

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, July 25, 1968

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

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: ELECTORAL REFORM

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier): I ask leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I assure the House and the public of South Australia who are concerned with electoral reform that the Government recognizes the urgency of having a new electoral system in South Australia based on the principle of providing adequate representation for all electors in the State. The Government has been accused of refusing to bring into the House its plans for electoral reform. This charge is unfounded: our proposals for reform will be discussed by Parliament as soon after our assumption of office as were the Labor Party proposals after its election in 1965. Incidentally, on that occasion the Address in Reply debate was concluded before the electoral debate took place.

Whilst the Opposition claims to be associated with urgent moves for reform, it did nothing in this House in this regard for its last two years in office. In addition, since the election held on March 2, the Labor Party has been consistent only in the sense that it has consistently altered its electoral policy, and only this week the Leader of the Opposition has announced a further alteration in Labor Party proposals. During this time the Liberal and Country League has put forward one plan for electoral reform in South Australia—

Mr. Clark: No-one knows it.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: —which it drew up—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier understands that he is limited to 15 minutes?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Yes, I understand that. The plan was brought forward after a close study of systems existing in other States of Australia. The essential difference between the approaches of both political parties has been the degree of weighting to be given to electorates outside the metropolitan area. The Government believes that electors in all parts of South Australia, a State which has particularly difficult geographical features in this regard, should be fairly represented. However, since its policy was formulated, the Government, while taking office, has not gained a

sufficient majority to implement it, and there is some resemblance between the position of the Labor Party in 1965 and the L.C.L. Government in 1968, in that in both cases legislation that is not agreed to by all parties could not then and cannot now be passed. Recognizing the implications of this situation the Government, whilst not abandoning the principle subscribed to by every other State of some weighting for country areas, will introduce a Bill that should be acceptable to Parliament and the community. This will be done at the conclusion of the Address in Reply debate, and I shall then give a full explanation of it.

QUESTIONS

FOREMEN

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In May, 1957, the Public Service Commissioner and the Public Service Association signed an industrial agreement covering foremen employed in State Government departments. The agreement, which covered wages and conditions, had a duration of two years but was not renewed until five years later (in June, 1964), and during that period foremen's margins remained static. In 1965, the Public Service Association formed a foremen's committee and, no agreement being reached with the Public Service Commissioner, an appeal was made to the Industrial Commission for an award for foremen, as occurred in the nurses' case.

The court ruled that no award could be made, as the foremen were covered by a number of wages boards applying to different classes of workmen, including foremen. As it would have been difficult for the foremen's claims to be dealt with by this whole series of separate wages boards, an agreement was finally reached with me last year that there would be an interim agreement between the Government and the association as to foremen's conditions, that this would be treated as interim only until a foremen's wages board could be formed, and that the formation of that board would not be opposed by the Government.

An agreement with the union was finally gazetted in May of this year but, from January 22 last, metal trades employees working at Kent Town received wage rises up to \$10.05 a week, and in many cases the tradesmen are being paid more than the foremen in charge of them, although they are required to instruct these tradesmen. This has caused considerable discontent amongst the foremen, and requests to the Public Service Board to get the metal trades margins passed on to

the foremen have been unsuccessful. I fear that considerable industrial unrest may arise unless something satisfactory is done about having a further interim agreement until the wages board can be formed and can sit upon the matter. Will the Premier therefore immediately take up this matter with the Chief Secretary so that any industrial unrest that might otherwise arise might be avoided and justice given in the interim to the foremen, in order reasonably to maintain their relative position to the tradesmen under them?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be happy to obtain a report from my colleague.

STRAYING STOCK

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: The Minister of Works will realize that the Mannum-Adelaide main passes through portion of my district and that an easement, or right of way, runs parallel to and immediately alongside the main. I think the purpose of that right of way is to facilitate servicing of the main. I understand that at various points gates were erected, where necessary, by the Engineering and Water Supply Department when the main was completed; these were to prevent stock from straying from one landowner's paddock into another's. I am told by landowners that at least some of these gates are in a bad state of repair and, as a result, stock are straying through the gates into the paddocks of adjoining landowners. I also understand that this matter was mentioned to employees of the Engineering and Water Supply Department and that landowners have been told that it is not their responsibility to keep the gates in repair. Will the Minister of Works ascertain for me whose duty it is to keep these gates in repair? If it is the obligation of a Government department to do so, will he see whether attention to the repair of these gates can be given without further delay?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I shall be happy to obtain a report for the honourable member.

BLOCK ALLOTMENT

Mr. CORCORAN: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to my question of Tuesday last in relation to his department's making land available in the counties of Chandos and Buckingham?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Owing to the circumstances outlined by the honourable member, the Land Board has reconsidered the allotment of blocks in county Chandos, and has

made further recommendations to me, which I have approved. It is intended at this stage to prepare eight blocks in the southern section of county Chandos adjoining the hundred of Shaugh. However, before this can be done boundary surveys of the blocks have yet to be carried out, as this work was suspended. It is hoped that it will be possible to complete the survey work during the present winter and spring seasons, but no definite date can be given for the gazettal of the blocks. In addition to these eight blocks, two blocks in the hundred of Shaugh and two blocks in the hundred of Day will be offered.

BOAT LICENSING

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The previous Government appointed a committee to inquire into the possibility of licensing private power boats and, in 1967, it brought down a report recommending some form of licensing. Has the Minister of Marine read that report and, if he has, can he say whether the Government has considered bringing down legislation to make the licensing of power boats necessary?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I have read the report and I am now studying it in more detail with a view to making recommendations to Cabinet on introducing in this House a form of legislation.

CLARE HOUSING

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Minister of Housing a reply to my question of Tuesday last regarding housing at Clare?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The General Manager of the Housing Trust has informed me that the trust expects to commence the erection of 10 houses in the Clare district during 1968-69.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: People who have studied Aboriginal affairs closely generally recognize that possibly the most important aspect of Aboriginal welfare is the promotion of education, in all its aspects, of Aboriginal children in order to prevent the permanent poverty of many Aborigines in the State continuing. In view of what we have been doing regarding Aboriginal education, I believe it would be of great value if an in-service course or seminar were held this year for all teachers engaged in the education of Aboriginal children in South Australia, with invitations issued to representative teachers from other States, including the Northern Territory. Will the

Minister of Education arrange for such a seminar to take place at a convenient time during the year?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I am grateful to the honourable member for raising this matter. I received, only two days ago I think, from an officer of my department, Mr. Whitelaw, a very fine report stating what is being done at the Musgrave Park school by way of the education of Aboriginal children and referring to the kinds of thing the honourable member has mentioned. Following this question, however, I will get a report on the matter that the honourable member has raised and let him have that report. In the meantime, I will supply the member with a copy of the document referred to, as I think he would be most interested in it.

GREENHILL ROAD

Mr. GILES: Some time ago I asked the Minister of Roads, by letter, whether a guard rail was to be erected on Greenhill Road, which traverses some extremely precipitous country and in one place runs around the top of a quarry. Wires have been removed from the fence and the standing posts give no protection to a motorist who gets near the edge of the road. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads to treat this matter with extreme urgency, as the present situation is most dangerous, two cars having recently tipped over the edge of the road?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will take the matter up with the Minister as a matter of urgency.

PROFESSOR RICHARDSON

Mr. HUDSON: I refer to the scurrilous attack that has been made on Professor Richardson (Chairman of the Council of Civil Liberties), who is the first holder of the joint position of Professor of Education at Flinders University and Principal of Bedford Park Teachers College. I understand that Professor Richardson has been granted one month's study leave, which leave has been approved by the Flinders University Council (and, I imagine, by the Education Department) to enable him to go to Russia to study Russian methods of the treatment of mentally retarded children and methods of preparation of teachers of the mentally retarded. Knowing the interest of the Minister of Education in such matters, I am sure that she, as well as other members, would approve thoroughly of these subjects of study. The continuance of having joint appointments such as Professor

Richardson's must be seriously called into question if attacks such as those that have been made on Professor Richardson are repeated. Surely this will mean serious difficulty in maintaining the high level of co-operation that has existed until now between Bedford Park Teachers College and the university. The purpose of this joint appointment was to secure this sort of co-operation and integration of activities. I also refer the Minister to the following statement made yesterday by the member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney):

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.

Does the Minister agree with the statement by the member for Stirling and will she dissociate herself and the Government completely from this grossly unfair, scurrilous and unwarranted attack on a person who, for at least part of his time, is one of her officers?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: With regard to Professor Richardson's projected trip overseas, Cabinet is aware that he is going; in fact, Cabinet gave approval for his journey overseas. Regarding the other matters, I will obtain a considered reply for the honourable member.

COURT ACTION

Mr. RODDA: In this morning's *Advertiser*, under the heading "Wife Gaoled Over Bail", appears an article that refers to a mother of five children who was arrested yesterday after her husband had failed to appear in court to answer a certain charge. In view of what appeared to me to be the strange circumstances surrounding the case, will the Attorney-General furnish the House with a report on this matter?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes. I saw the report in the *Advertiser* this morning as I came to town in the train. Immediately I arrived at my office, I caused inquiries to be made as to the circumstances surrounding the matter and, subsequently, the Premier was in touch with both the Chief Secretary and me about it. The facts are that the defendant, Alan Leslie McLaren, was due to appear in the Adelaide Magistrates Court on July 24 (yesterday) to answer charges of driving under the influence and associated driving charges, and also to answer a charge of assaulting the police. He had been before the court before and had been remanded until yesterday. On his first appearance in court the police had opposed bail in view of what was known by them.

of his previous record but, after some discussion, bail in his own bond of \$800 with a surety of \$800 had been allowed. When Mrs. McLaren was in court on the first occasion, it was carefully explained to her that, if her husband did not appear, the surety would forfeit the recognizance, and she appeared to understand this.

The SPEAKER: Order! Can the Attorney-General assure me that this matter is not *sub judice*?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes, Sir. It has already been dealt with, before lunch today. Mrs. McLaren swore the usual affidavit that her assets totalled \$6,400 and she was thereupon accepted as a surety. When Mr. McLaren failed to appear yesterday a warrant was issued for his arrest and also for the estreatment of the recognizance, and it was not until last night that the police, after they had traced Mrs. McLaren to an address in Kent Town, learned for the first time that children were involved. The police officers contacted the women police immediately and two women police constables attended to take charge of the children. A neighbour agreed to take care of the children until other arrangements could be made. The women police also left a message for Mrs. McLaren's solicitor on her behalf and contacted her mother-in-law in Melbourne, who undertook to contact other relatives about the care of the children. Mrs. McLaren was then taken into custody on the warrant that had been issued yesterday. Those were the facts as they were given me this morning. Immediately they were given me I asked that she be made aware of her rights under section 40 of the Justices Act to have the warrant under which she had been arrested varied, and I requested that, if she desired to apply under that section, she be given every facility. Also, I later asked an officer of the Social Welfare Department to check on the whereabouts of the children and on their welfare. My latest information, at 1.45 p.m., was that Mrs. McLaren, the children, and the neighbour with whom they lodged overnight were not at that address. However, just before lunch today Mrs. McLaren appeared before Mr. Wilson, C.S.M., who varied the order that had been made for her imprisonment by reducing the amount payable under the original recognizance to \$400, by giving her 28 days to pay and, in default, reducing the term of imprisonment from nine months to three months. So she has now been released, and that is where the matter stands at present.

Mr. RICHES: In common with the Attorney-General, and doubtless other members, I was distressed to read in this morning's *Advertiser* about the case of a woman who was facing nine months' imprisonment because she had gone surety (in good faith, it would appear) for her husband's appearance in court but was unable to see that he appeared in court. I consider that the Attorney-General has done all that he could do in the matter and, from his statement to the House today, it would appear that the police and the court under the present circumstances have done all they could do to help. I firmly believe that this woman's debt to society as disclosed publicly up to the present does not warrant nine months' imprisonment or even three months' imprisonment. It seems to me to be out of all proportion.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. RICHES: Will the Attorney-General investigate this matter with a view to seeing whether the law could not and should not be altered in such cases?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will certainly consider this matter, but I point out, as I said in my earlier reply, that bail for the husband had been fixed at a substantial amount, which shows that the court regarded the offences with which he was charged as serious. Another factor was that these people only recently came from another State. I did not mention that before. The court considered there should be some substantial deterrent to his forfeiting his bail. Mrs. McLaren, who was present during the discussions when the police opposed bail, was apprised of the situation that would arise if her husband did not surrender; yet, she was prepared to go surety for him in the circumstances.

Mr. RICHES: In the belief that he would attend.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: What her state of mind was we do not know, but she was prepared to go surety for him. Most important, she swore the usual justification for bail for the sum of \$6,400. In other words, she said she had available assets to cover the \$800 for which she was surety. This is an important factor. It now transpires, according to the press, that she has not such assets, although she may have had them at the time. These are the significant facts that surround the matter.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Minister must not debate the matter.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: No, Mr. Speaker. I say that in explanation, and I will see whether the law should be altered. However, these are important factors to bear in mind in this case.

BANK HOLIDAY

Mr. BROOMHILL: I refer to a recent application by members of the Australian Bank Officials Association to the Government seeking that December 31 be granted to them as a bank holiday. I am aware that December 31 is a Tuesday and that Monday and Wednesday of that week are both holidays. As many bank officials are working in various places away from their home towns and as acceding to their request would give them the opportunity for a substantial break over the Christmas period, can the Premier say, first, whether South Australia has fewer public holidays than has any other State except Queensland and, secondly, why this application has been refused?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I understand that this action took place during my absence and, for that reason, I am not familiar with it. However, I shall obtain a detailed report for the honourable member.

MOUNT GAMBIER HOUSING

Mr. BURDON: The continued steady growth of Mount Gambier during the past few years has resulted in a heavy demand for Housing Trust houses but, although many houses have been built during that time, the present waiting period for a rental house is as long as nine months. Will the Minister of Housing take urgent steps to provide more rental houses in Mount Gambier?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I think I am correct in saying that the trust has a permanent resident officer at Mount Gambier and, no doubt, in addition to the information the honourable member now gives me the trust officer can also furnish information to the trust. I will ask the General Manager of the trust for a report on the programme at Mount Gambier, and will inform the honourable member when I have it.

ABATTOIR

Mr. CASEY: Has the Minister of Lands received a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to the question I asked recently about the Gepps Cross abattoir?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Minister of Agriculture has given me the following report concerning the abattoir:

Following receipt of Mr. McCall's report (which incidentally was made to me as Minister and not to the Government) I had discussions with the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board. Following those discussions the board indicated its willingness to engage Mr. McCall, if he can be made available, to implement in collaboration with and under the control of the board, certain recommendations that he made in his report, with a view to arresting the drift in the finances of the undertaking and putting it on a satisfactory operating basis. Earlier this week Mr. McCall met with the board for preliminary discussions, and I understand the board gave an assurance of its desire to co-operate with him and facilitate the implementation of his proposals.

I make it quite clear that beyond this action, in which I have acted purely as an intermediary, I have not directed the board in any way, nor have I taken any steps to alter the constitution of the controlling body, which is prescribed in the legislation and would require amending legislation before any change could be made. I believe that if Mr. McCall is engaged by the board, he will have its complete co-operation and assistance in any measures he may consider necessary to improve its position; and any further action by the Government will, I am sure, be considered only if and when it is deemed desirable in the light of the results of Mr. McCall's engagement. Any application from the board for a Government subsidy would be considered on its merits, and having regard to the funds available.

SOIL CONFERENCE

Mr. RICHES: I believe that many hundreds of international soil scientists from many countries are to visit South Australia within the next week or so to attend a conference of a magnitude far greater than most conferences of that nature that have been held here. Will the Premier ascertain whether an opportunity can be given to members to meet the visitors during their sojourn in this State or to hear them speak on what, I believe, will be some of the most important subjects discussed this year?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: This will be a most important conference indeed, and South Australia is honoured by having been chosen as its venue. However, we have earned this distinction because we have been in the forefront of several important research activities concerning the use of what used to be infertile soils, and the research carried on in this State is no doubt the reason why South Australia has been chosen. The conference is so important that a book of hundreds of pages about it is being printed locally. Almost completed, it contains complete details of the conference. I understand that the Minister of

Agriculture is handling details of a function which the 1,000 delegates and officials involved in the conference will attend. I am pleased to receive this question, and I will ask my colleague for details of this function and see what can be done.

GAWLER BLOCKS SCHOOL

Mr. CLARK: I intended to speak on this matter during the Address in Reply debate, but I believe that it is most urgent that that debate should finish as soon as possible. Recently, a deputation from the Gawler Blocks School Committee saw me at my home. These people are concerned because much of the land in the area is being bought by people of southern European extraction—Greeks and Italians. Members of the deputation were not reflecting on these people, as they consider them to be fine citizens. However, more than 70 per cent of the children attending the school at Gawler Blocks are children of Greek or Italian parentage. There are 15 children in grade 1 (I think the whole of that grade comprises children of such parentage) who speak little (or in many cases no) English. The committee is concerned about the difficulties being caused in this regard. I did not contact the headmaster about the matter as, realizing that he was in the service of the department, I did not wish possibly to put him in an awkward position. However, I am sure that the Minister is aware of the teaching problems that arise when a teacher cannot speak Italian and his or her students cannot speak (or in many cases can barely understand) English. The committee is worried about the future effect of this problem on the school, which is a particularly good school (it has good appointments and the committee has done much over the years to put everything possible into it). It has been suggested that the school take in from the teachers college a teacher who can speak Italian as well as English. Will the Minister call for a report on this matter and ascertain whether something cannot be done to obviate the difficulties being experienced? The committee believes that similar conditions exist also at the Smithfield school (which is in my district but which I have not had an opportunity to contact) and possibly at the Virginia school.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I believe that facilities are available for teaching English to migrant children in schools, but I will call for a report on the matter, and I will let the honourable member know as soon as it is available.

GEDVILLE CROSSING

Mr. HURST: Representations have continuously been made since 1961 to install an effective automatic warning device at the Gedville level crossing, which is one of the double-track type. The volume of pedestrians using that crossing has increased considerably through the build-up of population in the area, and statistics taken out in 1965 reveal that, on average, 2,300 people traverse the crossing between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. As a result of representations previously made, relief was provided for pedestrians by installing a zig-zag crossing. However, as at times this crossing is a hazard to motorists, I ask the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Transport, to ascertain whether the list of priorities for the coming year includes the provision of lights at the crossing.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will obtain a report.

PENSIONERS' RENTS

Mr. RYAN: A resident in my district who, because of financial circumstances, applied to the Housing Trust last January for a reduced rent, was notified during that month that his rent would be reduced to \$4 a week, and that unless there was a change in his position in the meantime the reduction would be reviewed within six months. A review having, in fact, taken place in July, this person received a letter from the trust to the effect that the rent would be \$4.50 a week, to take effect as from July 27, 1968. The letter also contains the following information:

When a tenant, whose only income is the age pension, is granted a reduced rent, this reduction is not now subject to the normal review each six months. Such reduced rents, will, however, be reconsidered in the event of a general rent review.

I believe that this is not an isolated case and that many similar letters have been received by tenants paying a reduced rent. Will the Minister of Housing say whether this represents a change of policy on the part of the Housing Trust? On the other hand, is the trust beating the gun in increasing pensioners' rents at this stage, anticipating a general increase in the pension under the Commonwealth Budget?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I should think that the latter part of the honourable member's question is purely a surmise for which, perhaps, there is little justification. I know that certain forecasts of the Commonwealth Budget have been made: this seems to happen often, but I do not know what substance, if any, there may be in such

forecasts. However, I assure the honourable member that if, indeed, an increase were to be granted, the Housing Trust would certainly not have acted on rumour and, therefore, it could not be taking action in accordance with the honourable member's suggestion. The Housing Trust would know no more about the Commonwealth Budget than perhaps some newspapers might presume to know. I consider that the motives attributed by the honourable member to the Housing Trust are inaccurate. I do not know whether he wishes me to take up with the trust a special case; if he does, I ask him to give me the name of the person whose letter he read. If he does not wish me to take up a special case, I will inquire generally of the trust to see whether there has been a change of policy of which I am not aware.

EGGS

Mr. FREEBAIRN: The Red Comb Egg Co-operative Society operates an egg-grading floor in Adelaide as an agent of the South Australian Egg Board. This is an effective and well-run co-operative with about 1,100 members (of whom I happen to be one), and it processes about 20 per cent of the eggs graded by agents of the board in South Australia. Last year the co-operative made the substantial profit of \$27,000, which represents slightly more than 1c a dozen eggs graded. At the annual general meeting of the society this year the following resolution was passed:

That the Red Comb Egg Co-operative Society Limited make representations to the South Australian Egg Board that the distributable profits from the grading of eggs should be passed on to members who send their eggs to the co-operative by way of a bonus at the end of each financial year.

Will the Minister representing the Minister of Agriculture ascertain from his colleague whether this request of members of the co-operative cannot be granted?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes.

CLOVERCREST SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: On January 4 last I received correspondence from the former Minister of Education telling me that approval had been granted for the proposal to build a new primary school at Clovercrest at an estimated cost of \$245,000 to be referred to the Public Works Committee. This school is to be erected on a 10-acre site held by the Education Department at the corner of Wright and Kelly Roads. Because of the need for this school, I ask the Minister of Education whether she has anything further to report on the matter.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will obtain a report for the honourable member on the latest facts, bringing it down for her next week.

SCRAP METAL

Mr. CASEY: I have often been asked to try to influence the Government to establish a scrap metal rendering-down plant at Peterborough. The reason for these overtures is that, over the years, a huge quantity of scrap metal has been sold by the South Australian Railways at ridiculously low prices, to outside bodies as a result of there being no other way of disposing of this type of scrap. However, work on rail standardization is at present taking place in the Northern Division of South Australia and dozens of old T-type engines and tenders are lying about at railway sidings in this area together with much antiquated rolling stock that will be ready for the scrap heap, as well as thousands of tons of rails that will probably be scrapped as a result of standardization. Also, the gas pipeline is planned to go through this area as it runs from Gidgealpa to Adelaide. Of course, the Government believed that it should have gone another way.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member cannot debate that matter.

Mr. CASEY: As a result of the matters to which I have referred, it would be ideal for the Government (perhaps in conjunction with the Railways Department) to establish some type of rendering-down process at Peterborough whereby all this metal could be rendered down and railed to Port Pirie for shipment overseas. As the Premier has often expressed an interest in the decentralization of industry, this proposition, which I believe has much merit, affords him an opportunity to prove his interest. Therefore, will he take up the matter and let me have a detailed report of his findings?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: What the honourable member has said is indeed a challenge as well as a question. I am pleased to hear that so much remodelling is taking place in the honourable member's district that he has so much material to consign to the scrap heap. I assure him that I will have investigations commenced by the Industrial Development Branch to see whether his suggestion has merit, and I will let him have a report.

GUARD RAILS

Mr. VENNING: Many railway accidents and fatalities are continuing to occur in South Australia. An opinion held in my area is

that, if the guard rails at crossings were constructed so as not to offer resistance in the case of a collision (rather than constructed in the substantial way in which they are now constructed), a vehicle could possibly be swept aside in many cases with only a minor accident resulting. Will the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Transport, obtain a report for me on this matter?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

ASCOT PARK SCHOOL

Mr. VIRGO: I refer to the accommodation currently available at the Ascot Park Primary School, which was first built in 1926 when it consisted of two solid-construction classrooms with a music room and other facilities, including a headmaster's office. Since then, the school attendance has naturally increased considerably, and 18 prefabricated temporary timber classrooms have been added to cater for the 700 pupils now enrolled. When the school was first built and the early prefabricated temporary classrooms added, most of them were unfortunately built close to Marion Road which, at that time, carried little traffic, and the traffic noise probably had little effect on the conducting of classes. However, the position today is vastly different as Marion Road now carries much traffic, a large part of which is heavy traffic. This has resulted in real difficulties in teaching caused by the distraction of traffic noise. Can the Minister of Education say whether the Government intends replacing any of these temporary classrooms (and I stress that the school now consists of 18 temporary classrooms and two permanent classrooms) during the current financial year? If it does, will the new classrooms be of solid construction and will they be erected well away from Marion Road, on an adequate area that is now available?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I sympathize with the honourable member because most members have suffered a similar experience in relation to schools in their districts. A large number of schools throughout the State (many of which I have seen since I have become Minister) now suffer as a result of the development that has taken place in their areas. Because of the rapid development that has taken place in Ascot Park in recent years, the use of many temporary classrooms to cope with the situation is to be expected. The temporary classrooms now being erected are perhaps of a better design than the earlier ones. In fact, most timber classrooms are

now attractive, receiving high commendation from teachers and children using them. However, after examining the specific case to which the honourable member has referred, and bearing in mind the facts he has raised, I will obtain a report from my officers and inform him of its contents.

CITRUS

Mr. ARNOLD: My question arises from a reply given to me yesterday by the Premier in relation to the marketing of citrus fruit. Does the Premier believe that the system of marketing in the United Kingdom which he outlined could be used this season to assist in the marketing of the State's current crop?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I understand that real difficulties are associated with some aspects of the marketing of this year's citrus crop. This morning I received a carton of oranges (I understand the Leader also received a carton) which, I believe, were taken from a dump of oranges in the river area. Although I did not have time to eat one, these oranges looked edible. However, apparently they did not comply with the present standard for export. I believe all members regret that oranges of this type, which are edible in South Australia, should be dumped. I cannot say whether time permits the United Kingdom system of marketing to be used this season. However, the principals of Home-grown Fruits Co-operative are extremely anxious to have trial shipments of South Australian oranges, and I consider that advantage should be taken of this if that is possible. However, a system of marketing oranges is in operation and I will refer the question to the Minister of Agriculture so that he can inquire whether the matter raised can be taken up immediately.

GAS

Mr. HUGHES: The Treasurer was reported in the *Advertiser* of July 5 as follows:

Contract let for Pipeline: The Treasurer (Mr. Pearson) yesterday announced the awarding of the contract for the 486-mile pipeline from the Moomba-Gidgealpa gas field to Adelaide.

I was unable to ascertain from the statement whether the pipeline was to be built on what is known as the direct route, which is known as the eastern route, or on the western route. Can the Treasurer give that information?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The contract was let for the line to be laid on the shortest route, which would be the one described by the honourable member as the eastern route.

Of course, tenders had been called some time before and, therefore, the resulting contracts were based accordingly.

Mr. HUDSON: On Tuesday I asked the Premier about a letter that I wrote from New York to the former Premier, now Leader of the Opposition, and about the reply that he sent to the people in Jackson, Mississippi, as a result of the approach I had made to him from New York. The Premier, in his reply, promised to bring down the file. Will he now read the reply sent to Jackson, Mississippi, by the former Premier?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I had the report in my bag, but it is not there now. However I have an extract of a letter that I wrote after assuming office.

Mr. Hudson: I didn't ask for that. I want the letter the former Premier wrote.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: If the honourable member wants a reply he will have to take my words, not his own. If he knows the reply, he need not ask the question. However, I am happy to co-operate with the honourable member and will obtain the file for him.

THE SPEAKER: Order! It was a fair question, I think.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be glad to co-operate by showing the honourable member the file. I will look again to see whether it is in my bag. If it is not, I will bring it down on Tuesday.

Mr. CASEY: During an earlier question this afternoon, I caused a couple of members opposite, particularly on the front bench, some agitation when I said that the gas pipeline was apparently coming down by the nearest practicable route rather than the one suggested by members opposite during the last Parliament (via the gulf towns). During the last Parliament the Premier, as Leader of the Opposition, moved a motion that the gas pipeline should come via the longer route through the gulf towns, and a lengthy debate ensued. The then Opposition was criticizing our Government for bringing the pipeline along the nearest practicable route. However, judging from the answer given this afternoon by the Treasurer to the member for Wallaroo, the Government now intends to use the route we chose and suggested. Will the Premier say whether his Party has adopted a change of policy at this stage because it has realized that this is the only practical way and the most economical way to bring gas from Gidgealpa to Adelaide? If that is so, will he say when and why the Government arrived at this decision?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member may recall that we were critical of the time taken by his Government to establish this pipeline as a going concern. We were also critical of the then Government in that it had not sufficiently investigated the possibility of using an alternative route, and we debated the matter in this House. One of my first considerations on coming to office was to consider the possibility of having a further investigation made.

Mr. McKee: It should have been your responsibility as Leader of the Opposition.

THE SPEAKER: Order. The Premier must be allowed to reply.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Obviously much harm would have been done to this project and to the possible future development of industry in South Australia if any further delay occurred in building the pipeline, particularly as an advanced stage of survey and acquisition of easements had been reached. For this reason alone, I took no further action in assessing the merits of the western route. A decision had been made, and I believed that harm would be done to South Australia's future industrial potential if any further delay occurred, especially in view of the future availability of gas from Victoria. I therefore took no action, nor did the Government, and any subsequent action has been taken as fast as the pipeline authority could arrange it.

RAILWAY WORKS

Mr. McKEE: Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Transport for a report on the progress of work on the Broken Hill to Port Pirie line and on when work is likely to commence on the Solomontown overpass section?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I shall ask my colleague about both matters.

PORT IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. CORCORAN: The Minister of Marine will know that the Minister of Agriculture and the Premier made a flying visit to the South-East a few weeks before the Millicent by-election and talked to fishermen about the needs of fishermen at the various ports. The Premier and the Minister created a good impression and made many promises. Doubtless, they had conferred with the Minister of Marine before making the visit in regard to the works about which they were going to give undertakings. Because the Minister of Agriculture said at the time that immediate action would be taken on the projects listed,

can the Minister say when work will commence on these projects and when it will be completed? The works to which I refer are the long-awaited dinghy platform at Beachport and extensions to Cape Jaffa (of course, I have information about those matters already because the previous Government allocated money for them), facilities for fishing dinghies at Port MacDonnell, investigations to determine the best means of deepening the inlet channel to the present slipway, extensions to the edge of the jetty at Port MacDonnell (which I understand the honourable gentlemen inspected) by about 200ft., the provision of a light about 27ft. high at the end of the jetty, and the provision of a buoy to replace the boiler of the tender that was just off the wharf but disappeared because of the actions of skin divers.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: In my capacity of Minister of Marine I inspected the ports referred to and I have some knowledge on most of the items that the honourable member has mentioned. However, I am not certain about some of them and, as I am preparing a report on this matter, I will obtain the information for the honourable member and give it to him as soon as I can do so.

APPLES

Mr. GILES: Will the Premier say whether, while he was in England, he visited the Covent Garden market and whether he investigated the future potential of apple markets in Great Britain?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Covent Garden was one of the places I would have liked to visit while I was in the United Kingdom but was unable to do so. The only discussion I had regarding apple marketing was with representatives of Home-grown Fruits Co-operative. I have spoken twice in this House of this co-operative, which is handling some Australian apples at present, although I do not think they are South Australian apples. The co-operative has seasonal breaks in regard to supplies of apples and is happy to handle the Australian fruit. I will ask the Minister of Agriculture whether South Australian apples are being handled in this way and, if they are not, what are the prospects of their being so handled.

WHYALLA HOUSING

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Housing a reply to my question about housing at Whyalla?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The General Manager of the Housing Trust reports:

The trust is at present holding 643 applications for rental houses and 101 sale applications. At Whyalla a priority for rental housing is given to Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited and the waiting time for B.H.P. applicants is from six to nine months, while the time for other applicants ranges from nine to 12 months. There is a waiting period of 12 months for sale applications. I would point out that the trust is making every effort to increase house production in Whyalla, and only recently has arranged new contracts for both rental and sale houses. During 1967-68, the trust built 520 houses in Whyalla and at June 30, 546 houses were in the course of erection. A total of 4,449 houses has so far been built there.

MOUNT GAMBIER BUILDINGS

Mr. BURDON: For several years I have been raising the matter of the condition of the public offices in Mount Gambier. These are of great importance to the people, particularly to the officers of the Agriculture Department and of the Labour and Industry Department who work in them. The officers are at present working in a 93-year-old church building and the various sections are separated only by partitions. This was one of the first matters I raised when I became a member and I understand that, since then, action has been taken on plans for these buildings. Can the Minister of Works say how work on these plans has progressed?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I appreciate the courtesy extended to me by the honourable member in giving me prior notice of his question. It enables me to give the information immediately. The Director, Public Buildings Department, states that the provision of a Government office block in Mount Gambier is being treated as an urgent separate project by his department. The matter of the police and courthouse buildings is still under consideration. It had originally been intended that the two projects should be treated as one. The honourable member will appreciate that one or the other of these projects will have to go before the Public Works Committee for inquiry.

MURRAY RIVER SALINITY

Mr. HUDSON: I understand the Minister of Works has replies in relation to matters I raised in the Supplementary Estimates debate regarding expenditure on the investigation of Murray River salinity.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: The departmental report states:

(1) A committee of officers from Agriculture, Mines, Lands and Engineering and Water Supply Departments is investigating causes and means of control of the salinity problem along the backwaters and the 400 miles of the Murray River in South Australia. The natural system of the river makes the problem extremely complex. Careful analysis and assessment of technical and statistical evidence is required before conclusions can be reached to determine economic long-term solutions.

(2) Much detail has already been examined, extensive field work has been undertaken and computer aid has been used to speed the progress of investigations.

(3) Two minor backwaters were sealed off late in 1967 and early in 1968 to provide immediate relief from saline water entry to the river. Other areas have been examined for long term proposals.

(4) The \$3,600,000 made available to Victoria was for schemes developed by the State to remove outflows of salt from the Barr Creek, River Loddon system and from the Mildura-Merbein area.

Investigations in South Australia have not reached a stage where firm proposals for remedial measures and cost estimates can be submitted in support of any request for financial assistance.

HEART MACHINES

Mr. BROOMHILL: A great demand is being made on the Royal Adelaide Hospital for the use of heart-monitoring machines. Will the Premier ask the Minister of Health how many heart-monitoring machines are being used within the hospital and whether this number is adequate? If it is not, what steps are contemplated to improve the position?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be happy to obtain a report from my colleague on the number of machines and whether there are sufficient.

WATER SUPPLIES

Mr. LANGLEY: On August 30, 1967, the member for Flinders (the present Treasurer) moved the following motion:

That in the opinion of this House a qualified committee should be appointed by the Government to consider and report to this House on each of the following matters:

- (a) the additional quantity of reticulated water likely to be required annually for stock, domestic, industrial and public purposes in this State during the period up to and including the year 1985, and the areas and quantities in which the major increases may occur, and the sources from which these requirements may be supplied;
- (b) the additional quantity likely to be required for irrigation purposes from the Murray River within South Australia;

and that the committee should consider supply by conventional means, and in addition the beneficiation of saline and sea waters, reclamation of effluents, and what, if any, measures should be taken in the public interest, to conserve supplies of water.

As the motion was moved by a member of the present Government and supported by all of his colleagues and as only this week two members spoke of our future water worries, does the Minister of Works now consider that such a qualified committee is necessary?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I am considering the points that were raised by the honourable member in an earlier question. Having already investigated some of the matters he has raised, I shall look into the remainder.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Protracted negotiations have taken place regarding a water supply for the Tarcoola school. As the Minister of Education informed me that matters relating to her department had been finalized and that the matter was in the hands of the Public Buildings Department, will the Minister of Works have this work expedited, as it has been delayed for a long time?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: Like my colleague, I am delighted to assist the honourable member. I will consider this matter immediately to try to bring it to a successful conclusion.

Mr. BROOMHILL: I was very much disturbed by the Minister's announcement today that the free service provided for replacement of tap washers is to be discontinued. It seems that this decision has been made because of the present good reservoir holdings. However, I consider that the decision to discontinue this free service will discourage people from being as water conscious as they have been in recent months. That 19,000 washers have been provided in nine months certainly indicates a need for this service. Will the Minister of Works reconsider the decision to discontinue the service?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: True, 19,000 washers have been replaced under the scheme, and I consider that the public co-operated extremely well in the recent water-saving campaign, but I think the time has come to review the position. I have delayed the discontinuance of the programme until August 1 (although it could probably have been discontinued earlier) because the service has proved effective and, although at present there is not the shortage of water that there was earlier, conditions could be different in summer, and the matter will be reviewed then.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Minister of Works has expressed his gratitude for the way people responded to the campaign. He has said that the position at the end of this year, despite the satisfactory storages in the reservoirs, may be different. Will the Minister embark on such a campaign to encourage the conservation of water this year?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: As I am always interested in efforts to conserve water, I will look at this question later this year when I can assess the likely reserves of water.

Mr. CASEY: Will the Minister take into consideration the answer he gave the member for West Torrens, namely, that the free washers that the E. & W.S. Department gave to the people of South Australia proved of great benefit in respect of water conservation in this State? Will the Minister give this matter his earnest consideration, because this is a State that has always suffered from lack of water? The fact that we have a lush season this year does not mean we will have one next year, so we should not be carried away by the fact that this is a very good season.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I have already indicated that I will review the position at the end of the year when I know what the position will be. I shall be happy to co-operate.

KINGSTON BRIDGE

Mr. ARNOLD: Can the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads, say when earth-moving is expected to commence on the Kingston Bridge causeway and whether it will be carried out by the department alone or with the help of private contractors in the area?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I shall try to obtain the information the honourable member requires.

COTTAGE FLATS

Mrs. BYRNE: Will the Minister of Housing ask the Housing Trust to consider erecting cottage flats in the Modbury, Tea Tree Gully and Holden Hill areas? The Minister will recall that the substance of this question was contained in the question I asked him yesterday when the bells rang.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I should like to consider some interesting factors in this matter before replying, and I will obtain a considered reply.

MILLICENT RAILWAY YARD

Mr. CORCORAN: Recently, I was approached at Millicent by two contractors who used the Millicent railway yard exten-

tively, and they complained about its condition. Subsequently, I inspected the yard and agreed that it was in an extremely bad condition, no doubt caused by the dry year last year, when the yard was dusty, and the wet year we have had. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Transport what can be done to improve the condition of the yard and whether this work can be done quickly?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I shall be delighted to do that.

WALLAROO JETTY

Mr. HUGHES: When the Minister of Marine visited Wallaroo recently he looked at what is known as Price Jetty to see whether assistance could be given to fishermen by providing a wave screen or a spur leading from the jetty to help with the protection of their boats. Also, he met a deputation from the fishermen during the afternoon on these matters, and looked at the slipway. Since his visit it has been brought to my notice (not by the fishermen) that whilst the engineers of the Marine and Harbours Department are at Wallaroo investigating matters in which the Minister is interested, they could also look at the pylons carrying the bulk loading conveyor from the silos to the jetty side to consider whether something could be done to provide a wave screen or protection for the fishing craft at that site. I thought that if I waited to approach the fishermen it might be too late, because the engineers would already have visited Wallaroo. Will the Minister ask his engineers, while at Wallaroo investigating other matters, to investigate the possibility of work being done at the pylons as an alternative to Price Jetty?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: This interesting suggestion has not been put to me before. However, in view of the honourable member's interest and explanation I will bring it to the attention of the department's engineers going to Wallaroo and ask them to consider it, so that it can be treated as urgent.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mr. HURST: I have received the 88th Annual Report of the Hospitals Department, for the year ended June 30, 1958, and the 90th Annual Report for the same department, for the year ended June 30, 1960. Will the Premier ask the Minister of Health whether these annual reports can be made available to members more quickly, because a 10-year wait between reports seems to be undue delay?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I agree that it is an inordinate delay, with which this Government does not agree. I do not know whether there may be a practical difficulty, but the outlook of the present Government is to get things done much more quickly than that, and I will do what I can to assist the honourable member.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Premier said it was the policy of Liberal Governments to have reports issued early. Can he say why it was left to a Labor Government to bring down the report from the Engineering and Water Supply Department, which had not been printed from as far back as the time of office of the late Sir Malcolm McIntosh?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member refers to a matter that arose before I entered this House, so I believe that I cannot be held responsible. However, I will do my best to obtain a reply for the honourable member.

ABORTION

Mr. BROOMHILL: Matters considered at a recent Young Liberals Convention included a motion, which was successfully moved, recommending that legally-qualified medical practitioners should not be criminally liable for performing or attempting to perform an abortion in certain circumstances. Does the Attorney-General agree with this proposal, and does he intend to introduce legislation on this matter during this session?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I am not prepared at this stage to express my personal opinion, but this matter is being watched by the Government.

ROSEWORTHY COLLEGE

Mrs. BYRNE: On December 22 last I wrote to the then Minister of Agriculture, drawing his attention to the lack of hot water services in certain staff houses at Roseworthy Agricultural College, and I was given to understand that it was the department's policy not to install a hot water service in a house built before 1958. I received a reply dated January 3, stating that a report would be obtained and that I would be written to in due course. I realize that there has been a change of Ministers in this department in the interim, which I presume is the reason why I have not yet received a reply. However, will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture to examine the matter and tell me the result of my representations?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will ask the Minister of Agriculture for a report, which I will make available to the honourable member.

BALAKLAVA COUNCIL

Mr. RYAN: This morning's *Advertiser* reports that the Balaklava council will be asked to repay about \$88,000 that it misspent out of funds granted to it by the Highways Department. As Government funds were misspent by the council, will the Attorney-General confer with the Minister of Local Government with a view to having the investigating officer's report tabled in this House?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will convey the honourable member's request to my colleague.

KINGSTON RAIL SERVICE

Mr. CORCORAN: My question concerns the future of the rail passenger service to Kingston in the South-East. This service now operates between Naracoorte and Kingston three times a week. On about May 8 the Minister of Transport announced that the future of several railway lines in South Australia was in question and that several uneconomical passenger services would be discontinued after due investigation. One of these services was the Naracoorte-Kingston rail passenger service, which is important to the people of Kingston not only for passengers but also for parcels. I should not like to see the service discontinued but, if it were to be discontinued, I should like an alternative service to be provided. I believe the Minister intended to investigate the possibility of providing an alternative service, and he indicated that about three months would elapse before any action would be taken to discontinue the existing service. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Transport whether investigations into providing an alternative service have been proceeding? If they have, will he ascertain what stage those investigations have reached and when a decision on the future of the rail passenger service from Naracoorte to Kingston is likely to be made? Further, might I be informed of the outcome of the investigations before any decision is taken?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will refer these matters to my colleague.

MODBURY HOSPITAL

Mrs. BYRNE: The Minister of Works may recall that on June 26 I asked him a question about the Modbury Hospital. The Minister said at the time that some alterations had been

suggested by departmental officers, the Minister of Health and himself; that these alterations had not been finalized; and that when they were he would notify me. As a month has now passed since I asked the question, has the Minister anything further to report on this matter, which is of great importance to the Barossa District?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: The details to which I referred were mainly refinements, although some alteration had been made to the overall planning time. The target date originally announced will be strictly adhered to but the works study programme has been revised, with the result that some buildings will start before others, and some will start a little later. However, the ultimate completion date is exactly the same as it was previously. One or two refinements have been made, but basically the hospital will have the same facilities as those recommended by the Public Works Committee in its report. The honourable member can rest assured that the hospital will be erected on time with basically the same facilities as she expected previously.

JAMESTOWN ROAD

Mr. ALLEN: Main Road No. 377, connecting Hallett and Jamestown is presently being surveyed with a view to its sealing. Can the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads, say whether any money will be available this financial year for this road?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will try to obtain the information.

CHOWILLA DAM

Mr. HUDSON: On Tuesday, I asked the Premier for certain information about a pamphlet entitled *Fourteen Facts About Chowilla*. In his reply, he said that he would obtain the exact figures and give them to me on Wednesday. Does the Premier intend to extend the normal courtesy to members of informing them when he has information in response to their questions? In this case, if he has information on Chowilla dam, will he give it to me now?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be happy to extend to members the courtesy of informing them when I have information for them. However, I have not done so yet. I see that in this case I do not have duplicate copies of the reply: the provision of those copies must be arranged. In reply to the honourable member's question about the pamphlet on Chowilla dam, I have the following report:

Fifteen thousand pamphlets were printed at a cost of \$1,052. Copies have been distributed to all members of Parliament in South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and to members of the Commonwealth Parliament. Eight thousand copies have been distributed through the Murray Valley Development League, and copies have also been given to local and interstate television and radio stations and to the press. Certain departmental officers have received copies, and the remainder are being distributed in response to inquiries from interested people.

Mr. HUDSON: I asked the Premier a question about this matter in June, but he did not have time to reply. I was interested to hear that the pamphlet on Chowilla was being sent to members of the Parliaments of New South Wales, Victoria and the Commonwealth but, as I have said previously, it seems that the pamphlet, as such, does not adequately tackle the main points that the people in New South Wales and Victoria have been able to advance against Chowilla. Those people say that, if the salinity problem continues to be serious near Mildura, in any dry year a minimum flow of water will have to be maintained at Mildura and that, therefore, New South Wales and Victoria will not get the expected benefits from Chowilla, and water in up-river storages will have to be released to maintain quality at Mildura, whereas the expected situation is that, with the building of Chowilla, water that would normally have had to be made available to South Australia would be available to New South Wales and Victoria. It seems that, so far as the attitude of members of the New South Wales, Victorian and Commonwealth Parliaments is concerned, the pamphlet does little to rescue South Australia from its present position. I understand from what the Premier told me previously that other plans are afoot on this matter. Will he say whether he accepts my reasoning that this pamphlet is not adequate in convincing the members of other Parliaments of the benefits of Chowilla, and will he also say what other plans the Government has to convince the people in other States and the members of the Commonwealth Parliament that the benefits expected to be provided by Chowilla for New South Wales and Victoria can still be provided; in other words, that the salinity problem at Mildura can be controlled effectively so that water will not have to be let down all the time during a dry year?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Although I appreciate the honourable member's interest, I do not accept his criticism that the pamphlet is

not achieving its purpose. I think this is where I was cut off when I was answering the honourable member previously.

Mr. Hudson: You never even got that far.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Well, we talked privately about it. I tried to make the point that this pamphlet was not a cure-all for the lack of information regarding Chowilla, and I accept that there cannot be such a wide circulation. Only a small percentage of people would be willing to read the detail. This is a general interest pamphlet to convince people that the South Australian Government is still vitally interested in the Chowilla project.

The Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe: It is not a technical explanation.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: No, it is to convince people of our interest. This has been done. Additional interest has been shown by newspapers and radio and television stations in each State, and at least one of these is in South Australia. If interest has been generated in other States, I consider that the pamphlet has achieved its purpose. Additional information may be obtained from the Premier's Department, as the pamphlet states, and I am about to prepare additional information on the technical aspects of the dam. I hope to do that tomorrow. As to further details of action, these will depend on the requirements at the time, whether technical or political. I assure the honourable member that there will be further information for those who require it. We reserve the right to take whatever technical or political action is necessary to further interest in the Chowilla dam as the occasion arises.

AIR POLLUTION

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Some years ago the Health Act was amended to provide for the setting up of a committee designed to bring down regulations to prevent air pollution in South Australia, particularly in the metropolitan area. Since then I have continually asked questions, the reply to which over the years has been that regulations are being prepared. Will the Premier ask the Minister of Health whether the committee's inquiry can be speeded up to enable regulations to be introduced so that we can enjoy clean air and better health in South Australia?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be happy to take up the matter with my colleague and to obtain a reply for the honourable member.

PORT PIRIE HOSPITAL

Mr. McKEE: Recently the Minister of Works informed me by letter that the matter of the proposed children's ward at the Port Pirie Hospital was to be submitted to the Public Works Committee for consideration. In view of the pressing need for accommodation for children at this hospital, will the Minister treat this matter as urgent?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: Yes. The honourable member will appreciate that the children's section is only one part of the improvements suggested for the hospital, and I hope that these improvements will be treated as a whole. However, I shall be pleased to comply with the honourable member's request, and I will treat the matter as urgent.

CHIROPODISTS

Mr. HURST: A constituent has complained to me that, because of an unsatisfactory definition in the Chiropractors Act, persons other than qualified chiropractors, by altering their title, are able to practise. Will the Premier ask the Minister of Health whether the Government intends to amend that Act this year?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be pleased to obtain a reply for the honourable member.

LEASES

Mr. CORCORAN: Will the Minister of Lands ascertain for me how many applications have been made, since the recent announcement of the change in policy, to freehold property held on perpetual lease? If he has that information now, I shall be pleased if he will give it.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Applications to obtain agreements to purchase or land grants in lieu of leases are as follows: numbers received, 181; numbers approved, 6; numbers declined, 22; and numbers being dealt with, 153.

PENSIONERS' TELEPHONES

Mr. VIRGO: Negotiations were conducted between the Housing Trust and the former member for Edwardstown (Hon. Frank Walsh) in relation to phones for pensioner cottage flats. Requests were made to the trust in an endeavour to have these much needed facilities provided. The trust was asked to consider providing telephones for pensioners in pensioner flats (and I refer simply to them and not to normal trust houses). Although there may be other correspondence on this subject, the

last letter I have is a reply by the trust to a letter written by my predecessor which concludes as follows:

The provision of a telephone I realize is an intermediate stage, but it certainly would take the trust beyond the function of normal housing, even for elderly people.

Although I concede that point, the trust goes beyond the function of normal housing in many fields—industrial, and so on. I believe that the desirability of providing telephones for these people can be readily agreed, as they are elderly, live alone, and need ready access to the outside world. Sickness more often than not occurs in the early hours of the morning, and on occasions pensioners have lain where they have fallen until someone has missed them and then gone to find them. Accordingly, will the Minister of Housing consider discussing this matter with the trust with a view to requiring it to provide telephones in all pensioner cottage flats subject, of course, to the concurrence of the tenant? The tenant would then be responsible only for the cost of calls, with the trust paying for the installation and rental of the telephones.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: There is much merit in the honourable member's suggestion. His outline of the situation is correct. I agree that it would be a good thing if telephones were provided; as he put it, people living in those circumstances could then have contact with the outside world. I know that the honourable member appreciates that some problems are associated with this proposal. I know from personal experience of some of my elderly relatives that it is not always merely a question of having a telephone in the house: it is a matter of being able to get to the telephone, so the mere provision of a telephone does not necessarily mean that an elderly person stricken with illness can have access to it. Another matter is that in one case of which I am aware the situation was met to some extent by having a telephone plug alongside the person's bed so that the telephone could be taken from its usual place and connected in the bedroom each night. There is also the matter of the cost of about \$50 to install a telephone.

Mr. Virgo: It's \$30.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I think the honourable member is being optimistic. Pensioners get their telephones at reduced rentals, but I am not aware of any reduction for them regarding installation costs, although I am not completely certain about that and will obtain the information. I should like to

take the matter up with the Postmaster-General's Department. Pensioners are looked after mainly by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services.

Mr. Virgo: Not very well!

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: That is open to debate, of course. The information sought by the member for Barossa (Mrs. Byrne) today is relevant to the present question. I will ascertain from the Housing Trust particulars of the costs that would be involved and I will ask the Commonwealth whether the cost could be reduced in such cases as those that have been mentioned. Further, I shall again take up with the Commonwealth the matter of the provision of subsidies for the building of flats for aged persons, which matter has been raised from time to time at conferences of Housing Ministers.

MANNUM-ADELAIDE ROAD

Mr. WARDLE: Will the Attorney-General ascertain from the Minister of Roads whether the Highways Department has any plans to straighten and widen the sealed road from Mannum to the metropolitan area, as the road is extremely narrow and winding at present?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I do not know what is the position but I will try to find out.

ELECTORAL ROLL

Mr. VIRGO: In view of the undoubted success of the combined Legislative Council-House of Assembly roll initiated by the Labor Government, have I the Attorney-General's assurance that the present Government will continue the policy of producing such a combined roll?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I do not altogether accept the premises of the question. This matter is being investigated.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on the motion for adoption.

(Continued from July 24. Page 241.)

Mr. ALLEN (Burra): When I secured the adjournment of the debate last evening, I was speaking on the lack of sealed roads in my area. The Lieutenant-Governor said in his Speech that the Government would continue to provide financial assistance by means of grants to local government bodies for roadworks and would use the services of local government on other roadwork proposals in council areas. I am pleased to hear this

because councils in my area are worried that the Highways Department may take the construction of main roads away from them. Most councils have carried out a programme of machinery purchases to maintain road construction in their area. Most of the money has been borrowed, in the event of the Highways Department taking over the sealing of the roads in that area. There will be insufficient work for its plant. Debit orders are given to local government to construct the sealed roads in its area, and work is provided for the local unemployed and truck owners and this has the effect of creating decentralization, which is something that is in everyone's mind at present. Most councils today have sufficient plant to do this work, and they have proved that they can do it more cheaply than the Highways Department can.

A matter I should like to bring before the House is that of freight rates on wheat carried by the railways. Late in 1966 freight rates on wheat were increased. Unfortunately, the increase in freights was made on a sliding scale, whereby the rates from sidings over 100 miles from the terminal were increased considerably more than from sidings only a few miles away. Contractors with road transport immediately took advantage of this, so much so that the receipts at our local silo were down 33 per cent the first year, and with the drought last year by far the biggest percentage was carried direct to the terminal. This anomaly appears to exist only in my area. The mileage by road from Andrews to Port Pirie, which is the nearest terminal, is only 56 miles, but the rail freight based on the terminal at Port Adelaide is 109 miles. At a cost of 12½c one can see that the road freight to Port Pirie is only half the cost of the rail freight to Port Adelaide. Most of the farmers have realized how much can be saved in taking their wheat by road through to the terminal and that is why our local silo is not at present receiving the quantity of wheat it should. Hallett, for instance, is 119 miles from Port Adelaide, the freight being 13½c a bushel. By carting to Port Pirie by road the grower incurs no freight charge. There is an understanding that it costs about 3c a bushel to deliver wheat from the farm to the local silo, so the saving in freight in the district of Hallett alone by carting to Port Pirie is about 16½c a bushel.

I have drawn a map of South Australia illustrating the rail system and the position my district is in at present. I showed this map to the Minister during his visit to my district

last week and he was surprised that this case existed. Our roads are not constructed to carry this heavy traffic and the Government will have to consider adjusting freights in my area to attract business back to the railways. We are told that South Australia has the cheapest freight on wheat in Australia. This may be so, but I feel that the geographical position of South Australia is entirely different from that of the other States. The Eastern States have their grain terminals on the eastern seaboard and some wheat is freighted anything up to 300 miles to the nearest terminal, whereas South Australia has grain terminals all around its coastline and most of the wheat is grown near the grain terminals. I understand that is why our wheat freights are not as high as those in other States. The Railways Department would be in a better position if it charged less freight but carried heavier tonnages than it carries at present. We need additional storage in our area, but the co-operative will not consider increasing it until the question of freight rates has been decided. I hope that the Government will take action before the coming harvest. I do not believe in road transport controls, and the railways should become efficient in order to compete with road transport.

I now refer to an incident that happened at the Kingston polling booth on the day of the recent by-election. I was appointed by my Party to represent the Liberal and Country League at the polling booth on that day. The member for Hindmarsh was also present representing his party. The incident happened when the member for Hindmarsh was at lunch. If he had been present I am sure the incident would not have occurred. I have the greatest respect for the honourable member, because I have worked with his brother and become acquainted with him during his residence in Spalding in the Engineering and Water Supply Department during the laying of the Morgan-Whyalla main.

One Australian Labor Party supporter who was handing out how-to-vote cards started up a general conversation on the Millicent by-election. During the discussion he said that the L.C.L. was financing the Democratic Labor Party in this by-election, and that I, as a member of that Party, was also contributing. This I emphatically denied, pointing out that I had had D.L.P. opposition in my election, and I would hardly finance someone else to oppose me. The person concerned became so excited that I walked away rather than cause a scene outside the polling booth.

This was the first time I had heard this allegation, although I had heard that it was being freely circulated.

Allegations were made on this matter by the Opposition during the recent all-night sitting of the House. In fact, one member, by interjection, said that the D.L.P. was being financed by the L.C.L. This is complete rot. I have been connected with the L.C.L. for longer than I care to remember, and this Party has always been embarrassed financially because most of our subscriptions come from small businessmen and farmers generally. Unlike the Opposition we have no levies to finance elections. I will read a statement, because I do not want it taken out of context and I want to ensure that the press takes this statement correctly. Also, we know how touchy the Opposition is when one mentions "Communist". If the A.L.P. is accusing the L.C.L. of providing finance to the D.L.P. in return for its second preferences, members on this side will be justified in assuming that the A.L.P. is financing the Communist Party in return for its second preferences. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. CORCORAN (Millicent): I congratulate the member for Burra on his maiden speech, and I also congratulate the mover and seconder of the motion and the other member who spoke for the first time in this House. No doubt they are all relieved now that they have completed their speeches, and we look forward to hearing them in the future. I was interested to hear the member for Burra say that we would find him a man of few words. I do not look forward to the day when he becomes wound up, because he has demonstrated that he will be vocal when he wants to be. I can understand why he does not want to remember for how long he has been a member of the Liberal Party.

I turn now to the Premier's Ministerial statement made at the commencement of today's proceedings. It is heartening, indeed, to the Opposition, and to the Leader of the Opposition in particular, to know that the Premier has at last decided that the matter of electoral reform is extremely important and urgent enough to be dealt with immediately after this debate has been completed.

Mr. Broomhill: He took much convincing.

Mr. CORCORAN: He did, but he had a most efficient person convincing him. The moves made by the Leader, and what he said here, must have convinced the Premier and members of his party not only that we meant business but also that the people of the State

were genuinely concerned about the present situation and that the Government should do something about it immediately. Because of the Premier's statement and because he has given the Opposition an undertaking that he will introduce the measure immediately after this debate has been completed I will make one of the shortest speeches ever made in an Address in Reply debate. Also, every Opposition member has agreed voluntarily that he will not speak in this debate, so that it will be facilitated. In view of this and in view of the genuine display of co-operation by the Opposition, I think I have every right to point out to Government members that all that they want to say in this debate can be said in the Loan Estimates debate and in the Budget debate. I appeal to them to do the same as the Opposition will do so that the urgent matter of electoral reform can be considered next Tuesday. That is what the Opposition wants to happen, and I hope the Government will co-operate with us.

Mr. VENNING (Rocky River): In supporting the motion I congratulate the member for Chaffey on the able manner in which he exercised his privilege. Also, I commend the member for Murray for his fine address in seconding the motion and the member for Burra, who completed his maiden speech this afternoon. Like other new members, I am privileged to be here. Indeed, I am honoured to be the new member for Rocky River. I pay a tribute to Mr. Jim Heaslip, whom I succeeded as member and who held Rocky River for almost 20 years. I believe that Mr. Heaslip was respected in this House not only for his sound knowledge of rural industry but for his capabilities and sound administration in secondary industry. I trust that Mr. Heaslip will avail himself of the privileges this Parliament offers to retired members of Parliament and that both he and Mrs. Heaslip will enjoy a life free from at least political cares.

I offer my thanks to the people of the Rocky River District for electing me as their representative in this House, and I assure all sections of the community of Rocky River that it is my desire to assist them at all times, irrespective of their political views. Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the temporary absence of the Speaker (Hon. T. C. Stott), I offer my sincere congratulations to him on his election to his high office. Having had the opportunity to work with him in grower organizations for many years, I am well aware of his contribution to the welfare of primary industry in

South Australia and also of his efforts in bringing stability to the Australian wheat industry. Through the Australian Wheatgrowers Federation, an organization of which he has been Secretary for over 30 years, he has continued to press for a fair and orderly opportunity to those who provide 70 per cent to 80 per cent of export earnings and to an industry that has provided a wonderful home market to secondary industries. I assure the Speaker that he has the full support of every member on this side of the House. The irresponsible outcries and remarks made in various parts of this Chamber during the early days of my term as a member of this House have been received with disgust by my Party and by responsible and appreciative people throughout South Australia. I trust that good health at least will aid the Speaker in carrying out the duties of his high office.

I take this opportunity to extend my good wishes to our Premier and members of Cabinet. I trust that in their efforts to get our State moving again they will not meet with any insurmountable difficulties. Perhaps, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should add special congratulations to our lady member of Cabinet. I trust that the virtues of her femininity will help to produce the best not only from the rest of Cabinet but also from those who gaze so admiringly towards her. I congratulate you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on your election as Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees.

A few weeks ago, at a suitable function, we expressed appreciation to and farewelled our Vice-Regal dignitaries. I express the appreciation of the people of Rocky River to Sir Edric and Lady Bastyan, who are considered to be one of nature's most perfect couples. They will long be remembered for their devotion to duty and the way they endeared themselves to the people of South Australia. It is of some significance to me, Sir, that I should have been born on Sir Edric Bastyan's twelfth birthday. His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor (Hon. Sir Mellis Napier) early in his Speech referred to the passing of five former members of Parliament. I, too, acknowledge the services of departed members and support the placing on record of our sympathy to their respective families.

I now refer to some of the more important issues contained in His Excellency's Speech. I will mention first the broader aspects. With the expected development in this State, we could be short of water by 1970. It is most important, therefore, that the Chowilla dam project resume immediately. When I attended

a meeting at Berri recently an estimated audience of 700 enlightened people urged that every step be taken with those concerned for the implementation of the Chowilla dam. We all agree that Murray water, with its 9,000 miles' reticulation, is the life-blood of South Australia, and I, together with the people of my district, view with concern the future of our State in this respect.

Of vital importance, also, is His Excellency's comment on our Government's proposal to spend \$37,000,000 on road and bridge works during this financial year. It is pleasing to note that the main road to Broken Hill is scheduled to be completed later this year, and that at long last the sealing of the Murray Town to Booleroo Centre road is scheduled to commence this financial year. Also, the sealing of the Quorn and Hawker roads into the Wilpena Pound area will be greatly appreciated by both the locals and the touring public.

Many roads in the Rocky River District are long overdue for attention. I trust that finances will soon permit the sealing of the roads from Wilmington to Quorn, Laura to Appila and Merriton to Clements Gap, to mention just a few. Good roads do not cost money: they pay. The necessity for good transport, whether it be rail or road, has been highlighted during the past two seasons, when first we unfortunately experienced a record drought, and the availability of transport to move stock to more favoured areas was the salvation of many producers. Now, the pendulum is swinging the other way, and it has been found necessary to bring stock back into our areas.

In dealing with matters of transport, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is pleasing to observe that His Excellency's Speech referred to our Government's further negotiations with the Commonwealth Government on the next stage of rail standardization in this State. It is imperative that the 1949 Commonwealth agreement on rail standardization in South Australia be proceeded with in appropriate stages to the fulfilment of the original plan. I am sure that it is not necessary for me to elaborate to this House on the necessity for and benefits from this fulfilment, because without it all the traffic from Western Australia will go direct to the Eastern States: it will by-pass Adelaide because of the handling and delay that will take place unless the line is standardized.

In speaking of rail standardization as it affects my District of Rocky River, let me say that unless the Gladstone-Quorn and Peterborough-Orroroo sections become a reality,

based on the average of the last three seasons (and these have all been more than tinged with drought), there will be a transshipment of over 2,000,000 bushels of grain annually from the narrow gauge to the standard gauge line, apart from the transshipping of other commodities. Primary producers in my district are already acclaiming the significant benefit that would occur in the transportation of superphosphate from the works at Wallaroo to the northern areas of our State.

Our State is now enjoying what could be a record year of grain production. Feed is in excess of stock numbers and it is to be hoped that every stockowner throughout the State will conserve as much fodder as possible. Let us not have short memories not only of what has happened in South Australia (once the pride of the Commonwealth) during the Australian Labor Party reign in this State but also of the conditions we have experienced during the past year or two. Let us remember that what happened in New South Wales can easily occur here. Primary producers in New South Wales experienced three records in three recent years—a record drought in the middle of two record grain production years.

Whilst there are areas yet to be sown and some crops are suffering from the effects of excessive moisture, the overall picture is good. It is to be hoped the Australian Wheat Board will be successful in providing sales and shipping sufficient to clear our silo systems before the commencement of what could be a record grain production year. Whilst much could happen before "the grain is in the bag", so to speak, farmers are looking forward with great expectation to recouping some of the losses incurred during the past season, and in many cases the last three years. I trust that, with the full co-operation of all concerned, the gathering and delivery of the harvest will be achieved without any great delay. This coming crop will be subject to the new wheat stabilization plan now being negotiated by the Australian Wheatgrowers Federation with the Minister for Primary Industry and the Commonwealth Government, and this is eventually to be ratified by all States. I trust the final negotiations will be satisfactory to all concerned and that, when the Bill is eventually placed before this House, it will receive the blessing of this Parliament.

Primary producer organizations throughout the Commonwealth are meeting regularly in an endeavour to devise a plan for an all-States barley marketing board. Moulded similarly

to the Australian Wheat Board, the scheme also embodies a stabilization plan, with a cost of production involvement. South Australia in recent years produced as much barley as the rest of the Commonwealth. Our production reached 38,000,000 bushels delivered in a peak period. At present, the States are competing one against the other for overseas sales, this action having the effect of reducing prices. I trust our Minister of Agriculture in another place will do all within his power as a member of the Australian Agricultural Council to assist to bring into being an orderly marketing plan for the barley producers of Australia. It was most unfortunate that our State Barley Board was slow to appreciate the benefits of bulk handling of barley, inasmuch as production in this State had decreased considerably in more recent years. However, with a changed attitude and with more storage being made available for barley and on-the-spot classification at many delivery centres, the production of a crop that had been a wonderful rotational crop is increasing considerably.

I now desire to speak about hospitalization and medical services in country areas. Attention to these important necessities was part of my Party's policy in the last election, and I was pleased to hear and later read in His Excellency's Speech that the policy of the Government would be to provide further accommodation in both city and country areas. Medical services in portions of my electoral district are far from sufficient. What medicos we have working are doing an excellent job. We have hospitals that are very well run by their respective boards, but the lack of medical officers and staff from time to time makes the task most difficult. Throughout the rural areas of the Rocky River electoral district the establishment of the Northern Division of the Engineering and Water Supply Department, the Northern Division of the Highways Department and two regional wireless stations at Crystal Brook, an army camp, a railway terminal and a prison for between 180 and 200 inmates at Gladstone, the factory of Golden North and the closer settlement of the Laura areas calls for some serious thinking by the Minister of Health on what should be carried out for the welfare of this very important area.

There are more than enough customers and it is to be deplored that sick people, whilst desiring hospitalization in their own towns, and in some cases with established hospitals, should have to go elsewhere at great expense to themselves and to those wishing to visit them. I

look to the future with expectation that some of these problems will be rectified. In His Excellency's Speech mention was made of our Ministers pursuing a forward-looking policy in relation to town planning, also to be extended to country areas. I trust that, whatever may happen in the country area (and in particular the Rocky River electoral district) the people at least will be consulted in advance on what is desired to be done on their behalf in their particular areas.

Before concluding my remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I refer to the members opposite whom, previous to my becoming a member of Parliament, I had known and respected. I would urge them to give a stronger lead to their Party and influence to their leadership so that the adverse propaganda that has taken our State from being the pride of the Commonwealth to the very lowest may be arrested. It is most obvious from my remarks in supporting the Address in Reply that I represent a rural area. Proud to be myself the third generation on the family's original holding at Crystal Brook, I wish in this my maiden speech in this House to acknowledge with appreciation those generations who were responsible for my being here and particularly my father and mother, only my mother now surviving and at present sitting in the gallery. I thank members on both sides of this House, and particularly the Government Whip (Mr. Rodda), for their assistance; and our Parliamentary staff for their acceptance of me and their help during my 101 days in office in this House. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. GILES (Gumeracha): It is with great pleasure and a sense of great honour that I rise for the first time in this House to support the adoption of the Address in Reply. I congratulate previous speakers on their contributions and the Speaker on attaining his high office. He has had previous experience in this position and from what has been said of his efforts in the past, I am certain that he has carried out his duties admirably. From what we have seen of his efforts until now, it is obvious that he will faithfully, impartially and efficiently rule the procedure of this House.

I pay a tribute to my predecessor, Sir Thomas Playford, the 33rd Premier of South Australia, who was elected as member for Murray in the House of Assembly in 1933 (at the same time as Mr. H. H. Shannon and Mr. George Morphet). Because of his keen

interest in budgetary and other proposals introduced in Parliament, he was brought into the Butler Government in April, 1938, as Commissioner of Crown Lands and Minister of Repatriation and Irrigation. On November 5, 1938, Sir Richard Butler retired as Premier, and Sir Thomas Playford formed his first Government. He was Premier of South Australia until 1965, a total of 26 years and 226 days which is a record for the office of Premier in the British Empire. During this time 1,992 Acts were passed, a staggering performance when one considers the time consumed in thought and research concerning each individual Act. It was during his time that the only consolidation of Acts of Parliament took place (in 1936). He made no move unless it was for the improvement and benefit of South Australia. Further, he dedicated his time fully and usefully to the service of the people of South Australia. Words are inadequate to express the debt of gratitude we, the people of South Australia, owe to this great statesman on whom the Queen saw fit to confer a knighthood in the 1957 new year honours.

It affords me great pleasure, indeed, to congratulate our Leader, the Hon. Steele Hall, on attaining the high office of Premier of South Australia. Under his leadership I am sure we will have sound, stable government in which emphasis will be placed on progress. We cannot afford to stand still: Australia is a growing nation in which we must take our rightful place as a growing progressive State: a State that can offer a lower cost structure, adequate labour, and sufficient housing, etc., to induce industries to establish here. South Australia is placed at a disadvantage geographically, and our finished products and agricultural produce have a freight loading regarding competition on interstate markets. Our cost structure must therefore be watched extremely carefully. This, I am sure, will be acted upon decisively by the Premier in his office as Minister of Industrial Development. He has already shown his skill and ingenuity in the selection of his Ministers, all of whom I congratulate and all of whom, I am sure, will fill their positions with zeal and distinction.

I am grateful to members of Parliament, who have made the initiation in this new vocation of new members so pleasant. It is with a sense of responsibility that I stand here. There are two reasons for this: first, that I should be selected by the people of Gumeracha to take Sir Thomas's position as member for their district; and, secondly, that

I should have originally been chosen by the members of the Liberal and Country League from amongst a group of six other sound candidates. Gumeracha is a district of many facets. We have four district councils in our area: Gumeracha, Onkaparinga, East Torrens, and Stirling. In these council areas we have residential areas, as well as potato growing, dairying and beef cattle, sheep, industry, mining, tourist attractions, Woodside army camp (notorious for Woodside 'flu during the last war), pine forests, cherry and apple orchards, Government reserves, horticultural experimental orchard and last (but by no means the least considered) our waste areas, which are practically inaccessible to all but whose value as a scenic attraction is high.

Gumeracha is mainly a dairying and horticultural district, and I should like to deal with some of the district's aspects and their associated problems. Most of South Australia's 1,250,000 to 1,500,000 bushels of apples is grown inside this district (Lenswood being the centre of the Jonathon growing area). Here, we have the biggest country cold store, holding about 200,000 bushels of apples. Also, in Lenswood, because it is a large apple-growing district, the Agriculture Department is establishing an experimental orchard to help growers solve their many problems. Credit must go to Mr. Tom Miller (Chief Horticulturist) and his all too small band of assistants for what they are doing to help the horticulture industry. I include here Mr. Dave Kilpatrick (Principal Horticultural Officer); Advisers John Steed, Bob Cowley and Hugo Vandam; Dr. Bill Moller (Pathologist); Mr. Bill Harris (Senior Research Officer); Mr. Harry Lower (Entomologist); Lew McMasters (Pome Fruits Officer); Barry Tugwell (Cold Storage Officer); and Horry Bain (Packing and Export). All of these men do excellent work in their particular vocation. Mr. Henry Feddersen is the hills potato adviser; Mr. Gordon Pickhaver, the Senior Dairy Adviser; and Mr. Ian Rogers is the Senior Research Officer. These capable men are extended to their limits, and there is still much work to do in regard to research.

The apple industry is facing some serious problems. The present oversea markets are far from good and the prices realized are way below the cost of production regarding many varieties. The home market has in the past relied on the exporting of a quantity to balance the supply here. If exporting to European markets continues to show non-profitability, the men

guiding the industry will have to exercise their minds vigorously to find new markets. They may have to look to the north of Australia for an outlet. I believe it is absolutely necessary that the Commonwealth Government step in here. The apple export industry is a most important export earner for Australia. We are grateful for the assistance given by the Commonwealth regarding the devaluation adjustment, but this is not enough. There must be stability of price (payable price at that) for our export fruit, otherwise utter chaos will reign on the home market.

Last April Tasmania cancelled 1,000,000 bushels of space for refrigerated cargo to Europe. At this stage it seems that to export apples a great loss would be incurred by the grower. It was late in May when the devaluation adjustment of 50c was announced (when the apple season was nearly finished). This type of action did not instil confidence in the industry. It is necessary that the Commonwealth Government assess the position now and act in such a way that next year and in subsequent years growers throughout Australia will have full confidence in the export market. This will result in a stable Australian market and will assure the industry of a livelihood at least. I believe that much is to be accomplished regarding our home market. We eat about 4 lb. a person each month in South Australia, but in New Zealand it is 14 lb. a person. Much promotional work needs to be done when finances are available, but this is absolutely worthless unless quality fruit from the industry is forthcoming. A community demands value for money, and when an industry uses this theme as its foundation it is sure to succeed.

There are many problems in this industry before we get to the marketing stage. In recent years the increased incidence of mites and the difficulty to control them has given us much concern. We are getting resistance to spray materials used. The answer lies in biological control. Much work has been done by dedicated men in this field, but unfortunately these men are few and far between. Chemical companies offer far more inducement to qualified research officers than do most Governments, so their services are lost to us for this purpose. It is essential for the benefit of all mankind that work of this nature continue. The success of some of the work already carried out is most encouraging.

By sterilization, by the use of attractant lures, by sex attractants, by spraying with a solution containing a virus fatal to the pest, it has been found that these methods have worked extremely well when tried on a few pests. In fact, the screw worm, which cost America \$40,000,000 a year in cattle loss, was completely eradicated in California by the release of 50,000,000 irradiated flies a week for a period of 17 months.

Certain insects excrete a scent when they are ready to mate. One of these insects is the gypsy moth. The female moth carries a great load of eggs and is too heavy to leave the ground. When she is ready to mate the males are attracted by a scent. Entomologists have synthesized this scent and are able to use it to attract males to lures or traps where they meet their death. One-thousandth of a gram (or a milligram) is sufficient to act as a lure. This reduces the number of the male members, and this automatically reduces the number of fertile eggs. Surely and effectively, the number of moths is decreased.

The oriental fruit fly in the Bonin Islands, 450 miles south of Japan, was attacked in a similar way. Methyl-eugenol and organic phosphate were introduced into small squares of cardboard. The male fly was attracted to the cardboard by the methyl-eugenol and, immediately it settled on it, was killed by the organic phosphate. In this instance there was a 99 per cent effective control. Micro-organisms, used as a disease, have been and are being used for the control of various pests throughout the world. There is an organism that controls the larvae of the cabbage butterfly in France and Germany. This organism acts as a killer on the larvae and eradicates them. In Yugoslavia the autumn webworm, in the Soviet Union the tent caterpillar, and in Panama the root borer on banana palms are all treated in the same way.

One of the very important discoveries in this field is a virus that attacks and kills lucerne caterpillars. This virulent virus is so potent that the amount of virus in five dead caterpillars is sufficient to control all the caterpillars in an acre of lucerne. The affected caterpillars are collected, the virus is mixed with a carrier agent and then sprayed over the pasture. It is as effective, if not more so, as the chemical control using highly toxic sprays. This is a most important discovery for lucerne growers here in Australia.

The pine saw fly, a pest of the Canadian forests, is also controlled in the same way as the lucerne caterpillar—by virus infection. It has proved so effective that it has replaced chemical control. It is essential that many more qualified men carry on research in this important and vital field of biological control so that all humanity can benefit from the results and so that we can all live healthy lives.

The many other horticultural and agricultural pursuits carried out in the District of Gumeracha also encounter problems. These individually would take a large amount of time to deal with, and no real purpose would be achieved at this stage in going into these problems in detail. I think the marketing and disease problems already dealt with will be sufficient to illustrate what difficulties the primary industries face.

Not all of our district is full of complaints—far from it. Gumeracha is very fortunate in many respects. Our educational facilities, although not quite up to the standard we could desire, have greatly improved. The Oakbank Area School under its headmaster, Mr. Ern Wilson, is regarded as one of the most forward area schools in the State. Mr. Wilson has been headmaster for 12 years. During 1967 an assembly hall costing just over \$40,000 has been completed. The assistance given by the Government was to the extent of \$11,000. This hall was opened by Mr. Wilson with a debt of less than \$6,000. This illustrates the ability of the parents of present school-going children and the old scholars and their parents to work diligently towards an end. We are proud of our hall, our school and the teachers who staff it.

The results of the last Public Examinations Board examinations show the efficiency of the staff: 18 per cent of the students who sat for the P.E.B. exam achieved a No. 1 pass and 42 per cent achieved No. 2 or No. 3 passes. This is an excellent result, as only 10 per cent of students in South Australia gained a No. 1 pass and 25 per cent No. 2 or No. 3 passes. There are numerous public schools in the area with keen staff guiding the education of the younger children. Each year combined sports days are held in the district and it is a delight to visit these sports days and observe just how keenly the students of one school compete against students from adjacent schools to gain ribbons. We are very proud of our younger set.

The Gumeracha district is part of the area served by the Onkaparinga Adult Education Centre at Mount Barker. Mr. Don Riedel, the Principal, has at this stage 110 classes of all types operating with an enrolment of 1,500 pupils. This has been built up over very few years to this strength and is a credit to the council and its principal.

There are several hospitals throughout the district. We have one at Gumeracha and one at Woodside, the latter hospital being the central hospital of the district. We are fortunate enough to be reasonably close to Adelaide, so any really serious cases can be transported to Adelaide for specialized treatment very quickly. We are particularly proud of our aged folks home at Lobethal. The capable matron is able to run the hospital on a little less than the total pension of the inmates and still show a small profit. The pensioners have a small amount of money each week for pocket expenses and the rest goes to the home. It is a great credit to the matron that she can successfully run the home on a financial shoe-string and still give the inmates such good conditions. I have observed them at meal times and they are well catered for. I feel that this is an example of what can be achieved in this particular sphere when initiative and ingenuity go hand in hand. It is an example to be followed by the rest of South Australia where the need to cater for these people in the eve of their lives exists.

Because of the weather pattern of South Australia during our summer months we constantly live under the threat of a serious fire. We have had quite a few in the past, but none to match the disastrous fires in Tasmania recently, when 65 lives were lost and more than 1,200 homes burnt. The country people of South Australia are most conscious of the existing danger of fire and many people controlling land carry out preventive measures by removing the dangerous fuel. Appropriate breaks are made in the most desirable places so that the effects of the fire are lessened. We cannot afford to decrease our vigil on this ever-present danger.

In South Australia, we can be extremely proud of our Emergency Fire Fighting Services under the capable direction of Mr. Fred Kerr. We are envied by other States for this efficient voluntary service. Men throughout the State are willing to drop whatever they are doing at a second's notice and man the fire unit in their area. They are willing to expose themselves to risks to save life and property, and

our grateful thanks and appreciation are due to this courageous, hard-working group of men. Mr. Charlie Rosewarne well deserves mention here. He and his voluntary instructors conduct a school in first-aid and rescue work at Bridgewater. Pupils come from quite a distance to attend: some from as far away as Milang and some from the Adelaide Plains. Even some Army and police personnel have taken his course. To make his efforts all the more commendable, he and his men work on an entirely voluntary basis.

A problem ever present in the minds of South Australians is the lack of water. This is the driest State in the driest continent in the world. The high rainfall area here hugs the coastline closely, and Gumeracha is fortunate to have most of its area in a reasonably assured rainfall district. In fact, Stirling, which forms part of the Gumeracha District, is the wettest place in South Australia. Even though we are blessed with a good rainfall in a big section of the district, we are still short of water. The supply decreased in many bores during the dry spell of last summer. Many new bores put down proved dry holes. Dams were not filled last year and production decreased owing to the lack of water.

Much work has to be done with respect to water conservation. This is not only Gumeracha's problem: it is South Australia's problem, and it extends to the whole of Australia, too. We must start with Chowilla dam and work right through the State constructing water storages wherever possible and putting them to the best advantage. The proposed storage on the Onkaparinga River will be welcome and the completion of the Kangaroo Creek reservoir in 1969 will be a valuable addition. As South Australia's growth is directly dependent on the water supply, I cannot re-iterate too strongly the amount of emphasis we must place on this important aspect of our livelihood. The introduction of irrigation in horticulture and agriculture is inhibited in its growth by this lack of water. This is one of the many reasons why a big percentage of our young men is leaving the land. The increase in population in Adelaide in the last 10 years has been 21.1 per cent; in country towns it has been 19.5 per cent; and in rural areas, it has been a small 2.8 per cent. These figures are alarming. According to statisticians, the population of Australia will be 19,000,000 by the year 2000; the population of the rest of the world is expected to double. All these people have to be fed. So that production

of primary produce is maintained and increased, a drift away from the land by young men should be avoided.

Tourism is one of Italy's biggest money earners. In Australia we have a classic example of what tourism can do to an area. When the Snowy Mountains scheme started there were 2,000 people living in the district of Cooma. The population soon grew to 10,000 with the influx of the people working on the scheme. Now that the work is nearly completed, the area still maintains 10,000 population. The Cooma Airport is regarded as one of the busiest airports in Australia outside of capital city air terminals. This population is maintained largely through tourism. The caravan park is large and is a credit to the owner, but it is not nearly large enough. Boarding houses and motels are springing up and this not only brings money to the place but also provides many people with jobs. This is a most important consideration. In South Australia, we have a great potential for tourism. The close proximity of the Mount Lofty Ranges to the centre of Adelaide makes it an ideal set-up for beautiful views of the city. There are many places along the hills nearest to the city that give advantageous view positions. The new road going to Norton Summit above Morialta Falls, Ansteys Hill, Greenhill Road, the Mount Lofty area and the summit itself, the main Melbourne highway (soon to become a freeway), and Windy Point on the way to Belair are all wonderful vantage points. It takes only a relatively short drive into the hills to leave the city behind and see the rural areas. We are all well aware of the number of tourists through the hills over pleasant weekends.

One of the most beautiful drives that I have seen anywhere in Australia is in my district. If members travel with me hypothetically, I shall try to describe the route. Leaving Adelaide, we will travel up the Mount Barker Road to Crafers. Turning left, we proceed along the summit road past the three television aeriols to the Mount Lofty Summit. Here we see Adelaide on the one side and the top of the rolling hills on the other. The Piccadilly Valley immediately beneath makes a beautiful foreground. On the way through Summerstown and Uraidla we pass through the main sprout-growing area of South Australia. From Summertown, we go to Carey Gully and then to Forest Range. Here is a large area of undeveloped rough country. From this section we can see Mount Barker and the Woodside Army Camp.

From Forest Range, travelling to the top end of Lenswood, we travel first along Mawson Road and Croft Road. This part is really something out of the box. We see the ruins of Marble Hill on the left and Cherryville below it. On our right we see apple orchards and, further afield, dairying and potato areas. Farther on we see the Outer Harbour and the northern Adelaide suburbs as far as Port Wakefield. Turning from Croft Road towards Cudlee Creek, we travel through the Woods and Forests Department's new pine plantations. At Cudlee Creek there is an ideal place for refreshments. We go down the new Gorge Road to see the Kangaroo Creek reservoir being constructed. We enter Adelaide through Payneham. Recently I took the Director of the Immigration, Publicity and Tourist Bureau Department along the Mawson Road-Croft Road section, and he said that the area "sells itself". The drive so impressed him that the department intends to start a regular tour through the section next September.

One of the biggest attractions developed in America since 1962 is cycling. From a very humble start in Homestead, Florida, this has grown to enormous proportions. Cycling offers the best recreation for the most people for the least sum of money. This sounds as though I am coining a phrase of Sir Winston Churchill, but the facts are there. At present 60,000,000 cyclists use bikeways that extend for 150,000 miles in America. There are 25 miles of bikeways to every 50,000 urban dwellers, and 78,000 miles of bikeways in federal parks and forest trails. Lyndon B. Johnson, speaking on bikeways, states:

Instead of having to appropriate hundreds of millions of dollars to take care of juvenile delinquents, how much better it would be if we could just spend part of it where they could enjoy themselves and have useful recreation. . . . I see an America where bike paths run through the heart of our great cities—providing wholesome healthy recreation for an entire family.

In America there are three types of bike track: urban, scenic and long distance. All of the big tracks are marked with the appropriate signs.

What a golden opportunity exists for Adelaide residents to have a healthy recreation cycling in the Adelaide hills. It is an accepted part of American life today. Perhaps we may soon have bikeways here with appropriately marked signs. Cycling is also regarded as one of the best ways to cure heart disease. The picture I have drawn does not by any means

tell a full story of the District of Gumeracha, but it does give some idea of what it contains and, perhaps, what we hope to achieve.

To sum up this section, I should like to reiterate some points. Agriculturally and horticulturally it is essential that markets be found by responsible people for all of our surplus produce. There must be an assured return guaranteed for this produce so that primary producers are profitably repaid for their initiative and hard work. We must ensure that primary producers "deliver the goods" by making sure their quality is up to standard. Work on biological control must be carried out with the utmost urgency so that we can produce higher standards of produce. We must look after our ageing and sick people and see to their comfort. We must develop every source of potential income producer, whether primary, secondary or tertiary, including tourists. We must safeguard the health of this nation, and ensure that our educational facilities are sufficient.

At this stage I would like to mention some of my strong convictions. It is absolutely essential to the welfare of this State that we retain the Legislative Council. This House of Review enables legislation to be looked at a second time. It enables the Assembly here to have extra time in which to consider this legislation. The value of the Council was illustrated by the serious embarrassment it saved the last Parliament in the case of the road transport, succession duties and other measures. I believe that the fact that many Liberal and Country League members crossed the floor on many occasions to vote as their conscience dictated proved the value of this section of our Administration. It shows that these men are free thinkers and that they act according to the dictates of their convictions.

One of the contentious points at this point of time in South Australia is the redistribution

of electoral boundaries. I strongly believe in and wholeheartedly support the principle of the Mother of Parliaments in Great Britain that we have a voting system that contains approximately twice as many people in city electorates as in country electorates. The value of the country, particularly in Australia, is inestimable. Because of our distribution of population, it is necessary to have this loading so that country members can adequately cope with the problems of an area.

The value of the food materials and minerals taken from country areas far outweighs the value of the goods produced in city areas. City people are important because we are all interdependent, but we must not get our values out of proportion. I wholeheartedly support the proposal that we follow the British system of country *versus* city members in the electorate. I trust that we here will be able to work together for the advancement of South Australia. I do not believe that back-biting and personal attack will achieve much. Let us get on with the job of reinstating South Australia in its rightful place on the ladder of success.

It is my duty to the people of Gumeracha and to the people of South Australia to work towards achieving a South Australia in which every man who wishes can obtain employment and be adequately reimbursed, a South Australia in which initiative is rewarded so that we get an increase in production, both primary and secondary, and a South Australia in which we are proud to live. I only hope I have the ability to do my share in this mammoth task.

Mr. NANKIVELL secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.9 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, July 30, at 2 p.m.