

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, July 24, 1968

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

### 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: On a motion to suspend Standing Orders, it is necessary to count the House. There being present an absolute majority of the whole number of the members of the House, I accept the motion to suspend Standing Orders. Is the motion seconded?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I wish to speak to the motion, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Opposition.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The reason for moving this motion is that electoral redistribution in South Australia is a matter of prime urgency and importance. During the last Parliament a measure that was passed by an absolute majority in this House provided for electoral redistribution, but it did not pass in another place. The matter could not be further tested under the deadlock provisions of the Constitution until there had been an intervening Lower House general election.

In the last election campaign the matter was discussed publicly. During the 1965-68 Parliament, the present Government took no action in Parliament on electoral redistribution and did not put forward any suggestions or policy, but at the time of the State elections the Premier announced that he had a plan. Well, Sir, since then many different statements have been made concerning that plan, but when the matter was last discussed in this House the Premier said that it was quite clear, that there were no tricks about it, that it was perfectly clear in his mind and that it would be proceeded with in due course. In the view of the Opposition, if the Premier intends to proceed, this is at any rate "in due course", even though it is already considerably late in the day.

Amongst this State's populace there is very grave disquiet about the electoral situation. This is widespread; it is not confined to members of my Party or to people who supported it at the elections.

Mr. Clark: And it is increasing.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, widely, and most severe comments have been made throughout Australia and in many places overseas on the electoral situation in this State. The Premier said that he was concerned at the comments made in other States, although he suggested that in some way I had induced every conservative newspaper in Australia, other than the *Adelaide Advertiser*, to comment in the way it has. I am not as good as he suggests: I cannot influence editorial opinion in this way. The comments in these editorials have resulted from the facts as those newspapers see them, and those facts are plain.

The effect of this disquiet not only in South Australia but also in other States and overseas reflects on the course of Government in this State, because if people are not satisfied with or confident about the stability or the support of the Government of this State they will not be confident of this State's future. Therefore, for the common weal of the people of this State and to ensure that we get the kind of development that we need, we need to satisfy the people here and in the rest of Australia immediately on this matter and get on with the job. The Premier's reason given publicly yesterday was that it was traditional at this stage to continue the Address in Reply debate. Surely this matter is urgent enough that we do not have to rely on a tradition of that kind, which has been set aside previously for matters much less publicly important than this.

We on this side are prepared to co-operate with the Government to facilitate the passage of necessary measures. We co-operated with the Government in passing the Supplementary Estimates, because that legislation was urgent State business and we would not hold it up. We will do everything possible to ensure that we will not interfere with the proper course of government in this State. We co-operated with the Government in the sittings of this House, and we are prepared to extend ourselves to considerable length to ensure that that is so to deal with this matter. It must be dealt with now.

The Premier has refused to introduce a measure but we have one that could be discussed immediately. Time and again I have

said that the best way to deal with this matter promptly (and I have had this offer open to the Premier since March 2) is to get around a table and work out something which would be effective and which would pass through both Houses of Parliament. We could work out something that would not be acting in contempt of Parliament. We had negotiations with Sir Thomas Playford when he was Premier and when we were in Opposition, and I see no reason why this sort of thing should not happen now.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Leader must confine his remarks to the reason for the suspension of Standing Orders.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will link up my remarks. It would be proper to have such talks. I believe that it is not necessary to have them privately, and I have not suggested private discussions. I am prepared to have open talks, and one of the easiest ways to settle the matter would be to get around a table and work it out. However, we cannot get the Premier to the conference table, so this is the only action we can take to have the matter heard. If the Premier will not come to the table, let us deal with the matter here. If his measure is not ready, he has had plenty of time to have it ready. We have one that could be debated now so that the matter could be dealt with immediately, and we have proposals to put before the House that could settle this matter and get it under way at the earliest opportunity. The people of this State, of whatever political persuasion, overwhelmingly desire this to be done. This is the view of 75,000 people who signed a petition to come to this House asking that the matter be dealt with urgently. I believe the Government should get on with the job that the people of this State desire it to do. We are prepared to co-operate, and we ask for the Government's co-operation so that people's minds can be set at rest and justice for the people of this State can be obtained. This action would satisfy others in Australia that this was a State with a stable Government capable of developing the State as it should be developed.

Mr. CORCORAN: I want to second the motion.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Premier. The Deputy Leader cannot second the motion. There can be only two speakers on this motion, and each is limited to 10 minutes. If the honourable Premier wishes to reply he has the opportunity now. Otherwise,

I cannot call on him. Before the Premier rises, to make the position clear I point out that Standing Order 470 (relating to the suspension of Standing Orders) provides:

The mover shall in every case be limited to 10 minutes in stating his reasons for seeking such suspension and one other member may be permitted to speak, subject to a like time limit but no further discussion shall be allowed.

I am sorry for the Deputy Leader, but if the Premier wishes to reply no-one else can speak.

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier): In taking this opportunity to reply to the Leader I do not wish to prevent the Deputy Leader from advancing his viewpoints. The Leader has put the situation on behalf of his Party, and I can agree with some of the things he has said. The situation that exists is holding up the business of good government in the sense that it is reflecting on South Australia. Whatever the reasons for the build-up to this situation may have been and for editorial comments appearing in the press in other States, I think nothing further will be gained from entering into a debate on how and why this has happened.

We have a situation that must be handled, as we have an electoral system that must be up-dated considerably. For this reason, I agree with the Leader that it is urgent that new proposals be considered. But I do not believe it is sufficiently urgent for this House to postpone the Address in Reply debate. We have assured the people, and I have assured the Leader, that we have no desire to hold up a proper consideration of the relevant measure, but I consider that that proper consideration will be adequately covered after the Address in Reply has been debated. As we have many new members in this House who have not yet been introduced to debate, I think that we should allow them to be heard and that we should finish the Address in Reply. Other important measures are to be dealt with, and the Leader knows how they build up. We must consider, on time, two financial provisions important to this State, and we do not wish to put off the Address in Reply and perhaps have it mixed up with those two other measures. We wish to get this debate out of the way. We believe that we can complete it this week or next week and, when we are able to do so, we will introduce a measure that will, I am sure, be properly debated in this House.

The SPEAKER: The Premier must link up his remarks with his reasons for opposing the suspension of Standing Orders.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: For this reason, I oppose the suspension. I do not oppose the suggestion that we should have electoral reform or that there should not be undue delay, but in opposing this motion I believe that no undue delay will be caused by our proceeding with the Address in Reply, which introduces new members of this House to debate and is in keeping with the courtesy to be paid to His Excellency. I remind the Leader that, in the last two years of the Government of which he was a member, no further proposals on electoral reform came forward, so surely it cannot be so urgent that a few weeks should not elapse. For this reason, the Government intends to adhere to the normal procedure and proceed with the Address in Reply. So, rather regretfully on that note, I must oppose the Leader's motion, but I do not do so for any reason associated with the subject matter.

The SPEAKER: The question is that Standing Orders be so far suspended as to enable the Leader of the Opposition 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. For the question say "Aye"; against the question say "No".

Opposition members: Aye.

Government members: No.

The SPEAKER: There being a dissentient voice, there must be a division.

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

### WARDANG ISLAND

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It has been reported recently in the press that there has been a lease by the Government of the area of Wardang Island to someone other than the Aboriginal Lands Trust. When I was Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and the trust

was set up, one of the first inquiries made of the Lands Department concerned Wardang Island. The information then conveyed to the trust and to me, as Minister, was that it would be impossible to obtain a lease of Wardang Island or the return to the Aboriginal people of the island, which had originally been their land, because of the terms of the lease with the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited. The sum of \$150,000 would have had to be found to compensate the company for its improvements on the island. It would appear from the press reports that the B.H.P. Company Limited is no longer the lessee but that the lease has been taken up by someone else and that, in the meantime, no communication has been made with the Aboriginals Lands Trust as to reasons why it was not to get the land. Wardang Island, originally part of the Point Pearce Aboriginal Reserve, was land removed from the Aboriginal people of South Australia, without compensation, when the lease was given to the B.H.P. Company Limited, and it does not appear from press reports, either from Ministerial statements or from the other releases, that there was communication between the Lands Department and the Minister on this matter. Can the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs say why nothing was done to obtain Wardang Island for the trust and to return to the Aboriginal people of South Australia land which was originally reserved for them and about which they feel decidedly bitter because it was removed from them without compensation?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: This is a matter that comes properly within the province of the Minister of Lands, who I suggest should answer it.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: First, to clear up one or two small matters, the Leader is not correct in saying that the lease was granted to the B.H.P. Company Limited: it is the Broken Hill Associated Smelters Proprietary Limited that has a lease, which expires in February, 1970. Previously, it was learnt that the B.H.A.S. did not intend to use Wardang Island for the whole of that time. I learned this only after I had approved of the transfer of the lease. An officer of the trust spoke to me about it and I asked for the relevant information from the Aboriginal Affairs Department. My colleague was away at the time and I found that the trust had raised the question of getting Wardang Island under its control in about December, 1966. At that time, the Leader marked the file on to the Minister of Lands and he obtained a

reply from the Land Board and passed it back to the trust. It was explained to the trust that the B.H.A.S. had put considerable installations on the island. It was also explained that, although at one time Wardang Island had been under the control of the Aboriginal Affairs Department, at the request of the previous board the Lands Department had taken the island back, I think in 1952. I understand that the request came mainly because those concerned could not get anyone to live on the island, but be that as it may.

I stress that at present this is not Crown land but subject to a lease that expires in 1970, and the Minister of Lands merely approves or disapproves of transfers. B.H.A.S. had its installations there and negotiated arrangements with the new transferee, whereupon the matter came before me for approval or disapproval. I approved the transfer and, in the normal course of events, notification was published in the *Government Gazette* for the required time, which I think is a fortnight. The matter had been mentioned many times in the press in a speculative way within the last two or three months before the action I have referred to was taken. However, no person spoke to me about the interest of the Aboriginal Lands Trust in this matter. At no time while the notification was being published in the *Government Gazette* did any member of the trust speak to me about the matter. It was only after no objection had been received that the transfer was approved, and after that time the trust spoke to me on the subject. In those circumstances, I do not understand how I could have been expected to know of the trust's interest in the land. In any case, I think that the information given to the trust by the Leader himself (the previous Minister of Aboriginal Affairs) would have discouraged the trust from persisting with the inquiry, in the same way as the information had discouraged it in the early months of 1967. Action has not been taken to return the land to the control of the Lands Department, nor has a lease been issued by that department, since I have been Minister. The lease has simply been transferred from one lessee to another and it will run until February, 1970.

Mr. CORCORAN: The Minister said that the remainder of the term of the present miscellaneous lease (which I take it to be) over Wardang Island, originally granted to B.H.A.S., had been transferred to another lessee. I am aware that many improvements of considerable value would have been made on the island, and no doubt the Minister's

approval to place these improvements on the island would have been obtained, as is necessary under the terms of the lease. However, it seems that the incoming lessee would have paid a considerable sum to B.H.A.S. for a limited term, which expires in February, 1970. Can the Minister say whether he or the Land Board has indicated to the incoming lessee whether he may surrender the present miscellaneous lease and be issued in lieu thereof with a perpetual lease over the area?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The letter that has been sent to the new lessee is to the effect that the lease expires in 1970 and that there is no assurance of any further action. That was all the lessee had until he came to see me the other day following press publicity. I discussed the matter with him and told him that I would consider his problems. I have made no decision, and have not told the lessee of any decision or of any other result. He came to see me because naturally he was worried about the publicity.

Mr. Corcoran: He would be worried about his security of tenure.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Naturally. He is not going into this with the idea of simply holding the island for two years and then leaving it. As he has received no assurance of anything else happening, he naturally (and, I think, wisely) came along and asked me about it. I have not given him an answer at present, but I am considering the matters he has raised.

Mr. HUDSON: In his original answer, the Minister said that, at the time he agreed to the transfer of the lease, he was not aware of any interest shown by the Aboriginal Lands Trust. Can he say whether there was any information of a previous approach made in relation to this matter at the end of 1966 or whether the docket contained any reply then given? If that information was in the docket, how did the Minister fail to notice it? Also, was this decision approved by Cabinet? Did any Cabinet member object to the transfer of this lease? Finally, will the Minister now assure the House that, whatever the decision he makes on this matter, the new lessee at least will not be given at any stage a perpetual lease over this island?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: As far as I know, the dockets I saw contained no reference to recent approaches by the trust. The dockets probably referred to the trust's raising the matter about two years ago, although I do not think this was actually identifiable. The reason I now know about the trust's interest

in 1966 is that, in the absence of the Attorney-General (who I believe was in another State at the time), I requested the docket from his department. The docket showed how the trust had inquired about the matter at, I think, its first meeting in December, 1966. The explanation given to the trust is set out in the docket. After that, no further action was taken by the trust. Therefore, I should think that, even from a careful examination of the Lands Department dockets, there would be no likelihood of ascertaining the slightest reference to the Aboriginal Lands Trust. However, without examining the dockets closely, I suppose such a reference did possibly exist. I definitely learned first about the trust's interest on being spoken to by a member of the trust about the matter and, then, on obtaining from the Aboriginal Affairs Department its docket.

Mr. Corcoran: This was after you had approved the lease.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes. During the last few months frequent references to the matter have been made in the press and proper notices have appeared in the *Government Gazette* that are specifically inserted there to enable people to raise objections. However, no objections have been raised.

I agreed to the course taken without taking the matter to Cabinet. I take to Cabinet only matters that I should take to it. Also, I take to Cabinet matters which I believe may raise some difficulty or concern affecting another Minister. However, the interest of any other Minister could not be recognized in this case at the time the decision was taken. I will give no assurance as to what will be done in the future. As I explained to the member for Millicent, I have been asked by the lessee about his position and I am considering my reply.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: When the Minister approved the transfer of the lease to the new lessee was he given any information about a payment by the new lessee to the old lessee as compensation for the approved improvements on the island and, if he was, how much was the consideration given for the improvements?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: In the case of an expiring lease, improvements are valued at their value to an incoming tenant. This was an existing lease, and the value was a matter for negotiation between the old lessee and the new lessee. The only matter that came before me was the value of the lease itself. I have an unofficial idea of the cost of the transfer but consider that I am not at

liberty to divulge it, as it is a matter between the two lessees. I could obtain the actual lease value and, on reflection, I think there would be no objection to my making that public, but I will consider this. In answering an earlier question about a perpetual lease I may not have made myself clear. I emphasize that any decision made about a perpetual lease will be made by Cabinet, not by me.

#### PLASTICS INDUSTRY

Mr. HUGHES: This report appeared in the *Advertiser* last Friday:

Plastics firm to expand: An Adelaide plastics processor is planning a major expansion programme to make South Australia the Australian and South-East Asian headquarters for manufacture and marketing of plastic plumbing fittings.

The managing director of Iplex Plastic Industries Proprietary Limited (Mr. S. W. Menzel), confirming expansion plans, said yesterday that a five-fold increase in output and a lift in staff numbers from 270 to 1,000 was planned over five years. Within 18 months, a bigger factory would have to be established.

The expansion project was in association with the Australia-wide organization Metters Limited, and the British plastics plumbing processor Key Terrain Proprietary Limited. The venture would operate under the name of Metters-Iplex Proprietary Limited. The Premier (Mr. Hall) has had discussions with Key Terrain Proprietary Limited heads during his current world industrial promotion trip.

I am sure that every other member was as pleased as I to read that report. Can the Premier give further information on this industrial expansion for South Australia? Although I do not know the transport costs involved in establishing part of the plant in a country area, I do not think they would be very heavy, because the item concerned is plastic. Will the Premier, in the interests of decentralization, point out to the Managing Director (Mr. Menzel) the advantages of Wallaroo, in that it is served by rail, road and sea transport, and ask whether consideration can be given to expanding this company's operations at Wallaroo?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I appreciate the honourable member's question, because it highlights the expansion in South Australia of an important industry that has broken into new fields in the substitution of plastic for metal fittings in the plumbing industry. The plastics industry has had much success in Australia and I had the pleasure of speaking to Mr. Collins, of Key Terrain Proprietary Limited, in England, and of inspecting the works and discussing with him the intended

extensions in South Australia. I must say that the English company was somewhat concerned about what was involved in its decentralization action in coming to South Australia. I think that we were able to give the correct information to the company about this State's key position in the Australian industrial field. We gave Mr. Collins the *Business Guide for South Australia* (a booklet which had just been printed and will be issued to any member who has not yet got a copy) and used it as a basis for future discussions. Certain aspects of this company's business operation in South Australia include the necessity to purchase two large machines for plastic pressing, and we are at present investigating that matter on behalf of the parent company. I was pleased to find that, before my return, an announcement had already been made that the expansion was to go ahead. While in England I was assured that the company's concentration on the fittings side would continue and that its operations would be based in South Australia. As the honourable member has said, the benefit accruing to the State as a result of this expansion is apparent. The Government is very conscious of the need for decentralization, and I think that any industry facing the expense of decentralization being faced by such a company as this in its planning to meet the demands by a larger community for its products must consider its cost structure carefully. However, knowing the advantages of decentralization, I will, as the honourable member has requested, continue to look for industries that may establish in his district, but in this instance the die is cast, if I may use that term, and the industry's plans for establishing in Adelaide are well advanced. I was not able to vary this position but I am pleased that the company is to expand in this State. I assure the honourable member, however, that I shall do my best, when given a suitable opportunity, to explain to any prospective operator in South Australia the value of his district.

#### BURRA ROAD

Mr. ALLEN: The main road from Burra to Lochiel, Main Road No. 46, is being sealed. However, about 10 miles remains to be sealed and much trouble has been experienced this winter with the result that school buses and other transports have had to be pulled through some sections. As I understand that some money will be available for this financial year, will the Attorney-General obtain from the

Minister of Roads an assurance that sufficient money will be available this year to complete this work?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will ask my colleague if he can give that assurance.

#### ELECTORAL ACT

Mr. VIRGO: My question relates to the recent decision of the Court of Disputed Returns, and I refer the Attorney-General, first, to the ruling of the majority of that court on the admissibility of evidence, when the court by a majority decision (and the Attorney-General was in that majority) stated:

In ruling upon the objection we refrain from expressing any opinion as to what materials should be before the returning officer, or what tests he should apply.

The court subsequently brought down a further ruling in its final judgment when it went further and, when dealing with this matter, stated:

The Returning Officer cannot be expected to act in a judicial or quasi-judicial capacity; and to impose upon him the task of deciding upon the accuracy, reliability and veracity of the supplementary evidence put before him, with a view to his accepting a ballot-paper, is something which we do not think was really envisaged by Parliament.

In view of the court's decision, can the Attorney-General say whether he has given or intends to give the Returning Officer for the State an instruction or a direction on this matter for transmission to the various returning officers in the 39 State districts in accordance with the court's decision, which obviously states that a returning officer shall not accept or consider extrinsic evidence? Also, will he make available to members of the House any such instruction he has given to the State Returning Officer?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The short answer to the question is "No": I have given no such instructions.

Mr. Virgo: Are you going to?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: No, I am not going to give any instructions, so there is none I can make available to the honourable member. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition, who was one of my honoured colleagues on the court, would agree with what I am about to say. The searching examination that was made by the Court of Disputed Returns on the conduct of the Millicent by-election brought to light several deficiencies in the Electoral Act as well as several administrative anomalies. I venture to say that an investigation of the conduct of any election

would probably bring to light several weaknesses in the system and in the law. Luckily, in most cases these do not matter, because the result is not as close as it was in this case. We all noticed, when looking at the authorities and reports of cases before courts of disputed returns over the years, that much the same criticism had been made in other cases as was made in this case. I am thinking particularly of the remarks of Mr. Justice Isaacs in *Kean v. Kirby*, as the criticism there was much the same as could be made in this case. The Government intends to introduce amendments to the Electoral Act this session, not because it thinks we will get a system that would be 100 per cent satisfactory (that, in the nature of things, is not possible), but because it considers that it will be possible to amend the Act to meet the requirements of the present day and age, which are different from those that pertained when the Act was last scrutinized fully. When the Bill is before the House it will be possible to discuss all aspects of the Act, and I hope that the matters to which the honourable member has drawn attention will receive the attention of the House and that amendments satisfactory to all members of both Houses will be included in the Bill.

#### SLAUGHTERING FEE

Mr. NANKIVELL: Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture why it has been necessary to introduce a half-cent service fee on country-killed meat sold in the metropolitan area? Also, will he ascertain what effect this charge has had on metropolitan meat prices and on the operation of country abattoirs, particularly in respect of any further developmental propositions that might have been considered?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes.

#### BIRDS

Mr. GILES: As it was recently reported that wild birds (protected and otherwise) were being trapped near the Morialta reserve, will the Minister of Lands have this accusation investigated, and will he ensure that the indiscriminate trapping of birds is stopped?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Any breaches of the Fauna Conservation Act are to be deplored and will most certainly be investigated. However, as the Act is administered by the Minister of Agriculture, I will pass on this question to him and obtain a report.

#### CIVIL LIBERTIES COUNCIL

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I wish to ask a question of the member for Stirling. It has been reported to me that a prominent member of the Liberal and Country League has said that the Council for Civil Liberties, the executive of which includes senior academics, was a revival of the Communist Party. When the Communist Party was threatened with a ban some years ago it disappeared. Giving credit to the member for Stirling for being a sincere member of the L.C.L., and knowing him to be a member of the Civil Liberties Council (indeed, a valued and active member), I ask him whether the statement made by the person concerned was made with any justification or whether it was, in the opinion of the member for Stirling, embarking on a course of McCarthyism.

Mr. McANANEY: I appreciate this question; in fact, I was almost thinking of asking one of my friends on the other side to ask me a question. I do not think the person who made the statement referred to is a prominent member of our Party and I hope that his statement is not a reflection of the opinion of this Party. Although I belong to the Civil Liberties Council, I disagree with many of its views but, as I have previously said in this House, one can discuss differences on a friendly basis and perhaps persuade others to adopt one's own point of view. I assure the honourable member that every time I rise to speak at a meeting of this council I hear gasps coming from the back of the room, and people often do not agree with what I say and stand for. When I went to the last meeting I had my resignation in my pocket, but I think the council has a rule that there must be a 60 per cent vote before a member is allowed to resign. I do not know what is the exact position, but I did not hand in my resignation, because after every meeting a group of young people come to me and say, "Whatever you do, don't resign, because we like to hear the other side of the argument." I think it is good for democracy and good for South Australia generally if we can get together in groups of this sort and influence each other by adopting an intelligent approach to matters that may affect South Australia as a whole.

#### INTAKES AND STORAGEES

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Can the Minister of Works say to what extent metropolitan and country reservoirs have benefited as a result of recent rains?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I am pleased to say that Mount Bold reservoir overflowed this morning and is now running considerably over the spillway. The Millbrook reservoir is full, as is also the Warren reservoir and, I understand, the Tod reservoir on Eyre Peninsula. The South Para reservoir, which is 55 to 60 per cent full, is expected to fill only once in about every 12 years. The Myponga reservoir is 60 to 65 per cent full. The only reservoirs which have not at this stage approached the full mark are some of those in the North and in the northern ranges. However, I am happy with the position regarding the metropolitan reservoirs which is in direct contrast to the unhappy position affecting the State this time last year, when those reservoirs were very much depleted. When I visited Mount Bold reservoir with the honourable Premier at about the beginning of May it was only about one-fifth full but, having visited it this morning, I was pleased to see it overflowing. It is hoped that those reservoirs, which have not at present filled, should be filled before long. I think that South Australia is most fortunate in this regard, and it is indeed a happy augury for the coming season.

#### COMPENSATION

Mr. JENNINGS: I heard last evening that the Commonwealth Attorney-General had said that, to help preserve public order, it might be necessary to enact legislation to compensate civilians for any injury they sustained (or in any other way in which they were disadvantaged) in helping the police. Has the Attorney-General considered such legislation and, if he has not, will he do so?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes. I heard the wireless reports of the Right Honourable Prime Minister's remarks this morning, and was interested in them. As the honourable member may know, one of the points in the policy of the Liberal and Country League before the last election—

Mr. Jennings: We never take much notice of that.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: We take strict notice of it, and we are now working to put into effect all the points in our policy speech. But one of the points we mentioned was that we would examine the matter of compensation for victims of crimes of violence. Immediately I heard about the Prime Minister's remarks I thought that this was a happy augury in the breaking of the

attitude which the Commonwealth has adopted up to the present on legislation of that type being enacted by the States. I remember last year the present Leader of the Opposition (then the Premier) defending his lack of action in this matter by saying that the Commonwealth had not given an undertaking with regard to social service payments, so I was interested in this comment for two reasons: first, because of its intrinsic worth; and secondly, because I hoped it foreshadowed a helpful attitude on the part of the Commonwealth on the wider question of compensation for victims of crimes of violence.

#### DUMPING OF ORANGES

Mr. CASEY: From reports about the dumping of oranges in river areas that have appeared in the local press in recent weeks, it appears to me and to many other people that edible fruit is being wasted. Although I am aware that, in the horticultural industry generally, certain wastage always occurs, will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture to obtain a report about the dumping of these oranges and indicate what action the Government intends to take in respect of this most important matter in which the general public is so interested?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes.

#### RENTAL HOUSES

Mr. CLARK: During the last few months I have been somewhat concerned at the lack of rental houses available in the town of Gawler; where houses available for rental privately are almost unobtainable. Although the Housing Trust has built many houses in Gawler, at present it is difficult to obtain one until a vacancy occurs. Of course, this means that many young people who are getting married and would prefer to live at Gawler, and others whose associations are with Gawler and who would prefer to live there, cannot do so, although business people in the town would certainly prefer them to do so. Usually they can manage to obtain a house, after some time, farther south in my district. Will the Minister of Housing ask the trust whether it intends to build more rental houses in Gawler and, if it does, when it is likely to build them?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I shall be pleased to obtain the information for the honourable member.



### FLUORIDATION

**Mr. BROOMHILL:** In his reply yesterday, the Minister of Works pointed out that the fluoridation of the city water supply was important and that he was considering the matter. I believe that the Government could fluoridate the water supply without referring the matter to Parliament. Will the Minister assure the House that, if the Government approves fluoridation, it will refer the matter to Parliament for consideration?

**The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE:** This important matter is presently receiving attention from a great many people. As I have said, I am having investigations undertaken in respect of it. Of course, before any decision is made, I shall want to peruse complete reports on the matter, which will then be raised in Cabinet. I will inform Parliament from time to time of decisions made. Speaking off the cuff, I am not sure whether fluoridation can be introduced administratively or whether legislation is necessary. However, I will give Parliament an opportunity to discuss the matter as the honourable member requested.

### LEASES

**Mr. VENNING:** Can the Minister of Lands say what is his department's procedure for advising holders of miscellaneous or Crown land leases of the expiry or pending expiry of such leases?

**The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN:** As I am not completely aware of the position, I should like to obtain a considered reply. The honourable member told me of a lease's expiring without the lessee's realizing it was due to expire. I will investigate any case of this type that he has in mind and obtain a considered reply on the general question.

### JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

**Mr. RYAN:** A few weeks ago I received a letter from the Attorney-General's Department advising me that a resident of my district had applied for appointment as justice of the peace. At the bottom of the correspondence it stated that the nomination had been forwarded by the Hon. C. Murray Hill, M.L.C. I immediately wrote to the Attorney-General's office, as he is well aware, asking what the policy was to be in the forwarding of applications for appointment as justice of the peace, because at the bottom of the application form appears note (c) which states that nominations should be submitted through the member for the electoral district. The reply I received was that

this nomination had been forwarded through the Hon. C. Murray Hill and that, as was the usual practice, the House of Assembly member had been notified. It has been long-standing practice to accept nominations from members of both Houses, and I cannot see any objection to this procedure. As the Minister is well aware, it has been the procedure of the members of the House of Assembly to forward applications, because applications are approved on residential qualification only, except in certain other circumstances. Is this policy to be altered to allow members of another place the privilege of submitting applications from anywhere in this State, which privilege is not extended to members of this House?

**The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE:** No, it is not. When I heard the honourable member read my letter back it sounded to me as though I had made a mistake. I should have realized that Port Adelaide was in Central No. 1 District and not Central No. 2 District, which Mr. Hill represents. When I signed that letter I overlooked the fact that he was not a member for the district. The view which I took (and which I think my predecessors have taken) is that a member for the district is either an Assembly member or a member of the Legislative Council. It should be the member for the district in which the nominee resides. I apologize to the honourable member, as I now think I made a mistake in assuming that the application had been forwarded to me through one of the members for the particular Legislative Council district, although it obviously was not.

**The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY:** Some time ago I received information from police officers in my district that another justice of the peace was required at Tarcoola. I received a nomination from a gentleman who I considered would do the job admirably and forwarded it with my strong recommendation, but that gentleman has not yet been appointed. I have been notified that another gentleman has been appointed on the recommendation of the Commonwealth Railways, but I have not received any official advice on this matter. So that a regular system will apply, will the Attorney-General outline the real policy concerning notification to members of people who are to be appointed as justices?

**The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE:** When I came into office I found the system that my predecessor had worked out was in some disarray. The system is good in theory: that is, nominations are received and the Attorney-General waits until various members approach him to

go through the file of nominations for their districts. According to the plan worked out by my predecessor the Attorney-General then decides, after consultation with the member and in the light of the quotas which have been worked out, who will or will not be appointed. Although this plan is good in theory, I find that some members have diligently pursued the Attorney-General to go through their files fairly frequently but that others, for one reason or another—and please do not think I am reflecting on any member, because I am not—have let it go for a considerable time. This has meant that those members who have followed up the matter have had nominations approved in Executive Council fairly frequently, but other members have not had any nominations approved for a long time, because the files have not been considered. This is not satisfactory, and what I hope to do is to go through the files with every member as quickly as I can in the next few weeks, discuss with members the nominations the files contain, and then make recommendations to Executive Council in the case of those who are to be appointed.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: That has no bearing on this case.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Thereafter, so that no districts will be overlooked in future, I intend to go through the nominations regularly three times a year, at a set time. I have not considered the nominations from the Whyalla District, because we are working under the old system and no approach had been made to me until this question. In the case of departmental nominations (for this purpose, the Commonwealth Railways has been regarded as a department) the nominations are, and I think have always been, considered immediately. However, in view of the honourable member's question I will make a point of bringing down tomorrow the file for the District of Whyalla, and if the honourable member can spare the time I shall be happy to go through it with him.

#### SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. WARDLE: It is three to four years since a medical officer visited the Murray Bridge Primary School. Can the Minister of Education say when another visit is likely?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The answer is the same as the one I gave to the member for Frome yesterday: school medical services come under the authority of the Minister of Health. I shall take up this question with my colleague and obtain a reply.

#### NATURAL GAS PIPES

Mr. RICHES: The Premier said in answer to a question this afternoon by the member for Wallaroo that he would be pleased to take up with any organization the decentralization of industry in South Australia. On June 26, I asked the Minister of Works whether the Government would use its good offices with the authority constructing the Gidgealpa gas pipeline to see whether that work could not be decentralized, either in the direction of off-loading pipes from Japan or in the manufacture of necessary piping at a point nearer the centre of the line rather than at one end of it. The Minister said he would refer that question to the Treasurer for reply. Can the Treasurer say whether he has taken up this matter with the construction authority?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: This matter was the subject of an inquiry to the Deputy Chairman of the pipeline authority in the absence of Sir Norman Young. The information given was that the matter had reached a stage at which there was no possibility of a change of programme. Some pipes are being imported from overseas and some are being made in Australia. Indeed, from the point of view of the financial consideration the pipeline authority has done an outstandingly capable job in negotiating the tenders and in keeping the cost of the pipeline within the projected total. In fact, as announced in the press, the resulting price was slightly better for the whole project than had been expected. That was the position when the inquiry was made and, in any case, I was not able to instruct the authority, but I am sure that any representations made by me or the honourable member would have been fully considered had it been possible to do so.

Mr. Riches: I wrote a long time before I asked my question.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am speaking from memory of dates and correspondence. I do not recall having seen any letter from the honourable member on this matter.

Mr. Riches: You answered it.

*Mr. Hudson interjecting:*

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The member for Glenelg can laugh in his usual fashion.

Mr. Hudson: I thought you would be pleased to see me so cheerful.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I think he will appreciate that one's memory is not entirely complete on all these matters. If I took the trouble to look back through some

of the files that my predecessor had I could find some instances where his memory was not infallible.

The SPEAKER: Order! This is a question of industry, not of honourable members.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker. That is the position as I understand it from memory. If I am in error in my memory on this matter, I am sure the member for Stuart will help me.

Mr. Riches: Would it have cost more to do it that way?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Whether or not it would have, the matter was out of our hands by that time. I am sure that the contractor and the authority would indeed have adopted the cheapest possible course to keep the whole project within a tight limit. I do not presume that any steps were not taken that could have been taken to employ to the full any services that South Australian industry could render, but I presume that in tendering for the contract the tenderer (and the authority) would have looked at all possibilities and adopted the course that was the most economic.

#### STOCK THEFTS

Mr. RODDA: In this morning's paper and on the radio today stock thefts were reported in the South-East. I recall that earlier this year large numbers of sheep and cattle from the drought areas were encroaching on my district and also on the district of Millicent. These stock, moving backwards and forwards, made inroads on adjacent land. Will the Minister of Lands confer with the Minister of Agriculture to ascertain whether the provisions of the relevant Act can be tightened so as to impose more severe restrictions on encroaching stock?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I understand the honourable member is referring to stock that invades properties owned by other people. I will get a report on the matter.

#### SAND

Mr. HURST: Concern has been expressed by the Woodville City Council about a mineral lease granted to South Australian Silicates Company Pty. Ltd., which lease I understand is void of any stipulation in respect of the levels of sand that may be removed. Further, I understand that the company has given a moral undertaking that it will maintain its lease in a satisfactory condition and not excavate sand below the road level. The council contends that the company has a right

to, and could, if it so desired within the next 17 years, which is the period for which the lease is granted, have changes in management and possibly alter its attitude, particularly as the sand is most suitable for the requirements of this company. As the Minister of Local Government has said that he intends to protect other sand dunes along our coastline, will the Attorney-General ask his colleague to take steps forthwith to obtain a measure of control of this particular lease, bearing in mind that any compensation payable should be measured against possible permanent damage to the coastline? Further, will the Attorney ascertain whether his colleague would consider recommending to the Government that the area of land from Bower Road to Bournemouth Avenue and bounded by Military Road on the east and the actual sea-front on the west be proclaimed a public reserve?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will make inquiries about that matter.

#### CITRUS

Mr. ARNOLD: Will the Premier say whether, during his oversea trip, he was able to find any possible new outlets or markets for citrus or to obtain any other information that might assist the citrus industry in this State?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I visited (I think this was mentioned in the press) a co-operative firm known as Home-grown Fruits, the chairman of which is Mr. Mount and the managing director of which is Mr. Martin. This was a very intensely developed and efficiently managed organization which maintained sales throughout the United Kingdom and which was in constant contact with outlets by Telex system, backed by a computer that handled the ordering and maintaining of reserves of fruit at any particular time. The co-operative, which has refrigeration and storage for, I think, 45,000 tons of fruit, is very interested in selling Australian oranges. The interest of the co-operative centred on its need to fill in a period of about three months of lag in supply from other quarters and we were told that the timing of the Australian crop would fit in perfectly in this regard.

Because of that, the co-operative is particularly interested in obtaining trial shipments. Operations could be only on the basis of bulk shipments from Australia, and representatives of the co-operative said that this would result in considerable saving in costs to the producer in South Australia. The co-operative would grade the fruit when it arrived in the United

Kingdom and give it the organization's seal of quality. I was greatly attracted to the system described to me, in that the co-operative, with its numerous contacts and large retail outlets, wanted to import South Australian citrus, put its seal of quality on it and base its reputation on it. As the organization is a co-operative, its objective is to obtain as much money as possible for the producer.

Mr. Arnold: Has this information been passed on to the industry?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Yes. The co-operative was then in the first stages of contact with the South Australian Citrus Organization Committee, and I understand that since then a representative has either left or is leaving England. This visit had been arranged through correspondence between the co-operative and the C.O.C. so that first-hand talks could be had. I am sure that the proposal should progress to at least the stage of sending trial shipments, because certainly the facilities seemed to me to be particularly valuable. It seems, particularly in the United Kingdom, that all marketing is coming under the control of fewer organizations, with many outlets. If our industry can become part of a co-operative organization such as this co-operative, which has the sole object of obtaining as much return as possible for the producers, the proposal should be given a trial, and I believe this has been arranged.

#### MODBURY INTERSECTION

Mrs. BYRNE: The intersection of Kelly Road and Montague Road at Modbury is very dangerous, a fatal accident having occurred there as recently as July 6. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads whether the Highways Department has any plans for making this intersection safer and, if it has not, whether it will examine the matter with a view to erecting suitable signs or making the intersection safer in whatever way it thinks fit?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

#### MITCHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. LANGLEY: A building on the corner of Seafeld Avenue and Unley Road, near the Mitcham Girls Technical High School, has been vacant for some time. During the last year or so the Education Department has been able to purchase this house. Since the new school has been erected, an oval has been grassed and is being played on at present but, because the house on the corner has not yet been demolished, the oval is not large enough

to use as a hockey ground. The removal of this building would enable the facilities at the school, which serves students from the Mitcham and Unley Districts, to be improved. Will the Minister of Works have the matter investigated?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I will refer the matter to the Public Buildings Department and endeavour to have it attended to as quickly as possible. I know the importance of this school and of the District in which it is situated.

#### VENUS BAY RAMP

Mr. EDWARDS: During a recent visit to Venus Bay I was informed that the boat ramp built in the last year or so had been built on a grade that was too steep and not far enough into the water. As several hundred dollars have been spent on this project, and as it is almost useless and seldom used, will the Minister of Marine consider whether the ramp can be improved or built in a more suitable place?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I shall be pleased to do this, especially as the honourable member has pointed out that money has been spent on a facility that is not working properly. I shall obtain a report for him.

#### KINGSTON ELECTRICITY

Mr. CORCORAN: The Minister of Works is probably aware that the area surrounding the township of Kingston in the South-East is one of the last major areas in my district to receive a reticulated electricity supply. Although this area is developing rapidly, I believe that indications have been given (I am not sure whence they emanated) that some time is likely to elapse before an electricity supply for the area will be considered. I do not need to go into any detail in pointing out the necessity for such a supply, as I know that the Minister is aware of its value to people in country areas and, specifically, the area to which I have referred. However, will the Minister ascertain when work is likely to be commenced in the general area surrounding Kingston in order to supply electricity to the people concerned, who need it badly?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I shall be happy to have this matter investigated and to bring down a report for the honourable member.

#### ONKAPARINGA RESERVOIR

Mr. GILES: Can the Minister of Works say whether it is planned to construct a reservoir on the Onkaparinga River and, if it is, when

such work is likely to commence and where the reservoir may be situated?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: I cannot answer this question at the moment in any precise terms except to say that forward planning has been considered by the Engineering and Water Supply Department in order to conserve water for the future needs of South Australia, and that includes provision for the ultimate building of a reservoir on the Onkaparinga River. However, I will bring down a reply as soon as I can in order to give more precise information to the honourable member.

#### COST OF LIVING

Mrs. BYRNE: The Commonwealth Statistician this week released figures showing that the increase in the cost of living in South Australia for the June quarter was the highest in the Commonwealth. Can the Premier say what articles have contributed (and by how much) to increased prices?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

#### WOOMERA ROAD

Mr. RICHES: As recent rains have highlighted the necessity for effecting a permanent improvement to the road between Port Augusta and Woomera, will the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads, ascertain what are the Government's intentions in relation to that road for this financial year? Will he also ascertain whether application has been made for Commonwealth assistance and, if it has, whether any such assistance has been forthcoming?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will discuss the matter with my colleague.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. HUDSON: On Tuesday, July 16, an article appeared in the *Advertiser* headed "Sharp Fall in Jobless Throughout Australia". The contents of that article, however, made it clear that unemployment in South Australia (8,359, or 1.7 per cent of the work force) was the highest of any State in Australia. On the same day, the Minister of Labour and Industry said he believed that the figures meant that South Australia was recovering from the unsatisfactory employment position. Having then checked what the unemployment figure had been for the preceding month (May), I discovered that it was 8,192, so that there had, in fact, been an increase in the number registered as unemployed in South

Australia of 167 despite the headline in the *Advertiser*. As, I know that the Premier, on coming back to South Australia, must be alarmed at this information, will he say what action he intends to take, along with his colleague the Minister of Labour and Industry (who at the moment seems to be satisfied with the position), in order to bring about a rapid improvement in this situation? Further, will he and the Government consider (and this relates to matters raised with me by some of my constituents) helping tradesmen who cannot obtain a job locally to move elsewhere where a job may be available to them? Some people in a particular locality remain unemployed because they do not have the financial wherewithal to move some distance, say, to Whyalla or to another State, in order to get a job.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I assure the honourable member that the Government is not satisfied with the employment situation. However, it does not intend at the moment to move citizens out of South Australia: it is more inclined to attempt to build up industry in this State in order to provide employment for them. The honourable member will be aware that I was unable to read at the time the report to which he has referred, because I was overseas with the objective of fostering industry. One is always pleased to hear new projects announced for South Australia, and I am sure the member for Glenelg was pleased to listen today to the report read out by his colleague the member for Wallaroo (Mr. Hughes) when he referred to a significant advancement in employment in South Australia in connection with the Iplex factory. I agree with the member that the present position is unsatisfactory and will have to be improved. However, the Government is directing its efforts to improving the situation. I will attend to the detail of the honourable member's question shortly.

Mr. HUDSON: My question is supplementary to the previous one about unemployment and the question asked by the member for Wallaroo (Mr. Hughes). I was interested particularly in the announcement of the expansion plans of Iplex in the making of plastic tapware. The Premier, as Minister of Industrial Development, will appreciate that expansion in the manufacture of new types of product may often lead to increased competition and create increased difficulties for the traditional type of product, in this case the traditional type of tapware. I am concerned

about employment prospects in my district, where the firm of F. J. Wadham and Sons Proprietary Limited makes this traditional type of tapware. I hope that the Minister appreciates fully the fact that the net addition resulting from the expansion of Iplex may not be the net addition to employment in this State if significant adverse effects are felt elsewhere. For some time now Wadham's have been trying to get the Housing Trust to specify South Australian tapware in the construction of any of its houses, or at least to make available to South Australian firms *vis-a-vis* interstate firms the normal discount made available on Government contracts. In view of the Premier's expressed concern over the employment position in South Australia and the fact that expansion of Iplex may have adverse employment effects in my own district, will he take up, through his colleague, with the trust the question of the advantages that are given to South Australian producers of tapware *vis-a-vis* producers in other States, particularly in relation to Housing Trust contracts in the metropolitan or near metropolitan area?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be happy to do that. I think the honourable member realizes that this Government (and, I am sure, his Party) has a policy of purchasing South Australian wherever possible, and this policy will be maintained. In relation to the putting out of work of people involved in alternative and, in some respects now superseded material, this is something we thought of in regard to this product. As the honourable member will realize, this product will be made somewhere in Australia and in sufficient quantity to meet the demand, so we are pleased, in these circumstances, to see it made in South Australia. I think this is the over-riding factor: as a Government we cannot enter into the realm of competition between one industry and another when efficiency, price and customer demand are concerned. These things are not subject to governmental limit. I will take up this question, but I am sure that the honourable member does not oppose the expansion of the factory referred to in the House today.

#### ROAD TRAFFIC ACT

Mr. ARNOLD: I believe that the Road Traffic Act contains an anomaly inasmuch as the maximum legal length of a vehicle used on the road is 66ft., although a legal overall length of 60ft. applies to ferries. Under the existing provisions, a lessee may lose his lease

if he crosses the river on a ferry with a vehicle whose length is in excess of 60ft. There is no practical way in which a ferry operator can ascertain, prior to a vehicle driving on to the ferry, whether that vehicle is longer than 60ft. Vehicles 66ft. long could be handled on the ferries if the operators were permitted to use extension safety chains on the gate. Can the Minister representing the Minister of Roads shed any light on this anomaly?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Not at the moment, but I will certainly take up the matter with the Minister of Roads and let the honourable member know.

#### ABORIGINES

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: On June 26 last I asked the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs whether he would present at the impending meeting of Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs a five-year programme in respect of Aboriginal welfare in this State. The Minister on that occasion said that the main purpose of the meeting, as he saw it, would be to ascertain how much money the Commonwealth Government was prepared to make available to South Australia, and he understood from the Director that the Commonwealth Government was using as a basis for consideration the five-year plan that had been prepared. Did the Minister, in fact, advocate to the Commonwealth Government the adoption of the five-year plan for South Australia? If he did, what was the Commonwealth Government's reply both in regard to that and in regard to any funds which the Commonwealth Government might intend to provide for the States for the advancement of Aboriginal welfare?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I certainly did put forward this plan which, as the honourable member will recall, was formulated during his time in office and was presented by the Director in February, I think. I supported it in its entirety. I must say that I was disappointed that the Commonwealth Government could not, at the meeting last Friday week, make any announcement of firm sums of financial assistance to the various States. When I answered the honourable member's question earlier, I had thought that we would hear, either at that meeting or even earlier, how much money the Commonwealth Government could give us, but this was not the case (as the Right Honourable Prime Minister announced and as I have made public), because the Commonwealth believes that it should not divulge any sums before it brings down its

Budget next month. We have now been told (and again I think I have made this public) that we will hear shortly after the Commonwealth Budget is introduced how much South Australia and the other States will receive by way of assistance. One condition has been made (and we are glad to accept it): any financial assistance the Commonwealth gives us will be in addition to the normal allocation of funds from State sources. Therefore, we expect to know within the next month what extra money we will get from the Commonwealth for Aboriginal affairs in South Australia. However, we do not know yet: I had hoped we would know and I am disappointed that we do not.

#### BANKSIA PARK WATER SUPPLY

Mrs. BYRNE: I refer to an area at Banksia Park, which is bordered by Elizabeth Street, Cottenham Road and Grenfell Road. When I raised a similar matter before, I was asked to identify the streets concerned, so on this occasion I shall do so. They are as follows: Aboyne Street, Belmont Place, Hollick Crescent, Elsworth Drive, Waitara Road and Greensview Road. People living in these streets have told me that the quality of the water is unsatisfactory. They have said that, for the past nine weeks, it has been muddy; in fact, one constituent said that, even after the water had been boiled, it was unfit for a baby to drink. Will the Minister of Works have the matter examined, tell me the reason for the condition of this water and say whether this condition is temporary or permanent? Will he also say when the problem can be solved?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I will obtain a report on the matters as quickly as possible.

#### PRIVILEGE

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: When the House met in June, I raised the matter of the Attorney General's obtaining a Bill from the Government Printer, a Bill of which I was the author and which had not been introduced in the House. Will you, Mr. Speaker, inquire of the Government Printer how this Bill, which normally could be released by the Government Printer only to the author, was released to someone other than the author? Also, will you obtain from the Government Printer an undertaking that members of this House will be protected, in the confidential material which they send to the Government Printer for printing, until such material

becomes the property of this House when it is properly introduced?

The SPEAKER: As the Leader has made this request in the House, I shall certainly undertake to confer with the Government Printer and discuss with him the matter raised. As I think this matter is rather important, I will confer with the Government Printer as soon as possible.

#### QUORN HOUSING

Mr. CASEY: I should be pleased if the Minister of Housing would raise with the Housing Trust the matter of providing more rental houses at Quorn. The previous Government helped provide houses at Peterborough last year for employees of the Peterborough meatworks. A similar problem has now arisen at Quorn, where South Australian Barytes Limited operates. As the Minister is probably aware, a large demand presently exists for barytes as a result of off-shore drilling. I recently inspected the works at Quorn, where I found that employees are working almost around the clock: many employees are therefore required at the works. To enable these people to live at Quorn, at least two more rental houses are required. I have had discussions with the Quorn council, which is anxious that the Housing Trust be approached to see whether the building of houses cannot be commenced soon, for it is imperative that these houses be made available in the country for employees in this industry. Before the Railways Department moved from Quorn to Port Augusta the Housing Trust purchased, at Quorn, considerable land on part of which some houses were erected. Therefore, land is available for the purpose to which I have referred. Will the Minister ask the trust whether an officer could be made available soon to visit Quorn to take up with the council and South Australian Barytes Limited the matter of whether more rental houses can be built soon?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am aware of, and pleased to know about, the increased activity at Quorn. Representatives of the management of the company were in my office not many weeks ago. They informed me of their programme and discussed certain other matters arising between the Treasury and the company. At that stage they did not indicate that they were ready for houses, but I accept the honourable member's assurance that a demand exists. I will ask the trust to have the matter investigated in conjunction, as he suggests, with the council and the company.

## VENUS BAY STORE

Mr. EDWARDS: During a recent visit to Venus Bay, I was approached by Messrs. C. B. and J. I. Kelly, retail storekeepers, who informed me that they had applied for a beer and wine licence for Venus Bay, and had been refused. Will the Attorney-General ascertain why such a storekeeper should not be granted a licence?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will try to get some information if it is possible to do so.

## MODBURY COTTAGE FLATS

Mrs. BYRNE: Will the Minister of Housing ask the Housing Trust to consider the erection of cottage flats in the Modbury, Holden Hill and Tea Tree Gully area? At present, there is only one set of such flats, and that belongs to a religious organization. From representations made to me, particularly by the parents of children living in the district who wish to remain near their children but not necessarily to live with them, there is a demand in the district for this type of accommodation.

*At 4 o'clock, the bells having been rung:*

The SPEAKER: Call on the business of the day.

## ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on the motion for adoption.

(Continued from July 23. Page 191.)

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): In rising to speak to the Address in Reply debate, I congratulate the two new members who moved and seconded the motion on their very creditable and effective speeches on their first opportunity to speak here. I am sure that members will hear much more of them and will be interested to hear what they have to say. I think it behoves me on this occasion to review briefly the activities of the present Government, which was responsible for drawing up the Speech that His Excellency made at the opening of the Parliament. In a day or so it will be 100 days since this Government took office, and I think the first thing that strikes anyone about the performance of this Government is the startling contrast between the first 100 days of the Labor Government in South Australia and the first 100 days of the present Liberal and Country League Government.

In the first 100 days of the Labor Government we, after a period out of office of some 30-odd years, had an enormous number of plans for reform and improvement in the State, and during that time we were able to announce and to undertake a great many of these reforms. We took South Australia in that period from being a State that had had no reform for decades to one that in many matters was leading Australia, and an atmosphere of interest was naturally engendered as a result. We saw in almost every area of government a whole series of announcements about reform and improvement, and some of the most sweeping changes in legislation and administration this State has ever seen were made.

Mr. McAnaney: Did you say "administration"?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Much in administration was undertaken, as I will point out to the honourable member because I want to trace what happened during that period and what has happened under the present Government. If we examine what has been announced or undertaken by the present Government both in legislation and administration during its first 100 days of its being in office, we can only say that the opinion amongst members of the public is that this Government is lacking in both lustre and credibility: the scene is dull and barren. The thing uppermost in people's minds in South Australia, as we have reiterated in this House on every day it has met, has been the electoral situation in this State. In no other part of Australia could a result have occurred such as occurred at the last State election. The present Opposition in this State got a much larger proportion of votes from the people of this State than any reigning Government anywhere in Australia got at the election that was responsible for its return to office, yet the majority of people are denied a continuance of the policy for which they clearly voted. This state of affairs has alarmed the overwhelming majority of citizens in the State and made many people feel ashamed of the situation that has arisen. The present Premier has excused his lack of action in this matter, his refusal to meet us to discuss the matter, to get around the table, to get down to debating something effective—

Mr. McAnaney: Did you discuss your last Bill with us?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Interjections are out of order.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have always been willing to discuss any Bill with anyone.



The honourable member must know perfectly well that in Committee in this House and in other discussions I was most reasonable and accommodating to members.

Mr. Clark: Even to the honourable member who interjected.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. On that occasion, we had an overwhelming mandate from the people to bring in precisely the measure that we introduced in fulfilment of our promise. We would have been prepared to discuss the matter outside the House if the Opposition had had any proposal at all for compromise, but there was never any suggestion of change, compromise or improvement, nor were any amendments moved. There was total opposition from members of the L.C.L. to anything that we submitted. We introduced the measure and it passed in this House. The only way that we could test that measure further before Parliament was not by submitting some other alternative but by invoking the deadlock provisions. Submission of another measure would have inhibited the operation of the deadlock provisions.

Members opposite know well that the only way that we could have invoked those provisions was by having a general election after our measure had been refused passage by the other place. The Constitution provides for that. Therefore, there was no delay by us in putting forward our measures. The first measure that we introduced when we became the Government dealt with electoral reform, as did the first measure that we submitted after the election. The first concrete and specific matter that I spoke of in my policy speech was electoral reform, yet we see this continued dilatoriness on the part of the Premier and his Party about getting on with the job.

It is true that the Premier said before the Millicent by-election that, if his candidate were elected, he would take that as a mandate for his proposal and, if our candidate were elected, he would take that as a mandate for our proposal. However, the Premier alters many of his statements later when he finds it inconvenient to adhere to his undertaking. There have been so many changes by the Government in statements on this and many other issues and so many contradictory statements by various Ministers that the public of South Australia does not know where this Government is going. In fact, it is not going anywhere: it is just trying to stay in office.

Let us turn to the administration of the various departments of Government and see

what the record has been during this time. It has not been the policy of the Labor Party, when in Opposition, simply to criticize everything that the Government does simply because members opposite are the Government. Our attitude in Opposition is very different from that of present Government members when they were in Opposition, because nothing that we did in Government was any good at all! For instance, I introduced the Aboriginal Lands Trust Bill, which is now being hailed throughout Australia as model legislation, and the Commonwealth Government Aboriginal affairs administration has sent its Director here to inquire about what we did and has taken our Director to Canberra to give information on it. When that was introduced the spokesman for the Opposition, who now sits on the front bench of the Government, said that it was a mere piece of window dressing and that I was trying to draw attention to myself. That is the kind of statement the Minister makes. The people of South Australia, including the Aboriginal people, know that this measure has produced real results and that it will produce much greater results in due course. However, the present Minister, so far from taking action to help the Aborigines, has not done anything.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: After my answers today, you know how unjustified that criticism is.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will give the detailed criticism on this matter soon. At present, in many areas of Government little is being done. It is not merely that we want to criticize things that the Government has done. Little is being done in many areas of Government, except that sometimes the Public Service is being allowed to let the cogs turn and at other times it is being interfered with so that the cogs do not turn at all. I shall deal with the Ministries in turn and show what kind of administration we have had for the past 100 days.

The Premier gave himself one Ministerial duty, that of industrial development. When he took office, there had been constituted an Industrial Development Branch, with the best qualified Director in this area in Australia and an extremely well qualified staff. We had Mr. Belchamber, a former senior officer of the Department of Trade, and we had recently appointed Mr. Smith, who was previously market research statistician and economist for Chrysler Australia Limited and a man well qualified in industry in this State. He had a good academic background and had been on

exchange duty with the Bank of Ceylon. He was extremely well qualified to assist the department. Then we had the junior officers, as well as the American consultants who were here as a result of the survey that was undertaken. In addition, we had appointed the Industrial Development Advisory Council and had proposed to the Commonwealth Government the undertaking of the provision of an industrial design centre and had offered more generous assistance for this than had any other State toward the creation of such a centre.

What has happened since? The Premier has split the administration of the department by appointing a new chairman to the Industrial Development Advisory Council and putting in, as an executive officer with access to the Premier, a former Industrial Property Officer in the Housing Trust. So we have here a dichotomy in the administration. We have an officer who is executive secretary of the council and who goes direct to the Premier, not through the Director of Industrial Development. I do not know what kind of administration that is supposed to be from the point of view of efficiency in the department. From previous experience when that particular officer was separately engaged in the Housing Trust as Industrial Property Officer, I cannot think that we are going to have a satisfactory situation, because the left hand will not know what the right hand is doing.

Mr. McAnaney: That would be better than when you had so many portfolios that you didn't know what was going on.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member, as usual, says silly things.

Mr. McAnaney: It's not silly: it's the truth.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Well, I can modestly claim that when we were in Government I had compliments from members of the Opposition and from the press gallery about the degree to which I knew what was going on in my department. I will show the honourable member not only that I knew what was going on in my department then but also that I know now. The Premier, severely criticizing my department when he was Leader of the Opposition, said that we were a spendthrift Government, and that we spent money on public relations officers. However, since the Premier took office he has appointed a press secretary in place of

the one I had and has appointed a press secretary to the Cabinet, which means that he has public relations officers in the Premier's Department, as I had.

Mr. Jennings: He needs them more than you did.

Mr. Clark: Doesn't the member for Mitcham cut him to pieces about that?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We heard members opposite criticizing the Government for spending money on this type of staff.

The Hon. R. S. Hall: It is not the same staff.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Its members are not as well qualified, and they do not have as much material to work with, either. I turn now to the administration of the Treasury. The present Government told the people that it would have to make great changes in order to get South Australia moving again, by using energy, enterprise, foresight, and planning. Before this Government took office there were continued criticisms from the Liberal Party that we were overspending in South Australia. In Liberal Party publications we were called a spendthrift Government, and Liberal pamphlets were circulated in many districts, including those of members on the front bench, stating that any rise in taxation in South Australia would be bad and that the extra spending of the Government had driven South Australia into a dreadful financial situation. The present Premier in this House characterized the increase in spending on social welfare under my administration as my throwing money around like a drunken sailor. In those circumstances, one would have expected that any increase in expenditure by a Labor Government would be cut back by the present Government, or its members would have said that such expenditure was wrong. The increases in expenditure made by the Labor Government were in two areas: in social welfare generally, such as in education, health and hospitals, and the Social Welfare Department; and in improving conditions and wages of teachers and public servants.

Mr. Jennings: Which had been neglected for years.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Of course. We increased our expenditure in those areas, but the specific department to which the Premier referred in his allegations of overspending was the Premier's Department. Apart from this, he said that on social welfare we were spending money like a drunken sailor.

Every member of his Party, including the present Minister of Social Welfare, said we were not spending enough, and a former Minister of Lands said that in spending more than any other State, proportionately, on Aborigines we were only spending half enough.

True, we increased expenditure in these areas. When the Premier took office he said that when he went to the Premiers' Conference and to the Loan Council meeting he would not continue with the submissions that had been prepared for me in January but that he would prepare new submissions. When I saw statements in the press about submissions he had made in Canberra I found that almost the same material had been used as had been prepared for me. Two specific points were raised, the first of which was that there should be a considerable alteration in the formula, because the formula had been fixed originally on the basis of South Australia's spending less on social services than was spent by any other State. The formula had been fixed when the Playford Government was in office and when this State spent less a head of population on social welfare than did any other State. The submission was made to the Premiers' Conference that we should have an alteration to allow us to spend on social services generally at the level of other States, which was the degree of expenditure undertaken by the Labor Government and an increase in expenditure that had been responsible for two deficits.

This is a different attitude from the one the Premier took before he assumed office. Now, he states that our increases in social service expenditure were correct. He also said that our increases in taxation, albeit modest and much smaller than in any other State, were wrong. How can he claim that we should not have run a deficit for the period we did? How does he now intend to eliminate that deficit, which inevitably must occur in the finances of this State, without increases in taxation? We do not know, because the Premier did not tell us at the last election and refused to say what taxation he intended to increase.

Mr. Broomhill: He gave some hints.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Not at election time, but he did at the Premiers' Conference, and they were things that I had forecast. They were what had been introduced by the Premiers of Western Australia and Victoria, namely, a turnover tax and a business and stamp duty tax on every wage pay packet, payable to the

State Treasury. If this is the way that the Premier and Treasurer intend to solve the deficit problem in this State, rather than by progressive taxation that is available to bring us into line with the progressive taxation in other States in the death duty and stamp duty areas, then this State will be set back badly indeed. From the series of contradictory statements about the State's finances into which the Premier has been led it is obvious that the State cannot look forward to a satisfactory situation.

Mr. McAnaney: It must get better after what happened in your three years.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will show the honourable member, from the record of the last 100 days, how much better it will get! The situation of the housing industry was a topic often discussed by members opposite when they were in Opposition. They said they must get the State going again and would do so by improving the housing industry. The advertisements they used were not specific about what they would do, because they seemed to think that once they got into office the situation would right itself. The only specific thing the Government proposed was an increase in the maximum loan available from Government-guaranteed sources but the result is, of course, that fewer loans are available, because the actual fund available is not larger. That was the advice of the Treasury to us, and I am sure it must have been the advice of the Under Treasurer to the present Government.

We must have expected that in the 100 days, if the Government had some great plan to affect the future of housing in South Australia, it would, at any rate, be able to hold the line and that there might be some stirrings to show an improvement. The publication of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics reveals that during the three months ended June, 1968, the number of houses and flats approved for private owners totalled 1,646, an increase of 127 on the 1,519 for the previous three months but 119 less than the 1,765 approved during the three months ended June, 1967. The value of other new buildings approved (private and Government combined) was \$14,767,000, which was \$14,188,000 less than for the previous three months and \$4,459,000 less than for the three months ended June, 1967. The value of all buildings and alterations and additions approved was \$35,556,000, a decrease of \$10,296,000 on the figure for the previous three months. A decrease of over \$10,000,000 for the three

months in total building approvals shows a significant fall in employment and in future activity in the building industry in South Australia.

Mr. McAnaney: You were Premier for more than half that time.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Oh, no, I was not.

Mr. McAnaney: You went out in April.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I went out on April 16. I am dealing with the time this Government has been in office, and it was in office for two and a half months of that three-month period. The Government said it had a plan; it was going to get things moving! What has it done? Where is the plan? We have not heard a word of it. We could have expected (indeed the public was entitled to expect) that the Government would suddenly produce some specifics on how it would achieve an improvement in the building industry. We made it clear what we had done, and we did a whole series of things. We altered the nature of spending by the Housing Trust, turning over the trust's expenditure to more rental housing, and concentrated its planning on rental housing, on rental-purchase houses, and on inner-suburban redevelopment. We turned the basis of Housing Trust spending towards this, as against what it had previously been doing, that is, competing in the speculative house-building field.

Mr. McAnaney: Rental housing as opposed to sales means fewer houses built.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: This is exactly, of course, what the private housing industry in South Australia had asked for. I do not know whether the honourable member intends to speak as a guest speaker to people engaged in that industry, but if he puts up that kind of proposition to them he will receive a fairly poor reaction. We co-operated with the Master Builders' Association and the Housing Industry Association in bringing legislation before this House in order to stabilize the building industry and to ensure that the people involved in it were those properly qualified and not the fly-by-night building brokers who have been so responsible for the booms and slumps in the house-building speculative industry here. The third thing we did was to introduce legislation here which would provide additional finance through the Commonwealth Housing Loans Insurance Corporation; more money became available as a result, and we channelled more money to

the co-operative building societies. We gave the biggest proportion of housing money ever made available to them.

All these things were designed effectively to achieve an improvement in the housing industry, and we told the House specifically what we had undertaken. Further, I left the State in order to have Australia's largest merchant bankers back the scheme for the Westlakes development and make an indenture with the Government that the people concerned would invest in the Westlakes area \$80,000,000 which would considerably boost the housing industry in South Australia. Having done those things when we were in office, we waited with interest to see what the Liberal Government would do to honour its promise to the people of South Australia that it would get the housing industry moving again. But we have been told nothing; there has been no announcement, nor has anything happened, other than a significant fall in the building approvals in this State.

No announcement of major projects has been made by the Ministry of Works and Marine. We might have expected to hear something, but we have not. When members opposite were in Opposition we heard much about the necessity for immediate development of the teaching hospital at Flinders University. They used to pop up and down and say, "Why hasn't it already been built?" but in the 100 days suddenly they have gone quiet on this little project! We have not heard from them about it, and there has been no reference to the Public Works Committee about the project. We might have expected to hear something about the development of fisheries after the Premier had been down to the South-East on a series of jaunts and had glad-handed practically every fisherman he could get along to his bean feasts. But what has occurred in the way of works for fisheries? Just before the Millicent by-election some scantlings were offloaded to some of the ports; I think someone went down two days before with a load of timber; but we have not heard anything since.

During the L.C.L.'s period in Opposition, there were some increases in total water bills as a result of the normal periodic re-assessment of properties, which must take place under the Waterworks Act as required by the Auditor-General, and a minor alteration was made to the amount of rebate water available under the rating system; but no other alteration was made to the rates—none whatever! Yet members opposite circulated

pamphlets saying that we had increased the water rates in South Australia and that this was disgraceful. We had hit the pockets of the poor in South Australia by this! Within the 100 days the Government altered the rates for excess water, although there was not a word about it before the election.

Mr. Casey: The reason to increase it was increased pumping costs, but they've got their reservoirs full.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Government knows very well that its pumping costs for this year will be less than those for last year. We have had no major public announcements or any new undertakings implemented by the Minister of Labour and Industry. Nothing has apparently been happening, except the day-to-day routine administration of the department. The vast number of improvements made during the Labor Government's period of office (improvements in working conditions and working protections in South Australia) seems to have come to a sudden halt, because we hear nothing in this area now. Much work is still to be done in the area of industrial protection, workmen's compensation, leave provisions, and the furtherance of equal pay provisions, and the like.

We have at least had another example of the left hand of the Government not knowing what the right hand is doing. A short time ago some figures were given about the employment situation (they have been referred to earlier this afternoon by the member for Glenelg). At the end of May, South Australia had 1.7 per cent of its work force unemployed, a figure considerably above the figures of unemployed in the work force that were bitterly criticized by members opposite during the Labor Government's period of office. When we were in Government, they said that 1.4 per cent unemployment was far too much but, now that the figure is 1.7 per cent under their Government, what do we find? During the period we were in office, the average figure of unemployment was 1.5 per cent of the work force: it is now 1.7 per cent.

Mr. McAnaney: What did we inherit? You inherited .9 per cent, but we inherited 1.7 or 1.8 per cent.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: That is not so. At the time we took office we had not criticized the Government of South Australia for being responsible for the employment situation. We had not criticized the Playford Government on this score when the unemployment in South Australia had reached a figure

of 2.4 per cent, as it did under the Playford Government. It never reached such a figure under our Government. However, honourable members opposite have made great play on this employment situation. They told the people of South Australia that they would get South Australia moving again by improving employment. At the end of May the unemployment figure was 1.7 per cent of the work force, and at the end of June it was also 1.7 per cent which, by that time, was the highest percentage in Australia. On this subject two statements were made by Ministers. The Chief Secretary said that it was a disappointing situation—that it was disappointing that there had been no improvement. It was disappointingly static: the Government had not got the State moving. On the other hand, the Minister of Labour and Industry said that the figures were heartening and that they showed that the Government's plans were working.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: They are looking through the wrong end of a telescope.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: How a movement from 1.7 per cent to 1.7 per cent means that the Government's plan is working bedevils my imagination. I shall refer to the analysis given by the Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service to see exactly what was the analysis of the figures. In the factories covered by the department's employment survey in South Australia there was seasonally increased employment in fruit packing and bakeries; seasonally reduced employment in fruit and vegetable canning; increased employment in non-electrical plant and machinery, ship-building and repairs, motor vehicles, non-metal mine and quarry products, electrical plant and equipment, and clothing; and reduced employment in chemical fertilizers and rubber. Apparently the Minister took heart from the fact that some increased employment had occurred in non-electrical plant and machinery, ship-building and repairs, motor vehicles, non-metal mine and quarry products, electrical plant and equipment, and clothing. However, that was a trend that he had inherited from us.

During the last months of office of the Labor Government, a constant improvement in employment took place in that particular area. Over a short period during our term of office an increase in employment of over 600 operatives took place at General Motors-Holden's. This improvement has not come from some plan laid down by the present Government: the improvement in this area

has come from an improvement in the Eastern States' markets for the products of non-electrical plant and machinery, motor vehicles, electrical plant and equipment, and clothing. No plan has produced any change in this situation. Let us examine the net result of unemployment as it affects the people of the State. An increase of 366 has occurred in the number receiving unemployment benefits, mainly in the Adelaide, metropolitan and Elizabeth employment districts. This represents a severe downturn.

Mr. Broomhill: Undoubtedly the unemployed feel confident, though!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, no doubt they are confident that the State is moving! I turn now to the Ministry of Lands and Tourism, which has been responsible for a complete lack of announcements of any kind, as far as I can make out. No proposals for improvements or developments in this area have been announced in the first 100 days of this Government's term of office. The administration of this department is of a kind that we knew from the Minister when he was previously Minister of Agriculture. However, I wish to say something about the relationship between this department and the Aboriginal Affairs Department when I deal with that particular Minister. So far, all we can say is that the Minister of Tourism is there: how far he moves we do not know.

I turn now to the Attorney-General, Minister of Social Welfare and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. Again, the Attorney-General's Department has been responsible for a complete lack of announcements about improvements in legislation or administration. During the term of the Labor Government more law reform was undertaken in South Australia, both administratively and in legislation, than this State had ever seen in a period of Government previously. It was most effective reform in many fields. Of course, I had not stopped planning the reform in these areas: we had set up a number of projects to ensure a continuance of reform in the law area. For instance, we had a long-term research in depth in the credit sales area which we had undertaken at the request of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General, and which was being undertaken by the research officers in the Attorney-General's Department, together with a research team at the Adelaide University. We assembled material relating to credit sales from all comparable economies all over the world. We had a questionnaire sent out throughout Australia

and were processing the material to come up with a revolutionary proposal about basic credit sales legislation in Australia. In addition, we had undertaken the complete overhaul of the criminal law, both substantive and procedural, a project which was enthusiastically welcomed by the Law Society in South Australia as being long overdue.

There was a great deal of dead wood: a great many anomalies and a great many features of administration of procedure and criminal legislation needed overhaul for a long time. Time-wasting and wasteful procedures now affect the people of South Australia in the administration of criminal law. In order to carry out these things, the Attorney-General's Department had a solicitor who was responsible for the research work, for doing the liaison work with the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General, and for overseeing company prosecutions. Again, company prosecutions were undertaken for the first time by a Government in South Australia. Although liquidator after liquidator had protested to my predecessor as Attorney-General about the lack of prosecutions for apparent breaches of the Companies Act, nothing happened about the prosecutions, simply because there was no investigating staff and the prosecutions could not be undertaken. We set up an investigating team, which was under the control of a senior officer, a solicitor in the Attorney-General's Department; a junior solicitor and an articled clerk assisted him, but they have all gone. There is now nobody in the department to do this work. Heaven only knows how in these circumstances we can effectively get company prosecutions done.

The research work, one would gather, has come to a standstill because no officer in the department is responsible for it. One hears nothing of the work of the Criminal Law Reform Committee, whose members are Mr. Justice Hogarth, Mr. King, Q.C., and Mr. Kenneison. There is now no officer in the department responsible for liaison with the Law Department at the University of Adelaide in connection with credit sales legislation investigations. So, in fact, this most important long-term work towards important law reforms affecting the daily lives of South Australians is just not getting done.

I do not know what has happened to the work of reforming the courts. We have heard no announcements whatever from the Attorney-General, but when he was in Opposition he

spoke at length about the immediate necessity to introduce in South Australia legislation to compensate victims of crimes of violence. We have heard nothing about it, however, since he took office. When we were in office he said we ought to get on to it without any assistance from the Commonwealth at all, but he has done nothing.

The Minister, when in Opposition, had much to say about the need to improve payments to widows who received social welfare assistance in South Australia. This ought to be expanded! It was an urgent necessity! Since the present Minister has been in office we have heard nothing about it, and so far no announcement whatsoever has been made of any change or improvement or development in the area of social welfare in South Australia. The project set up by the previous Government, in conjunction with local government to develop recreation areas in South Australia seems to have gone by the board, because we have heard nothing about it at all.

Regarding Aboriginal affairs, I commend the present Minister in that he did speak to the participants in the Victoria Square vigil in connection with land rights.

Mr. Corcoran: Do you think he was wrong in talking to the demonstrators?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No; apparently he disagrees with the Minister of Lands about the worth of this demonstration, because he spoke in favour of it in Victoria Square, but the Minister of Lands thinks it was not worth very much. I want to know what the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs has done about improving the amount of reserve land available to the Aboriginal Lands Trust. He is in favour of the trust. It was very strange that he did not take up with the Minister of Lands the possibility of the trust's getting Wardang Island when the lease expires in 1970. What action did the Minister take to ensure that the chance for the Aboriginal Lands Trust to get this island was safeguarded?

The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs must know very well that the situation at Point Pearce now is very different from what it was in 1952. At present the Point Pearce Aboriginal population is building up significantly. There has been no reduction in the population there, rather a steady increase. Population projections on the basis of births at Point Pearce and on the basis of those staying on there show that there must be an expansion of employment opportunities there. Therefore, obtaining a place like Wardang Island to be run by the Aboriginal Lands Trust

as a tourist resort is vital to the future of the Aboriginal people in South Australia. Investigations by the Director of Aboriginal Affairs have shown that the American Indians have made great use of the development of tourist facilities as part of their tribal activities. The development of tourist activity by a reserve area could be of great benefit in providing employment opportunities for Aborigines, and therefore Wardang Island is very important to the Aboriginal people of this State.

Mr. Hughes: They would welcome the opportunity to turn it into a tourist resort.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Of course they would. There are young people at Point Pearce quite competent to be trained to carry out the servicing of tourist facilities at Wardang Island. Anyone who attends the functions held at Point Pearce from time to time must be aware of the enormous improvement in the standard of activity on the reserves and of the standards of the population. It is very heartening to go to debutante balls and other functions at Point Pearce to observe how these standards have changed since the days when the member for Whyalla and I visited Point Pearce so many years ago, before the present system was implemented.

What has the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs done about the areas to be added to the North-West Reserve? The Minister has visited the reserve. The Playford Government announced that it proposed to add a large area of land to the North-West Reserve but, in fact, it did not do so. When the Labor Government took office I inquired what had happened, and it appeared that it had been referred by the Playford Government to the Pastoral Board, which said it would investigate the matter, and it had sat on the docket ever since. Consequently, the Minister of Lands in the Labor Government directed the Pastoral Board to investigate the project.

The board members visited the area and returned with a recommendation that some of the area should be pastoral land and some should be turned into a national park and that some of the existing reserve area should be added to it. You can imagine our reaction. The investigation has been made, and there is not the slightest reason why the extra area should not be added to the North-West Reserve. Yet the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs has been in office for 100 days, and what has happened about it? We have not heard a thing.

When some of the present Government members were in Opposition they asked many questions about education; they were constantly hopping up and wanting to know what we would do about the cleaning of school windows. There is now no difficulty about washing windows from the viewpoint of water supply. Somehow this matter has been lost in the wash. The present Attorney-General, when in Opposition, used to hop up and ask why, since we were not cleaning school windows, we cleaned the windows of Government cars. What has happened in the field of education since the new Government took office? Within a very short period of taking office we made many significant changes and improvements. In very much less than 100 days we increased pay and allowances for student teachers in order to get better recruitment to the department. We had undertaken to make Arbury Park available for the best inservice training obtainable in any Public Service or teaching department in the southern hemisphere. We made many changes in proposals regarding education curricula. Further, an announcement was made about the development of the rural school system. However, what have we heard in the past 100 days about improvements in education in South Australia?

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: There's to be an investigation, so we are told.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We have been told that there has been considerable disturbance amongst some teachers about some things that the Minister has said regarding the amount of education expenditure in South Australia, and I hope that this does not augur for any reduction in education expenditure. The Labor Government markedly increased education expenditure, as we needed to do, and I hope that there will not be any reduction in the proportion of education expenditure in the Budget in South Australia. We took education expenditure in South Australia to the highest level at which it had stood in the history of the State.

Regarding the Chief Secretary, Minister of Health, and Minister of Mines, in this area, particularly the Ministry of Health, great changes occurred during the term of the Labor Government. We took expenditure on health and hospitals up 55 per cent a head of population in three years to the highest level of expenditure from a Government source on these items on a population basis anywhere in Australia. If any honourable member queries the figures, I suggest that he refer to *Hansard* of last year, where he will see those

figures in a statement from the Under Treasurer. What has happened in the area of health and hospitals since the new Government took office? So far as we can see nothing at all has happened, because nothing has been announced. What has happened about the plans that were to be recommended to the Government about a new general geriatric care system in South Australia? We have not heard. Further, what is happening about the building of the Modbury Hospital?

Mr. McAnaney: We're still looking for it.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It has been dealt with by the Public Works Committee. It was possible, given the finance, for the Government to get on with the boiler house immediately. Why has the work not been going on? We have not heard a thing about the Flinders teaching hospital. What has happened about mining? Again, we have had no major announcement, no announcement about development or plans to get the State moving. Where is the activity in the participation by South Australia in the great mineral development of Australia about which we heard so much from present Government members when they were in Opposition? In agriculture, we got nothing except a visit from the Minister of Agriculture to the fishermen in the South-East when there were certain electoral matters in the offing. I would agree that one Minister, the Minister of Transport and Minister of Local Government, has shown industry and activity. We have heard much from him, more than we have heard from all the other Ministers put together. He has certainly rushed about and I hand it to him: he has obviously got energy.

Mr. Corcoran: I hear they're going to rename the Mount Lofty Ranges the Murray Hills.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, I have heard that. That Minister announced a whole series of rail cuts in South Australia. True, in the time of the Labor Government a report had been prepared by the Railways Commissioner about rationalization of rail services, but that report went hand in hand with the Commissioner's proposals for co-ordination of road and rail transport, many of which were rejected by the Royal Commission on State Transport Services. Therefore, in order to rationalize rail services in South Australia, it was necessary to develop a programme so that, when a railway service was discontinued, a reasonable alternative service to country areas would operate. Further, with the abolition of controls on the road transport of freight, it



was necessary to have a system that would ensure that country areas got an adequate service from road transport and that those who provided a road transport service that comprised both economic and uneconomic portions would not be undercut by people who wanted to compete with them, simply undercutting on the cream of the services. These representations were made to us in Government, and I know that they were also made to the Opposition before we left office.

It was necessary that this system be developed as soon as a new Government was elected, yet all we have had from the Minister of Transport has been a rush announcement of a whole series of cuts on the basis of the old report of the Railways Commissioner, without anything clear to put in the place of services eliminated. The Labor Government had undertaken a comprehensive inquiry into the structure of and legislation covering local government in South Australia, because this matter was in need of overhaul and people in local government throughout the State had demanded a complete overhaul. Because of that, we set up the Local Government Act Revision Committee, which had been working for a considerable time and was still conducting its inquiries, with the approval of everybody, when the new Government took office. However, suddenly the committee was told to stop work on the investigation. It was due to go to the Strathalbyn council but was told it could not go.

Mr. Corcoran: The member for the district probably told it!

Mr. McAnaney: It's such a pipe dream that I don't know what you're talking about.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If the honourable member does not know about the local government inquiry, he has not read the Parliamentary Papers and has not spoken to the Chairman of the council in his own district, because when I was in that district considerable hostility was expressed to me about what had happened regarding the inquiry. We have had many announcements from the Minister about town planning, some of which gave very grave cause for alarm. The alarming thing about the appointment of this Minister is that here was a man who, in this Parliament when the Planning and Development Bill was being debated, was the most bitter opponent of the measure.

Mr. Corcoran: For obvious reasons, too.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: He was a man who was personally engaged in commercial enterprise that ran counter to the recom-

mendations in the metropolitan Adelaide development plan. He endeavoured, in the Upper House, so to amend the legislation that the Planning and Development Authority would have had no means of undertaking redevelopment in South Australia. He would have taken the teeth out of the legislation and left us without any effective town planning. The things that he said about his view of planners, their motives and integrity, brought the most angry (and justifiably angry) reaction from architects and town planners in this State and elsewhere. This is the man who, having given his opinion (and I have no doubt honestly) has been put in charge of the early stages of the development of town planning in South Australia under the new legislation that he so bitterly opposed. In order that town planning can be got going effectively, the people in the areas being planned for have to know what is in the minds of the planners and have to participate effectively in the planning. Those people have to know what is proposed in the plan published to them, and they have to be able to make up their minds intelligently about it and see that they are not adversely affected by the proposals.

One essential part of town planning work is communication with the citizens involved. However, what has happened? No sooner had the new Minister taken office than I was informed that the State Planner was instructed by the Minister that he could not go out and talk to the groups he had previously talked to without having every word he proposed to say vetted by the Minister first. That is simply a sheer impracticality: it just cannot be done. Incidentally, I did not get that information from the State Planner, but I naturally have my sources of information, just as members opposite had when they were in Opposition.

I know that the State Planner has a great deal of energy, but it would be impossible for him to submit in writing beforehand to the Minister everything he was going to say at any gathering concerning planning. Here again there is something that disturbs me considerably. We have had many instances now of the attitude that this Government, on assuming office, has taken towards public servants who were appointed by our Government or who were closely associated with the policies set forth by Ministers previously in office. This present Government has taken an attitude to those people which I can only describe as disturbing. Officers have been shifted about in the Public Service out of jobs which they

previously did, simply on the ground that they were previously close to Ministers who were in office.

I do not think this is the way to treat the Public Service. When my Party took office we knew there were numbers of senior officers who had been close to the previous Government. Those officers became directly responsible, to and associated with the new Ministry; in each case we took these people on trust, and we received loyalty and devoted service from them as a result. The degree to which public servants in some cases have been adversely commented upon in their presence to other people, or have been shifted about or have been set at nought or removed from close contact with Ministers because, apparently, they had been in close contact with Ministers previously holding office, is something which I think is very disturbing and something which does not show any sort of reasonable largeness of mind on the part of a Government taking office. I believe that the Public Service in South Australia consists of people who, whatever their private views, are there to try to carry out their jobs. That was how we found them, and we got great loyalty from people who we knew did not share our political opinions.

Mr. McAnaney: Hasn't every Government had that same experience?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In numbers of cases it appears that public servants are not going to be given a chance to show whether they can give loyal service, and I do not think that is proper. The Attorney-General moved people about the very day he went into office. I suggest that if the member for Stirling wants to know about this he should go to a few of the Ministers' departments and find out just what has been going on.

Mr. McAnaney: I had hundreds of complaints when you were the Minister of Social Welfare.

The SPEAKER: Order! This is not a conversation.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If the member for Stirling has any complaints whatever about public servants who were appointed to the Social Welfare Department while I was the Minister, I would like to know about them, because the appointments made to the department while I was there were of people who gave excellent service to the department and are still giving it in every case. I did not shift people about in the Social Welfare Department because of their private views, and I challenge the honourable member to offer me

a single instance of that kind of thing. The only conclusion one can come to in a review of what has gone on in the Government is that what I have said is quite right: the Government is lacking in lustre and lacking in creditability; the degree of confidence and excitement in this State's future, in the lead which has been given by administration in the role of this State for effective reform, has been lost, and it will not be regained until there is a Government in office which is imbued with the necessity for reform and effective administration, and that, of course, is the Government for which the overwhelming majority of the people in this State voted.

Mr. ALLEN (Burra): In rising to support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, I would like to say how privileged I feel in having been elected to represent the people of the Burra Electoral District in this House. Distinguished men have held this position before me. In fact, only last week it was announced that there was to be a new Commonwealth electoral district created in South Australia, to be known as Holder. I understand that this district was named after the late Sir Frederick William Holder, who was the first Speaker in the House of Representatives. I understand that Sir Frederick Holder was the Premier of South Australia on two occasions. He was also the member for Burra, the district I now represent.

This district was known as The Burra and Clare when it was first formed in 1857. It was then changed to The Burra, later it was known as Burra Burra, and now it is known as Burra. I sincerely hope that I can carry on the good work of my predecessors. I have been in this House now for four months, and although I have learned a little during that time I realize that I have yet very much more to learn. I have been accepted into this House very graciously by members on both sides, and I am looking forward to a happy association in this place. The staff have also been most helpful to me, and I appreciate all that they have done. No doubt by now everyone present will have realized that I am a man of few words. My motto through life has been that actions speak louder than words, and I assure members that I intend to carry on in this way.

I congratulate the Premier, his Ministers, you, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, and all members who have received appointments. I hope that all these people I have mentioned will enjoy good health to

enable them to carry out their duties. I understand that five former members of this Parliament passed on recently, and I, along with others, offer my sympathy to the relatives of these former members. I think I must also refer to those former members who voluntarily retired at the last election. Six experienced members retiring from this House will no doubt be a great loss.

In paying that tribute to former members, I must pay a special tribute to my predecessor, Mr. P. H. Quirke, who was a member of this House for 27 years. Possibly some members in this House could claim to know Mr. Quirke better than I know him, but I do not think anyone present has known him longer. My first association with him goes back to about 1932, during the time of the depression. I imagine that most of the older members of this House will still recall those depression days. At the age of 19 I started farming on my own in February 1929. In May, 1929, the price of wheat crashed, and the depression started. In 1932 I went to Clare looking for work picking grapes to supplement the farm income. I heard that a Mr. Quirke wanted grape pickers and I called at his home. His wife told me that he was not there but that I could meet him on the road, which I did, and he gave me a job grape picking at a wage of 1s. an hour, working 10 hours a day, and that was good money in those days. A few years later Mr. Quirke entered Parliament, and little did I know 36 years ago when I met him that I would follow him into this House. I have always had a great admiration for Mr. Quirke, because he always had the courage of his convictions and did and said what he thought was right. He built up a large personal following that always supported him at elections. He was an able debater, a quality for which he was admired. I shall never be able to match his ability, but I hope to be able to carry on from where he left off in the work that is necessary to represent the district.

The first subject in His Excellency's Speech to which I refer is schools, about which His Excellency stated:

Major constructions of school buildings already in progress will be continued, and investigations will proceed into additions to existing schools.

The member for Stuart (Mr. Riches) when speaking on June 25 about a new hospital promised to the Port Augusta district stated:

Finally, we have been waiting at Port Augusta for many years for a hospital, for which a model has been made and an under-

taking given by the former Premier that this project would commence next year. However, I saw no specific reference to this hospital in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech today. I take it that the present Government will honour the undertakings given by the previous Government.

That is a reasonable assumption, but the honourable member expects this Government to honour promises made by the former Labor Government when that Government did not honour promises made by the Playford Government. A promise was made to the residents of the Clare district to construct a new high school in that centre. The Public Works Committee investigated this project and its findings were printed on May 13, 1965. I refer to Parliamentary Paper No. 51 which, *inter alia*, stated:

The committee heard evidence on the proposed work from Mr. K. E. Barter (Superintendent of High Schools, Education Department), Mr. R. W. Johns (Senior Design Architect, Public Buildings Department) and Mr. P. E. Scott (Architect, of Messrs. Jackman, Gooden and Scott, Architects, Adelaide). The committee inspected the existing Clare High School and Clare Primary School and viewed the site for the proposed new high school buildings.

#### NEED FOR NEW SCHOOL

Mr. Barter submitted the following statement in support of the need to re-establish the Clare High School on a new site:

I. *Function and Size of School:* Clare High School provides the only facilities for secondary education for boys and girls who live in the town of Clare and in the surrounding district extending from Mintaro in the east to Blyth in the west and from Auburn in the south to Spalding in the north. Six school buses serve the school. The present enrolment of the school is 280 and it is expected that this figure will increase slowly to a total of 300 by 1970. The proposed new buildings provide accommodation for 300 students.

II. *The Existing Accommodation:* The site of the present school has an area of 5 acres, 3 roods, 30 perches, which is too small to provide adequate playing fields. The main building which is of solid construction was erected in 1924. It comprises two classrooms, a library, a home science unit, and a head master's office. This building is supplemented by seven wooden classrooms, a wooden dual science unit, and other wooden rooms for typing, boys craft, and art. There is no staff room. The small area and the nature of the accommodation are unsuitable for the most efficient operation of the school.

III. *Details of the New Site:* It is proposed to re-establish the school on 20 acres fronting Government Road in part section 538 in the hundred of Clare. This site is on the northern side of the town near the road to Blyth and about one mile from the Clare Post Office.

IV. *Primary School Needs at Clare:* The case for a new high school at Clare is made urgent by the needs of the local primary school. The 359 pupils of the primary school are accommodated on an area of 1 acre, 0 roods, 24 perches. The Superintendent of Primary Schools has stated that if the Clare High School is re-established on a new site and its present school is made available to the primary school, the infants grades will be housed in the existing primary buildings and the middle and upper primary school grades will be transferred to the present Clare High School buildings. The erection of the proposed buildings on the new site will, therefore, provide greatly improved accommodation for both the Clare High School and the Clare Primary School.

In addition, the report stated:

#### PROPOSALS ADOPTED

The committee is satisfied that the accommodation now provided for the Clare High School is unsuitable and inadequate and it adopts the department's proposals. The proposals provide for the high school to be re-established on a new site and for the existing high school buildings to be used for the middle and upper grades of the nearby primary school. In the course of its inspection the committee saw the very crowded conditions which now apply at both schools, and there is no doubt that these will be greatly improved if the present proposals are carried out.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The committee recommends the construction of new buildings for the Clare High School at an estimated cost of £315,000.

I emphasize that the attendance of pupils at present is 430, which is 130 more than the Public Works Committee estimated would be attending by 1970. One reason is that the previous Government (and I give it credit) commenced matriculation classes at the high school, but made no effort to provide a new school to accommodate the students. Much is spoken of decentralization and the need for our children to be educated in the country, but we must provide them with facilities for that education. I maintain that the new Clare High School building should be commenced before any project approved by the former Labor Government is undertaken. On April 17, during Question Time, the member for Glenelg asked the Premier a question concerning the Glenelg jetty. In reply, the Premier said:

I assure the honourable member that this Government will not be in the habit of repudiating agreements made by another Government.

In view of the Premier's reply, I ask the Minister of Education whether that assurance also applies to promises given by the former Playford Administration.

His Excellency's Speech refers to fauna conservation, a matter, together with flora conservation, in which I am particularly interested. My predecessor (Mr. Quirke) who was responsible for proclaiming many reserves in South Australia, is also a lover of fauna and flora. In fact, when visiting his home recently early one morning I was greeted by the sound of two kookaburras in the trees at the back of his home. Those who have visited his home appreciate the fact that he has chosen to retire in the surroundings that have always meant so much to him.

My predecessor was responsible for first setting aside 15 acres in the Clare hills, which contained the only stand of red cord stringy bark in South Australia. Later, 600 acres was added to this area and a substantial area was again added only recently. As most of the reserves in South Australia have been named after prominent people in the State, I can think of no more fitting tribute to my predecessor than to name this reserve at Clare the Quirke Reserve in recognition of this gentleman's services to South Australia. Indeed, I suggest that the Minister of Lands seriously consider this suggestion. So that some of our species of fauna will not become extinct, fauna in this State will need further protection, namely, by restricting the issue of gun licences, a restriction which I am sure citizens in a certain overseas country wish was adopted years ago.

When in England about three years ago, I visited Spalding in Lincolnshire, where the game season opens on October 1, and it was a sight to see game such as pheasant, partridge and pigeons in the fields at evening. I understand that in England a gun licence can be obtained only by a property owner; the licence costs £3 sterling and the holder of that licence is permitted to shoot only on his own property. Indeed, a property owner guards his game as closely as we guard our sheep in this country and woe betide anyone who shoots game on someone else's property. I believe that stricter control should be placed on the use of firearms in South Australia; at present, any person over 15 years of age may walk into a shop, purchase a firearm, register it and procure a licence.

When one travels in the country and sees the damage caused by irresponsible people, one realizes the necessity for some form of restriction in this regard. Any revenue lost by the Government would be offset by the less destruction that would result. Recently when touring my district, which extends 80-miles

east of Burra (country where signposts are valuable to any motorist) I noticed that the signpost bearing the name "Koomooloo", which was 18in. by 6in. bore 45 bullet holes and was almost impossible to read. The six "o's" in the name were apparently an attractive sight for a person with an itchy trigger finger. The sign bearing the name "Woolganji" (18in. by 6in.) had 68 holes in it although, ironically enough, on the same gate was a sign "No shooting" which bore 72 bullet holes. If this is being done to our signposts, what is being done to our fauna?

In travelling through my district I have been saddened to see empty farm houses. Although this is unfortunate, it seems to be one of those things that are happening in this changing world. I believe it stems from the early days when land was first cut up into farms and when 500 to 600 acres was recognized as being sufficient for a team of 10 horses and for keeping sidelines such as cows, pigs and poultry, etc. With the advent of the tractor, such farms as these were still able to manage, but with the much larger tractors and machinery, bulk handling of wheat and super, and the higher costs of today, it has become necessary to crop larger areas and therefore to buy neighbouring property or, on the other hand, to sell one's own property to one's neighbour. This has largely brought about the abandonment of many farm dwellings.

Unfortunately, a loss of population has occurred in the district: with no industries in the local towns, population has drifted to the city. The remedy to this situation, of course, is to decentralize, a matter to which much lip service has been paid in the past by both Parties. I urge the present Government to pay all possible attention to this matter. With goods trains running at below capacity, I believe that freight concessions ought to be given to light industries to enable them to establish in country districts.

It was encouraging to see the reference to weed control in His Excellency's Speech and to know that the Government intends to continue with this important work. I congratulate those instrumental in passing the new Weeds Act in 1956. The old Act had become outmoded, similarly to the present Local Government Act. It was my pleasure to be Chairman of the District Council of Spalding when the new Weeds Act was gazetted, and we claim to have been the first council in South Australia to commence functioning under the new Act. Although our council was ready to proceed with a programme of weed control, we were

told not to commence until the *Government Gazette* was printed. Our District Clerk had to telephone the Government Printing Office to ascertain when we could proceed with our programme, and our staff actually went to work an hour after the *Gazette* came out. After a few unpleasant episodes, we finally received the support of landowners, and it is now a pleasure to drive along our country roads and to see the progress that is being made in this regard.

My council was one of many which pressed to have wild artichoke declared a noxious weed, and outstanding results have been achieved. I suppose my district might have been one of the most heavily infested areas of the State: drains were being blocked, water tables were silting up, and it was almost impossible to drive stock along roads. The Act having now been in force for 12 years, we realize that we cannot undo things that have taken 120 years to build up, but I believe that we are making satisfactory progress in this field. I consider that in time, with the use of new weedicides, the problem will be brought under control. In my area the remaining weed problem concerns cape tulip, hoary cress, and tomato weed. I congratulate all councils and landholders on their practical approach to this important matter.

Although no reference to the tourist industry appears in His Excellency's Speech, I believe that we must continue to expand this industry. My district (indeed, the whole State) has everything to attract tourists. Having had the opportunity three years ago to be a tourist myself, I took particular notice of the methods used to attract tourists in other countries. Our Flinders Ranges are equal to most places in the world. A tourist, setting out to see another country, does not expect to see the places he visits decorated and made to look attractive; he desires to see the country in its natural condition, whether it be desert, forest, mountains, or scenery generally. I paid \$16 for a one-day bus tour over the Arabian Desert to Cairo, Ismalia and thence to Port Said, a tour over country which some people might think was not worth while. However, I saw Egypt, and that was what I set out to do.

People come here to see what South Australia has to offer in its natural state. My district has a wide range of tourist attractions: Clare is known as the "Garden of the North", and in Burra and surrounding districts we have some of the leading merino sheep studs in the world. Burra also has a National Trust, which

is well worth seeing, and east of Burra there is excellent pastoral country. From Booborowie north towards Jamestown there is excellent country for growing wheat and lucerne. When touring Scotland, my party was taken to a mill where employees were spinning woollen garments. Coming from the leading country in the world for merino studs we were not impressed with the weave that we saw. However, I estimated that our party left about £100 sterling at that mill, representing the purchase of souvenirs. As we were told that about six coaches a day came to the mill, one could imagine how much money was being left there.

When in Melbourne on my way to Fiji, I met an American lady who was a wheat-grower. She came to Australia in the hope of seeing some of our wheatgrowing country. She disembarked at Fremantle for half a day and headed towards the hills; she did the same thing at Outer Harbour and Port Melbourne. Therefore, she was going back to America having seen nothing of the interior of this country. When I told her that I was a wheat farmer from Australia, she almost cried on my shoulder; she had come to Australia and seen only some rugged coastline and a few cities. I had a similar experience with an American couple in Fiji. They told me they had seen Australia: they said they had touched down in Darwin and Sydney. They are the types of experience had by tourists coming to Australia. Tourists should be encouraged to travel inland after disembarking at Outer Harbour.

I was pleased to hear His Excellency say that additional money would be provided for roads this financial year. We are aware that the sealing of the Broken Hill road and the Eyre Highway has taken a large portion of the money available for roads for several years. However, with the completion of the Broken Hill road this year and with the Eyre Highway completed to Ceduna, one would be justified in assuming that more money will be available for sealing roads in the inner country districts of South Australia. The Burra District would have the least miles of sealed

roads of any country district in South Australia. I hope that, with this additional money available for the inner areas, this district will receive sufficient grants to enable a start to be made on these roads. I draw attention to Booborowie, in my district, which I consider has been overlooked in the provision of roads. About 53 years ago, efforts were made by townspeople to get a rail service for the district. However, I understand that the rail service went to Spalding instead. As Booborowie did not obtain a railway, I should have thought that it would have a high priority when it came to obtaining a sealed road. However, up until now there is no sealed road within 10 miles of the town. A few streets are sealed and they have been paid for with a heavy moiety.

This town serves a district with a high production rate. The district is renowned for lucerne; about 700 tons of seed is produced each year, which is taken by road to the rail service at Burra. The district also has some of the leading merino sheep studs in the world and each year thousands of buyers go there to select stud rams. Wheatgrowing is another industry in this district with the wheat being carted over roads that are not sealed. When he visited the area recently, the Minister of Roads was surprised at the existing state of affairs. The Highways Department places much emphasis on road counts, but I believe that emphasis should also be placed on production when it comes to allocating priorities for country roads. I ask leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

#### SMITHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

The SPEAKER laid on the table the report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence, on Smithfield High School.

Ordered that report be printed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 5.39 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, July 25, at 2 p.m.