of running the Eudunda-Adelaide and the Kapunda-Adelaide passenger rail services, and the annual revenue obtained from them?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I shall obtain that information.

MIGRANTS

Mrs. BYRNE: The Premier will recall that on June 25 I suggested to him that, whilst overseas, he visit South Australia House and Australia House to try to find a solution to migrants' problems. Can the Premier say whether he discussed this important matter with officials whilst he was overseas?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am happy to inform the honourable member that I visited South Australia House and Australia House and used the former as a base for my operations during the two weeks I stayed in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Ryan: It is a credit to our officers.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Yes. South Australia is extremely well represented in London. If Mr. Milne has one quality it is enthusiasm. I did not go there to check on him, but people I met in London said spontaneously, "You are lucky to have such an Agent-General. He is so enthusiastic." I think all who have seen him at work will agree.

Mr. Ryan: He has a good office now.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I agree. I confirm from my personal observations that we are well represented from Mr. Milne down, and I pay a tribute to the staff that supports him. At Australia House I interviewed Mr. Kiddle and his deputy (Mr. Grant) of the Immigration Department, and we had useful talks about this State's need for migrants, particularly skilled metal tradesmen. I left them in an enthusiastic mood. I saw them several times both at official functions and at other functions. Each time I spoke to them about this subject, and they told me that they would be happy to take extreme care about South Australia's needs in this field and to co-operate where necessary.

RABBITS

Mr. NANKIVELL: Like many other country members I am concerned at the increase in the rabbit population that has occurred recently as a result of the improved season. As this would seem to be a good year to administer myxomatosis, will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture what action his department is taking, and whether it has favourably considered the possibility of using the European rabbit flea as a vector?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will obtain a report on the use of the European rabbit flea, about which I have read and which I understand is showing signs of success in the spreading of myxomatosis. The member for Albert is justified in expressing concern at the increase in the number of rabbits in various parts of the State. After discussing various problems with the Vermin Advisory Committee, I decided to call a conference, which is to be held in Adelaide on Monday, September 16, and which will be attended by representatives of district councils. Invitations are being sent to representatives of various primary-producer organizations to attend the conference also. The whole problem of rabbit control and

extermination will be discussed, including such matters as myxomatosis, the use of 1080 poison and the various administrative problems associated with rabbit destruction, on the basis of a community effort.

MOUNT GAMBIER CROSSINGS

Mr. BURDON: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Transport, a reply to the question I previously asked about certain railway crossings in Mount Gambier?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Minister of Transport reports that the inter-departmental committee charged with the responsibility of assessing priorities has made recommendations concerning automatic protection at level crossings which should be provided during the current financial year. Its recommendations did not include any of the level crossings at Mount Gambier. A record is kept of certain crossings where it is considered that the hazard is such that protection would be desirable in due course, and the level crossings at Crouch Street and Commercial Street West are included in that list.

BOOLEROO CENTRE ROAD

Mr. VENNING: I understand that provision is made in the Estimates to seal the Murray Town to Booleroo Centre Road in this current financial year. Situated along this road is Magnus Hill, around which the road has previously gone. Although some work has been done in bringing the road over Magnus Hill, that work at present seems to have come to a standstill. Will the Attorney-General obtain from the Minister of Roads a report on the sealing of the road from Murray Town to Booleroo Centre in its entirety?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

WHYALLA HOUSING

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Will the Minister of Housing ascertain the number of outstanding applications in Whyalla for Housing Trust rental and purchase houses and the present waiting time for each type of house?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes. The trust's country building programme is currently at the highest level ever and, of course, Whyalla figures substantially here. I think the current rate of building in Whyalla is about 600 units a year. That does not mean, however, that the demand is satisfied; on the other hand, it does not necessarily mean that the demand is greater at Whyalla than at other places. I will obtain the figures for the honourable member probably by tomorrow or Thursday.

MURRAY RIVER SALINITY

Mr. HUDSON: On June 25 last, when the Supplementary Estimates were being considered, I asked the Minister of Works about a series of matters connected with the control of salinity in the Murray River and also specifically about the provision in those Supplementary Estimates of \$60,000. If that information is now available, will the Minister give it to the House?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I regret that, inadvertently, I do not have this information with me, but I will bring down a report tomorrow.

RAIL STANDARDIZATION

Mr. VENNING: Has the Attorney-General a reply to the question I previously asked about rail standardization?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The report states:

Representations have been made to the Commonwealth Government seeking early approval for the next stage of rail standardization in South Australia. This includes a standard gauge line between Adelaide and Port Pirie, and certain standard gauge lines immediately north of Adelaide and on the Peterborough Division. Gladstone-Wilmington and Ororoo-Peterborough are included in this proposal. This programme (providing standard gauge connections to both the east and the west) is most important to the State. Every possible effort will be made to obtain early approval from the Commonwealth Government.

NARACOORTE BY-PASS

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads, a reply to the question I asked on June 26 about the by-pass outside Keith which joins the old road from Naracoorte to Keith?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The report states:

The design for the southern end of the Keith by-pass takes into account overall ease of movement and safety for traffic to and from the township of Keith. No accidents have occurred, and northbound vehicles turning right into Keith are legally obliged to give way to southbound, straight-through, by-pass traffic. Additional line marking will be installed further to clarify turning movements. Re-examination of design geometrics is not considered warranted at this time, but the position will be watched.

PARINGA PARK SCHOOL

Mr. HUDSON: In a recent reply to a letter I had written to the Minister of Education, I was told that there were no immediate plans to rebuild the Paringa Park Primary School on land which the department has

available only a few hundred yards west of the present school. It has since come to my attention that this land, a significant area of about seven or eight acres, has now been leased to Hamilton's wineries for three years. Can the Minister of Education say whether the Education Department has leased this land and, if it has, will she provide me with all the details relating to the terms of the lease and the conditions under which the land has been leased?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will bring this report down with me tomorrow.

MODBURY SEWERAGE

Mrs. BYRNE: Can the Minister of Works say whether the Engineering and Water Supply Department has plans to sewer an area at Modbury, between the Main North-East and Smart Roads, including such streets as Jenkins Street, Raymond Road and others, which area is adjacent to the Tea Tree Gully council chambers? If it has such plans, when will the work commence? If it has not, can the Minister say whether the department plans to sewer this area in conjunction with the city of Tea Tree Gully?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I will seek the information the member requires.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. GILES: Has the Attorney-General answers to my questions of June 26 regarding council contributions to road grants and greater authority for local government bodies?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The replies are as follows:

(1) Policy on council contributions to road grants: Contributions required from councils for grants made to them from highways funds vary according to benefits to be derived by the State, as opposed to purely local benefits. Local roads which are arterial as between districts could be subject to a lower or no contribution in relation to one that carried purely local traffic. There is a need for the adoption of a uniform policy for the whole State, and some investigations to develop an acceptable system have been made in the past. However, until a complete classification of the existing road system into specific types, that is national routes, State highways, main roads, district roads and others, has been carried out, a uniform policy cannot be developed.

(2) Policy towards granting greater autonomy: It is presumed that "granting greater autonomy to local government" refers to

councils being given greater responsibilities in relation to road construction. The trend over the past 10 years has been to divert more funds to those councils where road needs exist and which are considered capable of executing works to acceptable standards. The future allocation of funds to councils must, of necessity, be on a selective basis, depending on the capabilities and efficiency of particular councils, combined with the road needs in their districts.

BRIGHTON ROAD

Mr. HUDSON: I understand that work on the widening and resurfacing of Brighton Road, starting originally from the southern end, is scheduled to commence this year. Will the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads, obtain from his colleague as detailed a programme as can be provided at this stage of the schedule of work to be carried out on the widening and resurfacing of Brighton Road? I ask this question particularly because the surface of Brighton Road along a good part of its length is very poor and, particularly south of the Sturt Road, the surface has been subject to some deterioration in recent months. The sooner work can commence on this project the better it will be for residents of this area.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will ask my colleague about this matter.

CHRISTIES BEACH AND NOARLUNGA SEWERAGE SYSTEM

The SPEAKER laid on the table the report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence, on the Christies Beach and Noarlunga Sewerage System.

Ordered that report be printed.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Consideration of committee's report.

Mr. ARNOLD (Chaffey): It is an honour to be asked to move the adoption of the Address in Reply to the excellent Speech delivered by his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor in opening the second session of the 39th Parliament, and I am sure members on both sides will join me in wishing His Excellency a speedy recovery from the operation about which we regretfully learnt soon after the opening of this session. I pay a tribute to former members who have passed on since the opening of the first session. I refer to the late

Francis Henry Walsh, the late John Frederick Walsh, the late Ronald William Rex Hunt, the late Clement James Drummond Smith, and the late Edward Daniel Alexander Bagot. Although I did not know these gentlemen personally, I had the greatest respect for the manner in which they served their country and for the integrity with which they carried out their duties. My sympathy goes to their families.

I congratulate our new Premier on his leading the Liberal and Country League back to the Treasury benches and also on his creating the portfolio of Minister of Industrial Development, which he also holds. The scope of this portfolio is unlimited as one of our important policies is to encourage and support decentralized industries. To illustrate how successful such industries can be, I instance David Shearer Ltd., which was established in 1877 at Mannum. For 91 years, this company has been serving the needs of farmers throughout Australia as a major supplier of agricultural machinery. On May 31, the first Prince Philip prize for Australian design was awarded by his Royal Highness to David Shearer Ltd. for its entry, the XP.88 self-propelled header. The Government should be justly proud that this first award was made to a South Australian decentralized industry of such long standing. This header was one of about 90 designs of a product or system of original Australian design closely associated with Australian life and industry. The main aim of the award is to recognize a product that has made, or is likely to make, a substantial contribution to Australia's economic progress. The five Australian judges, eminent men from the Eastern States and South Australia, were headed by His Royal Highness Prince Philip.

The entries included coolie hats, office furniture, machine tools, racing car engines and agricultural equipment. It is indeed an honour for a South Australian industry to be awarded this prize, but it is even more gratifying that it is one of our decentralized industries. This indicates very clearly how well a country establishment can function and attract competent and efficient executives and staff on equal terms with industries centralized in our capital city. This company had humble beginnings in 1877. It has progressed and expanded and now employs about 400 persons, who earn an annual payroll of about \$600,000. However, examples such as this are all too few, and the Premier will have

numerous avenues open to him for promoting industrial development, especially decentralized industry.

One of the biggest problems facing decentralized industry in this State is rental housing. Without this, it is extremely difficult to attract employees to country industry. In the Upper Murray the housing waiting time is from nine to 12 months, so in the interests of decentralization in this State I sincerely hope the Minister of Housing, in conjunction with the Housing Trust, will be able to improve this situation in the near future. The future of this State will depend on the Chowilla dam. The Government is continuing work on the second Morgan-Whyalla main and on the mains from Tailem Bend to Keith, Swan Reach to Stockwell and Murray Bridge to Onkaparinga. Sir, I am most pleased about this, because it proves the faith the Government has that the Chowilla dam will be built. Without Chowilla we would have millions of dollars worth of mains running around this State without having any water to go through them. Without this water industrial development throughout the State, including development in Adelaide and Whyalla, will be just wishful thinking and all the industrial development plans in the world will be worthless.

I consider, Mr. Speaker, that it is time a committee was set up by the Government to inquire into all aspects of water diversion in this State. The present injustices are incredible, inasmuch as the person who has done the right thing about his water licence and the acres he has planted is being penalized.

Many private irrigators along the river have a 40-acre or 50-acre block of land and a licence for only five or 10 acres. These people were planting two or three additional acres each year, when they could afford it, and then suddenly the granting of further licences was suspended. The families concerned are now in a serious financial position. However, last year the previous Government allocated to companies several licences over large areas on the ground that the companies had made prior arrangements. What more prior arrangements or commitments to prove a small private irrigator's intentions were needed than the installation of a pumping plant and rising main capable of irrigating his 40 or 50 acres, despite the fact that he had a licence for only 10 acres? The committee should determine what is a living area for a family and make recommendations to the Government regarding people who were committed to the

industry before the suspension of further licences. If the river storages upstream are in a satisfactory condition soon, this step should be taken, and there must be no turning back. Chowilla must be built: if it is, the development of South Australia will once again leap ahead.

It is a disgrace that, although in an average year about 6,000,000 or 7,000,000 acre feet of water flows into South Australia from the Eastern States, we are able to make effective use of only about 500,000 acre feet. It is not only disgraceful but it shows small-mindedness on the part of the other three parties to the Chowilla agreement. The concept of Chowilla is backed by experts in the engineering field, engineers who have had experience building dams throughout the world under all conditions. Yet it is hotly criticized by public figures in the Eastern States, many of whom have never even been to the Chowilla site; even if they had, they would probably still not be able to make an intelligent comment. Any industry forced to stagnate must start to go backwards. This is the case regarding industries in this State that depend on irrigation. At Renmark (the original irrigation scheme in this country) the irrigation trust has embarked on the most modern rehabilitation programme ever attempted; it includes drainage and a new pumping system. However, as things stand no prospects exist for expanding.

The average holding in Renmark is 15 acres, and 155 properties have five acres and less; in fact, 324 properties have 10 acres and less. This is a sound business venture as long as the area continues to develop. The Renmark Irrigation Trust is committed to pay \$20,400 annually for 40 years to repay the drainage loan. As from 1970, it is expected that the annual repayment on the 123A work (the new pumping station and rising mains) will be about \$56,000. For the 123B work, which is now in progress and which represents the distribution system from the rising mains, the trust will have to find \$100,000 annually for the next 10 years. In all, Sir, this represents an enormous investment that will be sound provided the area can continue to develop. We have been wavering around long enough: it is high time we acted on our convictions. As soon as the Dartmouth investigations are completed, we must be ready to make our stand or we will forever remain a puppet in the hands of the Eastern States.

While dealing with water supply, I ask the Minister of Lands to examine closely why it is necessary to stop the conversion to permanent

planting of vegetable land in the Cobdogla and Berri irrigation areas. This land has been irrigated continuously for many years. Moreover, land under permanent planting requires considerably less water than does land used for annual crops. In many cases, I could show that the water used for growing vegetables is twice that used for growing vines. At a time like this, with a shortage of wine grapes looming, it is short-sighted planning if we force this industry to expand further in the Eastern States, as we are the undisputed leaders of the wine industry in Australia.

It is gratifying to see the changed attitude to the conversion of miscellaneous leases to perpetual leases. Once again the right of freehold will be granted. This in itself has contributed considerably to the increased confidence that now exists in the State since we have resumed Government. I support wholeheartedly the right of any person to have security of tenure, especially when such a person has invested most of his own capital in developing a section of country. Yet, as things were, the tenure of miscellaneous leases was worthless to such people from a banking point of view. They were unable to borrow for further development or to build a house for their family. This problem was more critical in my district than elsewhere, because this area seems to have been plagued by restrictions, mainly as a result of its being set aside as a Government irrigation area. However, with the continuation of the present attitude, the productivity of the area will soon increase and everyone will benefit. In the Government irrigation areas of the Upper Murray exists an urgent need for the replacement of the remaining original old earthen channels. Besides being inefficient and wasteful, they are seriously contributing to the seepage problem, which in turn requires the extension of the comprehensive drainage system. In certain areas the extension of drainage outlets is necessary; I will discuss this matter with the Minister later. However, having been involved in the industry all my life, I believe that many of the drainage problems can be avoided if the earthen main channels of the department are replaced by cement channels or pipes as soon as it is humanly possible.

His Excellency mentioned the great importance that his Government attached to housing, and this was most gratifying. I agree that we should encourage building societies that extend into the higher ratio lending (that is, up to 90 per cent of loans) using the Housing Loans Insurance Corporation to guarantee mortgages.

Generally speaking, the average level of first mortgages available to house purchasers has been lower in South Australia than in other States. Although the building costs are somewhat lower in South Australia, I consider that the average loan has not been comparable with the averages in the other States. Thus the number requiring second mortgage borrowing has been higher in South Australia than elsewhere in Australia except the Australian Capital Territory. In support of the Government's objectives to rectify this problem as stated in paragraph 11 of His Excellency's Speech, I quote from the *Financial Review* of July 9, 1968, as follows:

A young doctor was recently trying to raise the finance to buy an \$18,000 home. In the short time he had been in practice he had saved \$2,000, but this was a long way short of the asking price of the house on which he had set his heart. His bank manager, he found, was friendly but unable to help as it was "bank policy" to restrict individual loans to a maximum of around \$8,500—far short of the loan he required. But to his surpris and delight he was able to obtain the \$16,000 loan he needed from a permanent building society.

And just as the finance companies emerged from a position of comparative obscurity in the late 1950's to their present dominant position, the permanent building societies are fast establishing themselves as the hottest financial growth prospects of the late sixties. Although permanent building societies have existed in Australia for more than a hundred years, it was not until the early sixties that they began to gather momentum and over the past few years their growth has been little short of phenomenal.

From \$32,000,000 in loans granted by Australian permanent building societies in 1963, this figure grew to \$46,000,000 in 1964 and \$60,000,000 in 1965—almost double the 1963 figures. In 1966 lending rose to \$75,000,000 and last year it jumped to \$115,000,000. Mr. J. S. Wood, the Federal President of the Australian Association of Permanent Building Societies, says that loans during the current calendar year will top the \$200,000,000 mark. This figure is more than six times the \$32,000,000 loaned only five years ago.

By 1970 permanent building societies in New South Wales will be able to supply all the housing finance that is needed in this State, predicts Mr. Angus W. Moir, General Manager of Australia's largest permanent building society, the N.S.W. Permanent. In the first six months of 1968 permanent building societies in New South Wales lent just on \$50,000,000, indicating that they should lend \$100,000,000 this year in New South Wales alone.

In Western Australia they have been growing at a staggering rate. Loans have increased from \$3,900,000 in the June quarter of 1967 to \$7,000,000 in the three months to March 31 this year.

Western Australian permanent building societies are currently lending at the rate of \$30,000,000 a year—double last year's figure

—the general manager of the Perth Building Society, Mr. H. W. Sorensen, said last week. So large has been its growth that the society has become the largest single lender of housing finance in the State, having recently moved past the Commonwealth Savings Bank. Assets growth of the 105-year-old Perth Building Society over the past 12 months had equalled its growth during its first 100 years, Mr. Sorensen said.

Queensland shows the same picture and lending this year should be well ahead of last year's \$25,000,000. One of the Brisbane societies, the Metropolitan Permanent, reports that its funds have jumped from \$1,300,000 at June 30, 1967, to the present figure of \$5,700,000, and lending is currently well over double the rate of a year ago. Victoria is running a long way behind these States in the development of its permanent building societies—no doubt partly because of the big hold the State Savings Bank of Victoria has on the savings field. Loans made in the first six months of 1968 totalled \$11,000,000 in Victoria, indicating a figure of more than \$20,000,000 for the full year. This compares with \$7,100,000 in the six months to June last year.

In Tasmania the permanents should top \$7,000,000 this year, while in South Australia the figure will be around \$6,000,000. In recent months the permanents have moved past the private savings banks in size as providers of housing finance. If they can maintain their current rate of growth, by the mid-1970's they will be challenging the savings banks as Australia's largest providers of home finance. However, they are still a long way behind the total volume of lending when the figures for the Commonwealth Savings Bank and other Government banks are added to those of the private banks.

Indeed, the N.S.W. Permanent late last year reached a unique position in Australian housing finance when it advertised that it had funds available for housing loans—suggesting that an end to the chronic shortage of finance for housing could soon be in sight. Mr. Moir said: "We have got to the stage where we have almost eliminated the waiting period for housing loans. A couple of years ago people had to wait two or three months before they could get a loan from a permanent building society."

Even so, the Australian building societies are only small when compared with their counterparts in other countries. In the United Kingdom, United States and South Africa the permanent building societies dominate the pass-book savings field and savings banks so familiar to Australians play only a minor role in attracting savings. In Britain, building societies provide the funds for about 80 per cent of all home-ownership finance, while in the U.S. the giant savings and loans associations finance the bulk of housing purchases.

During May, the savings and loans associations in the United States attracted nearly \$US800,000,000 in new funds, while savings bank deposits rose by only \$360,000,000. What are the reasons behind this sudden and explosive growth of the permanent building

society movement? In a way it is an extraordinary feature of their development that the permanent building societies in Australia, which originated more than 100 years ago, have lain dormant for so long, only to surge forward suddenly over the past few years.

Industry leaders are happy to advance any number of theories for the permanents' sudden coming of age, but none of the reasons appear to explain the phenomenon fully. Main reason given is that for the first time in their long history they have begun to campaign actively for funds, and their persistent advertising for funds bears witness to this.

Another is the development of mortgage insurance which, in the short period that it has been available in Australia, has caused a mild revolution in housing finance. Recent tightening of regulations governing the operations of permanent building societies has been another factor, providing added safeguards for investors. Also the establishment of the Government's home saving-grant scheme, under which home seekers can receive up to \$500 on the basis of one dollar for every three saved to a maximum of \$1,500 in savings, has encouraged young people to begin saving with a permanent building society.

Broadly, mortgage insurance is the insurance of the mortgage securing a housing loan so that in the event (generally unlikely) that the borrower defaults in repayments, the lender does not suffer a loss. The two insurers, Housing Loans Insurance Corporation, a statutory authority of the Commonwealth Government, and Mortgage Guarantee Insurance Corporation of Australia Ltd., a subsidiary of Mortgage Guarantee Corporation of Milwaukee, insure mortgages up to 90 per cent and in some cases 95 per cent of the value of a house.

As borrowers the permanents are proving attractive to small investors who want a safe fixed interest investment at much better than savings bank interest rates.

On the lending side the permanents, through the use of mortgage insurance, are going a long way towards eliminating the "deposit gap" which required borrowers to seek costly second-mortgage finance because of the lack of first-mortgage finance.

I quote now from the *Financial Review* of July 10, as follows:

Banks argue that the growth of the building societies is promoting a high interest rate structure in housing. But this is countered by the permanents who say that their growth has been almost entirely at the expense of the high cost second-mortgage lenders which, they say, have blossomed because of the banks' restrictive lending policies.

As a guide to building in Australia, I now quote from Philip Shrapnel & Co. Pty. Ltd. business forecasts and economic and market research, building industry prospects, June, 1968, as follows:

Excellent building approvals in May: Building approvals in May for Australia as a whole stood at the record seasonally adjusted annual

rate of \$2,160,000,000 following rises in both dwelling and non-dwelling approvals. The rate for dwelling approvals edged up to \$1,162,000,000 while there was a substantial rise in non-dwelling approvals to a rate of \$998,000,000. A pleasing feature was the increase in private flat approvals in New South Wales, and private house approvals were also exceptionally high in that State. Approvals for both houses and flats in Victoria are now running slightly ahead of our forecasts, which is a good sign for 1968-69. Queensland again returned satisfactory house approvals in May, but the slackness in flat approvals continued. Boom conditions continue in Western Australian housing and, although there is some evidence for a slowing down in the rate of dwelling approvals, the actual level is an outstanding 40 per cent above the level of a year ago. Approvals in South Australia were not good, indicating that the long awaited "take-off" towards definite recovery in housing is yet to come.

In all, Mr. Speaker, as paragraph 11 of His Excellency's Speech is put into operation it will lift the building industry from its low ebb and restore the confidence of the individual. I congratulate the Government on the stand it is taking and the manner in which it is handling this problem.

On looking around the electoral district of Chaffey, one appreciates that one of the most pressing needs of the people must surely be improved police station facilities at Berri. Existing facilities are totally inadequate. The station consists of one room, measuring about 18ft. by 13ft., and six permanent officers, one motor traffic constable, one Criminal Investigation Branch officer and one woman police officer all work from this one room. I do not know about the staff but it is not fair to the public for three or four persons to be interviewed at one time by the police in the same room. I hope the Government will soon be able to improve this situation and at the same time provide for a social welfare officer. We in the Upper Murray are fortunate that we have numerous voluntary organizations working for the social welfare of the people, and co-ordination with a social welfare officer would make the efforts of the voluntary organizations all the more effective.

Last Saturday morning the Minister of Health visited Barmera, inspected the Government hospital and discussed the future with the residents of the district. It is futile for the Government to continue wasting good money on the existing building, as the white ants eat it as fast as the department replaces it. As the population of the Upper Murray is between 25,000 and 30,000 (depending on one's definition of the Upper Murray) the case

for replacing this Government hospital must be strong, and I shall be looking forward to the forthcoming discussions. Any proposals must be put to the residents at a public meeting to ascertain their attitude before anything definite can be done in this problem.

I deal now with education. It is pleasing to see the new primary schools at Berri and Renmark taking shape. The modern bright surroundings should be an incentive to students and teaching staff alike. However, the boys craft centre facilities at the Renmark High School are completely inadequate. In an area of primary industry such as this a course in sheet metal work and welding would be invaluable, as many of the students will be returning to the land on leaving school. At a time when primary producers are being continually told they will have to find ways to reduce their costs if they are to make the industry pay, I believe the craft course is just as important as any other subject, and I should like to see the Government re-assess the value of this course and upgrade the priority of craft centres, especially in the light of the conditions existing at Renmark, and do everything possible to have a new craft centre included in the 1968-69 programme for the school.

Mr. WARDLE (Murray): Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in seconding the motion. I associate myself with other members of this House in expressing my loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen, and I express my respects to Sir Mellis Napier on the way in which he opened the second session of the Thirty-ninth Parliament on June 25. We are all aware of and appreciate the long and effective service Sir Mellis has given this State, and we trust he will have a speedy and complete recovery from his recent illness. I extend condolences to the relatives of former members who have passed away in recent months and, although I did not personally know them, I am aware of the dedicated service which they gave respectively to this State. I congratulate the Leader of my Party, Mr. Steele Hall, on becoming Premier of South Australia, and I congratulate the members of my Party who have been appointed Ministers.

I am conscious of the honour being paid to me, and the District of Murray in particular, in having the responsibility of seconding this motion. I am only the second Liberal member for the District of Murray to have been elected to this House in the last 30 years, Mr. H. B. White having faithfully served the District of Murray from 1953 to 1956 in the Thirty-fourth Parliament. I appreciate the

splendid co-operation, enthusiasm, and support given to me by people of all ages in the District of Murray. This support created one of the most dramatic "swings" in South Australian political history, if not in Australia.

It has always been a puzzle to political experts that my district has voted so strongly in favour of my Party in Commonwealth elections but has completely reversed the figures in almost the same proportion on a State basis, for this House. I hope the confidence shown in my election shall not be misplaced, as I intend to follow my practice of serving well the needs of all constituents in my district. The four months during which I have been privileged to serve my district have been rewarding and informative—rewarding in being able to assist (often through the prompt action of Ministers of this Government) with the many problems which my constituents have had, particularly in drought relief, water supplies, pensions, and help generally for people in need, and informative through a better understanding of the broader work of Government generally, however incomplete this understanding may be now.

I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to the highest office this House can bestow. With the honourable member for Stuart, you, Sir, have the distinction of being the longest serving member at present in this House, having served for more than 35 years, and your previous experience as Speaker will, I believe, adequately equip you to administer this Chamber without fear or favour. As one of the eight new members in this Thirtieth Parliament I trust that this infusion of new blood will not make your task too difficult and that due respect will be paid to your office and to you. As a boy living in the district of Ridley during the depression years, I have vivid recollections of the name Stott being repeated often in our house. Many elderly men and their sons, who lived in the Murray Mallee area during the 1930's, particularly remember the assistance given to them by you in those early years of your Parliamentary career. As a new member I thank the Clerk of the House of Assembly, Mr. Gordon Combe, for organizing several orientation sessions to instruct new members in the function and procedure of Parliament. Also, I thank members of the Parliamentary staff for their courtesy and helpfulness.

I now turn to certain features of my district and its development, and to some aspects referred to in the very ambitious programme of proposed legislation and works outlined in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech. I know that what I have to say is parochial, but there will be opportunities in the future to apply one's mind to the broader field of Government. The District of Murray covers an area of more than 2,100 square miles, and has 8,727 electors on the roll. Although this is not a large area compared with several of the outlying country seats, few districts can claim such a diversified range of primary products, including dairying, cereal and woolgrowing, stone fruits, citrus, vines, glasshouse tomatoes and cucumbers, eggs, broiler chickens, turkey raising, fat lambs, beef cattle, pigs, and vegetables. Increasing numbers of people are being employed in processing locally grown primary products, such as flour millers and stock foods, meat works, dairy produce, oat millers, processed chicken and canned fruit. Although a co-operative cannery has been closed stone fruit is still being canned privately.

Secondary industry in the District of Murray is largely based on the production of agricultural machinery, dairying equipment and electrical switch gear, and race horse starting gates. As the member for Chaffey said it is worth noting that David Shearer Ltd. of Mannum was recently awarded the first Prince Philip prize for Australian design. The award was made for the self-propelled header, which was one of 90 entries in the contest.

I turn now to the need for greater water conservation and reticulation. The 1967 drought was further convincing proof of the need for additional water storage in South Australia, if such proof was necessary. The need for additional water storage in order to assist in developing industry in this State and to cope with the growth of the metropolitan area is only part of the necessity to build Chowilla dam. Obviously the Murray Valley area in South Australia must be used for greater production of fruit, vegetables, dairy products, meat, and stock food. Areas suitable for irrigation are available, but producers, who are anxious to extend their industries, are restricted because of the limited water supply. Not only is the producer restricted in the additional area he desires to develop because of not being able to get a water licence to irrigate that area, but also the fall of the Murray River during the drought of about 2ft. 6in. caused an expenditure of many thousands of dollars (as well as inconvenience

and time lost) to bring water to pumps through newly constructed channels or to take pumps and power to the restricted banks of the river.

The dairying industry is an extremely important primary industry in my district. Whilst we are familiar with the fact that the dairying industry receives a Commonwealth subsidy and that the Commonwealth Government is making available about \$25,000,000 in order to help the dairying industry rehabilitate itself, nevertheless I believe that dairy farmers along the lower reaches of the Murray River are some of the most efficient in the Commonwealth. Of the 99,000,000 gallons of milk produced in this State for the year 1966-67, 12,300,000 gallons were produced by 230 dairy farmers on 13,000 acres of reclaimed swamp land from Mannum to Wellington, some of the richest dairy farming land in the world. This 12,300,000 gallons of milk were produced by 8 per cent of the State's cow population. Each cow in this area averages about 750 to 800 gallons of milk a year, compared with the excellent South Australian average of 600 gallons.

Production in the area has doubled since the flood year of 1956 and, according to Australian standards, these dairymen are taking advantage of technical developments in pasture improvement and animal husbandry, and as they have worked intelligently and diligently many of these units are an economic success. Undoubtedly, assistance is required from the Commonwealth Government where the unit is too small to be an economic proposition.

One of the pleasing features in this industry is the number of young men with good educational qualifications who are taking an active interest in the production and processing of dairy produce. Another pleasing aspect is the improvement in the quality of milk produced by its being handled in refrigerated storage vats on the producer's property and in being picked up by stainless steel bulk road tankers with a storage capacity of about 2,000 gallons. The confidence shown by Southern Farmers Co-operative Limited by erecting a new factory in Murray Bridge seems to justify the belief that the industry is still economically sound.

It is interesting to note that some good, at least, has resulted from the drought in that several landholders have taken advantage of the river's being so low and have been able to reclaim more than 1,000 acres of swamp flats that will be used for dairying and beef production. These swamp flats have been under several feet of water for many years.

If a surplus of water flows down the Murray River and out to the sea this spring, I should like to see temporary licences re-introduced allowing producers to use additional equipment installed and used during the drought. These temporary licences expired on June 30, 1968, but if re-issued on a temporary basis could be for 12 months' duration only. Provided surplus water is flowing out to sea, this system could continue until South Australia's water quota is permanently increased.

Therefore, I pledge my support to the Government to have the Chowilla dam built, in order to increase this State's permanent water supply and improve water quality. Water reticulation within the precincts of the river is not something which everybody automatically enjoys, however ironical it may seem. Whilst reticulated water has been taken through thousands of miles of mains throughout this State, and due credit must be given to the construction and maintenance authority for this development over the years, people living within several miles of the river are without reticulated water. I stress the importance of three schemes currently being considered by the Government in the hundreds of Moblong, Finnis and Seymour, all of which are in the District of Murray.

I believe that I would be expressing the appreciation of all country people in congratulating the Electricity Trust of South Australia, its officers and employees, for the magnificent way in which power has been made available not only to densely populated areas but also to the sparsely populated areas of this State. The introduction of the single wire earth return system of electricity reticulation has made possible the great extension of rural power supplies. During 1966-67, 1,049 miles of s.w.e.r. service were built, supplying 1,076 consumers. To June 30, 1967, 8,445 miles of s.w.e.r. service had been constructed since the trust's inception. As many as 380,644 consumers are supplied directly by the trust, of whom 104,862 are country consumers, and at that date the trust was supplying electricity to more than 98 per cent of all homes in South Australia.

The District of Murray has several sparsely populated areas in the hundreds of Bowhill, Forster, and Ettrick. Electricity was made available to the hundred of Forster earlier this month; in May this year the northern half of the hundred of Burdett received its supply and the southern portion is expected to be completed in December of this year. The supply of electricity in the hundred of Bowhill is

expected to be completed in May, 1969, subject to quotations for supply being accepted by the applicants. When these installations are complete the whole of the district will be served with reticulated power. The story of the trust's programme and activities in rural areas is one of great achievement, and is a personal tribute to Sir Thomas Playford and to previous Governments.

I now refer to the broiler chicken industry, which has grown faster than any other industry over recent years. Half of South Australia's total chicken production comes from the District of Murray. In 1960, South Australia produced 500,000 chickens. For the year ended June 30, 1967, more than 3,500,000 chickens were slaughtered for human consumption and the figure to June, 1968, is expected to be almost 5,000,000. South Australia sells very little chicken in other States and does not export chicken at all. About 15 per cent of our total consumption in South Australia comes from other States.

In 1960 every South Australian ate $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of chicken meat a year; in March of this year chicken consumption had risen to $12\frac{1}{2}$ lb. a head. In the United States of America the annual per capita consumption is 33 lb. In 1960 a $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. live-weight bird took 14 weeks to produce and consumed 14 lb. of feed. In 1968 a $3\frac{1}{2}$ lb. live-weight bird can be produced in nine weeks from $8\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of feed. Almost 70 per cent of the total processed feed for multipliers and chicken growers is manufactured in Murray Bridge and the quantities of grain used are:

Wheat	720,000 bushels
Barley	272,000 bushels
Meat meal	3,000 tons
Oats	26,500 bushels

However, the industry is not without its difficulties and its fast growing rate has resulted in overproduction, which is its biggest problem. It is reliably estimated that at present there are more than 10,000,000 chickens in cold storage throughout Australia.

I believe it is essential for legislation to be passed in this State concerning the moisture content of chicken and I am pleased to note that the recent conference of Ministers of Agriculture in Queensland gave to South Australia the responsibility of preparing proposed draft legislation for this purpose. I am pleased to note in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech the Government's intention to provide adequate roads for the further development of this State. I believe that South Australians generally would have little to complain about

concerning most main arterial roads throughout this State, and the Highways Department and local government share alike in the credit. However, I bring to the notice of the Government a section of unsealed road from the Blanchetown bridge leading into the Lower Murray area, a distance of 50 to 60 miles, which would serve a wide area of primary production and create a tourist link along the entire Murray Valley from the Snowy Mountains to the sea.

For many years I have been associated with the Murray Valley Development League. Its aims are to establish 1,000,000 people in the valley (the population of the valley is approximately one-third of a million at present) and to assist in the co-ordination of services between States and the general development of the area as a whole. Fifty-seven local government councils in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia formed the league in 1944 and since then have contributed \$500,000 of self-help to their organization. For several years the South Australian Government has been contributing \$1,000 a year and I hope the Treasurer has this worthy organization on his Budget sheet for the coming financial year.

One of the strong features of the Murray Valley Development League is its promotion of tourism. A tourist promotion council has been created, and six regional tourist committees have been established throughout the area. I believe the lower reaches of the Murray have a vast tourist potential and in a few years will become a densely populated aquatic playground, which will be especially patronized by people living in the metropolitan area. In this event, Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important for this Government seriously to consider registering all power-driven craft and the necessity for drivers only over a certain age to be licensed. All honourable members will know that six deaths at least have occurred on the lower reaches of the Murray in the last two summers. I find responsible officers in ski clubs believe that registering a boat with some means of identification, and licensing a driver, in no way detract from the sport but at least give the policing authority an opportunity to detect an offence against the rules of the river.

Mr. Speaker, from reading *Hansard*, it is obvious to me that much has been said over the years, in this House, concerning decentralization of industry. Nobody is pleased to see the shift of population from country to city. Water, electricity, interstate roads, interstate

railways, and labour, especially female labour, are assets which Murray Bridge and Taillem Bend could give to industry, and I bring this to the notice of the Government, realizing that the manufacturer must be able to supply his raw material and freight his product to its market all within the economic structure of the industry.

Fortunately, in the Murray District, we have two towns, Mannum and Murray Bridge, which are expanding. Mannum is a classic example of what an industry can do for a country town. Here, over 400 employees (who are producing equipment for primary production) live within walking distance of the David Shearer factory and have the advantage of living in the open spaces adjoining one of the most attractive sections of the Murray River.

The growth of Murray Bridge, on the other hand, is not only centred around the manufacture of equipment for primary production: many people are involved in the processing of primary produce, plus the decentralization of Government departments, which have established "district headquarters", serving the eastern and upper south-eastern portions of the State. These include the Police Department, Electricity Trust, Lands Department, Irriga-

tion Branch, the Agriculture, Highways, and Public Buildings Departments, Local Court, and Engineering and Water Supply Department. I commend previous Governments for adopting this policy, which not only brings technical people closer to their work but also materially assists the growth of country areas. I notice also in the opening Speech of the Lieutenant-Governor that the Government is considering establishing a school dental clinic at Murray Bridge. I hope soon to see the Public Health Department appoint an inspector in the area as well.

I thank all members on both sides for their friendliness and help in my assimilation into a strange vocation. The debate in this Chamber, I have no doubt, will be vigorous and fearless but I believe we should never relinquish our respect for each other as men who have been elected to this Chamber by the people of this State to perform the function of government.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, July 24, at 2 p.m.