

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, July 31, 1968

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

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

The SPEAKER: I notice in the gallery Mr. Lalit Sen, a member of the Federal House of Representatives (Lok Sabha), India, and formerly Parliamentary Secretary to the late Mr. Shastri, Prime Minister of India. I know it is the unanimous wish of honourable members that Mr. Sen be accommodated with a seat on the floor of the House, and I invite the honourable Premier and the honourable Leader of the Opposition to introduce our distinguished visitor.

Mr. Sen was escorted by the Hon. R. S. Hall and the Hon. D. A. Dunstan to a seat on the floor of the House.

QUESTIONS

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: My question relates to the proceedings of the House. As it announced in this House last week that it would do, the Opposition has refrained from taking further part in the Address in Reply debate in order to facilitate the Government's proceeding to introduce a measure that is on the Notice Paper. On the other hand, the Government has not proceeded to shorten the Address in Reply debate; we have listened to some very lengthy speeches which no doubt have been important to those who have made them but which, with great respect, seem to the Opposition to have contained matters, such as the sex life of the codlin moth and a scenic tour of the hills, that are of lesser importance than is the matter to which I have referred. Will the Premier, at any rate today, take the opportunity of introducing and giving the second reading explanation of his measure? This would not mean that the Address in Reply debate would have to cease. The remainder of the Address in Reply debate could be completed, but at any rate immediate action could be given to this particular measure, which the Opposition considers the most important and urgent matter before this House.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: At no time has the Government delayed the introduction of the measure for electoral reform. To remove any doubts about the Government's motives and intentions on this matter, I made a clear statement to this House last week in which I said

that, for several reasons, we would like to see the Address in Reply debate completed. One of those reasons was that speeches were to be made by new members. I assure the Leader that the Bill will be introduced at least in an interval of time similar to that in which a Bill was introduced by the Australian Labor Party Government after being elected to office. Surely, on this comparison, the Leader cannot read delay into our methods. I will today, if I have the permission of the House, postpone the Notice of Motion until after the Supply measure on the Notice Paper. This will enable us to introduce this measure either today, if the debate on the Address in Reply should lapse, or certainly tomorrow. I assure the Leader that, at least by tomorrow, the measure will be introduced and, that being so, he and his advisers will have the weekend in which to study it.

Mr. HUDSON: We were pleased to hear the Premier's statement that we could expect that possibly the Bill would be introduced today should the Address in Reply debate be completed. In view of the rather tedious and repetitious speeches we heard yesterday by members other than—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member must not reflect.

Mr. HUDSON: As many people considered yesterday that there was no attempt to get on with the business of the House, will the Premier seek the co-operation of his members who have yet to speak in the Address in Reply debate to ensure that the time of the House is not unnecessarily taken up by repetitious, tedious, and tendentious arguments?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I consider that that question is a reflection on members who have spoken in this debate.

The SPEAKER: Order! Is the Premier asking the honourable member to withdraw his remark?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: No, Sir.

The SPEAKER: I inform the Premier that the Speaker is the judge in this House on those matters. Does he desire to reply to the question?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: This is the first Government business of the House after the session has been opened. If the honourable member is pained, that is too bad. His condition of pain moves me not, and I am afraid that he will have to listen in the Chamber or outside the Chamber in an office with an amplifier, or he can depart from the House, as far as I am concerned.

JUVENILE OFFENCES

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: On page 13 of the annual report of the Juvenile Court, dated October 25, 1967, and furnished by the Adelaide Juvenile Court Magistrate, reference is made to the substantial increase in the number of juvenile offences in the period 1957 to 1967. The magistrate went on to say that the need for some preventative measures seemed obvious, and he suggested several measures that he considered could or should be taken to reduce what would otherwise be the upward trend of juvenile offences in the next 10 years. The first measure the magistrate mentions is as follows:

The teaching of a special subject in all schools, called, for example, morality and citizenship. This should be taught as a special subject like arithmetic, graded for each school year and adapted to the needs of the school-going child of every age. The children of today are the parents of tomorrow.

Can the Minister of Education say whether this recommendation or suggestion has been brought to her notice or that of her department and, if it has, whether the Government intends to give effect to it?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: When I read the magistrate's report and some press comments on this subject I, like many other citizens, viewed the matter with much concern. I immediately had discussions with my Director-General and referred the matter to him. I am now awaiting his report on what measures can be taken to deal with this matter in schools, because I realize that schoolchildren are of an impressionable age, and perhaps something can be done in this direction. I am also having discussions with the Attorney-General and, as soon as I receive the report for which I have called, I will let the honourable member have a reply.

ONKAPARINGA RESERVOIR

Mr. GILES: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on July 24 about a reservoir being constructed on the Onkaparinga River?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: At present it is planned to have a scheme for the provision of a dam on the Onkaparinga River. However, such a scheme would have to be submitted to the Public Works Committee, and this could be done early in 1970, with a view to commencing construction in 1972. It is not possible at this stage to define a precise area in which to establish the dam.

WINDY POINT

Mr. CORCORAN: Some time ago the previous Government decided that it would be an advantage to the State if Windy Point was developed, and it called for offers from interested persons to develop a first-class restaurant on this location. Although the response was disappointing, one or two reasonably attractive proposals were submitted. However, there were some difficulties in the final stages, because one person who submitted a proposal expected to be able to develop the restaurant in two stages, and this plan posed some problems. Can the Minister of Tourism say whether any further advances have been made and what plans are envisaged?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Although I will get a full report for the honourable member, I understand that, in addition to what the honourable member has said, the two-stage plan submitted was not acceptable to the previous Government and it was referred back to the inquirer. Also, from brief conversations I understand that following that rejection of the method of construction the inquirer seems to have lost interest. Efforts made so far have been unsuccessful in finding anyone else interested in this regard. However, I shall be able to supplement these remarks with a further statement tomorrow.

CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION

Mr. RODDA: My attention has been drawn to a press report referring to a testimonial, purporting to emanate from the Leader of the Opposition, which was read during certain proceedings in the Norwood court yesterday. The report refers to a recommendation from the former Premier concerning the possible award of an honour to be conferred by Her Majesty the Queen and a further recommendation submitted by the present Premier of the State. Can the Premier comment on this report?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I saw the report—

The SPEAKER: Order! I do not know whether it is permissible to discuss the merits of honours recommended, but it is a matter for the Premier whether he wishes to reply. Does he wish to reply?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Yes. Having seen this particular report, I was rather disturbed by it. I think it is my duty to inform the House that I consider it improper for the contents of a confidential communication between the Premier of the State and the Governor to be made public. For that reason,

I am unable to comment further, except to say that the contents of a secret communication should not be made public in this way. If, as it is reported, the Leader, in fact, made such a recommendation known, I ask him to exercise restraint in making any further public reference to names that may be on such a list.

ANZAC HIGHWAY

Mr. VIRGO: Some years ago, when the Anzac Highway was reconstructed as a dual highway, provision was made in the interests of road safety for a bicycle track on both the up and down roads. However, over recent months work has been in progress on the highway, and I understand that the bicycle tracks are being removed not to widen the road but merely to extend the lawn. As many people, particularly schoolchildren, use these bicycle tracks, will the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads, ascertain whether my information is correct and, if it is, will he ask his colleague to consider reinstating the bicycle tracks particularly in the interests of the safety of the schoolchildren who use them?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I know the tracks well, as I have used them often myself. Personally, I think it would be a pity if the tracks were not there, because they are useful. However, this is a matter for expert opinion and, as mine is not an expert opinion, I will seek it.

Mr. BROOMHILL: I have noticed over recent years that the bicycle track is used only rarely. No doubt the expert advice obtained on the question asked by the member for Edwardstown will be that the bicycle track is no longer required. If that is the case, will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads to consider having provided parking bays in the new spaces that will be available in front of shops? In recent years experiments have been conducted whereby parking at peak hours on the Anzac Highway has been banned with the result that the flow of traffic has been considerably improved. However, the councils concerned have received objections (perhaps understandably so) from shopkeepers on the highway. Therefore, I believe that, before the lawns planted in the place of the bicycle track are developed, some action should be taken quickly to have what I have suggested (if the suggestion is acceptable) carried out.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: True, it is some years now since I used the bicycle

track and that is probably why the honourable member has noticed a falling off in its use. However, there appears to be a serious difference of opinion between the member for Edwardstown and the member for West Torrens on this matter.

Mr. Hudson: We have not received our instructions!

The SPEAKER: Order! I think that the Minister should get on the right track.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: In this case, I will ask the Minister of Transport to arbitrate between the two members.

VENUS BAY STORE

Mr. EDWARDS: Has the Attorney-General a reply to the question I asked last week about a wine licence for premises at Venus Bay?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The information sought by the honourable member is as follows:

On January 26 last Messrs. Kelly and Kelly lodged an application for a retail storekeeper's licence for premises at Venus Bay. Objection to the grant of the licence was lodged also. By virtue of the provisions of section 22 of the Licensing Act, 1967, a retail storekeeper's licence can be granted at this stage only (a) to the holder of a storekeeper's Australian wine licence, or (b) where the premises sought to be licensed are more than five miles radius from existing licensed premises. Messrs. Kelly and Kelly do not hold a storekeeper's Australian wine licence, and so their application is based on the second proviso.

The applicants are represented by a firm of solicitors. While the application is on the list for hearing, it has never been before the court. If the date is suitable to their solicitors, the application will probably be heard about the third week in August. It is not accurate to say that the application has been refused: it has not yet been considered.

STOBIE POLES

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: In the *News* of July 10 appears an article headed "Stobie Poles Could Go Under New Plan". Can the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Local Government, say whether this will necessitate an increase in the tariff charged electricity consumers and, if it will, by how much, and whether it will necessitate the underprivileged having to pay extra in order to give privileges to the few?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I know that my colleague has had this matter closely under consideration and I shall be happy to obtain the information.

HEADMASTER'S RESIGNATION

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The Attorney-General will recall that when the previous Government was in office he, as member for Mitcham, was approached by a headmaster who decided to resign rather than be posted to a country school in the normal way. The headmaster having approached the honourable member with a view to making the matter political, the honourable member made public statements about the headmaster and said he hoped that something would be done about the matter. Now that the Attorney-General has been in office for over three months will he say what has been done about this matter and what the response from the Minister of Education to his approaches has been?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I do not accept all the implications in the question. This matter is now within the province of the present Minister of Education, with whom I have had certain discussions. Although I do not know what is the present position, I am entirely happy to leave the matter in her hands.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Will the Minister of Education say whether the Attorney-General, when making representations on his client's behalf, did so with the same enthusiasm as he showed previously, and will the Minister say what her decision was in this case?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: One of the first things that happened to me on assuming office as the honourable member's successor was to have representations made not only by my colleague, the Attorney-General, but by a predecessor, Sir Baden Pattinson. I undertook to make a complete review of the position and then informed the representatives of the headmaster concerned that, if he were to apply to the department for an appointment as a teacher, his application would be considered. I understand that this has been done and that an appointment has been offered to him. I cannot say to what school he has been appointed, but I will supply further information, probably next week.

CONTAINERIZATION

Mr. RYAN: On July 23, I asked the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Transport, about the discussions taking place between the Railways Commissioner and certain clients on the freight rates to be charged on containerized cargo, either as export or import. Has the Minister a reply?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I do not have that reply.

WATERVALE WATER SUPPLY

Mr. FREEBAIRN: The Minister of Works has been good enough to let me know that he has some news for me regarding the Watervale water supply, and I trust it will be good news. Will he now give me the information?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The Engineering and Water Supply Department's report states:

Investigations are currently being carried out on the proposal to supply water to the Leasingham, Watervale, Penwortham and Seven Hills areas from the Warren trunk main. The estimated cost of the scheme to supply all areas is about \$370,000. Meanwhile, examination of alternative routes is being made to ensure that the maximum number of consumers would be served and the maximum revenue would be obtained. Therefore, although an amount of \$26,000 was provided on the estimates for 1967-68, it has not been possible to commence any work because of these further investigations. Before approval can be given to the scheme, revenue statements now being updated and varied for the alternative route must be completed, then the final proposals must be submitted to the Government for reference to the Public Works Committee for consideration.

FLUORIDATION

Mr. RICHES: Yesterday a Ministerial statement concerning the fluoridation of water supplies was made in both Houses of Parliament. The Premier said that the Government had given detailed consideration to the fluoridation of South Australia's water supply. He said:

Cabinet has decided to approve the addition of fluoride to public water supplies and will proceed forthwith with the necessary planning.

Can the Premier say whether we are to understand from that statement that fluoride is to be added to all water supplies in the State (to country reservoirs as well as to those serving the metropolitan area), or does his statement refer only to the metropolitan area?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Fluoride will be added to water supplies throughout the whole of South Australia where it is practicable to add it. Obviously the Minister of Works and his officers will have to study carefully the position in some marginal areas where a close relationship will exist between cost and usage. In some instances, the use of water for domestic stock and for other purposes may completely outweigh any consideration given to the benefit to be derived by children from the addition of fluoride to the water. However, I assure the honourable member that

what I said yesterday was a general statement of policy and that policy will be applied wherever possible.

Mrs. BYRNE: Can the Premier say whether Cabinet considered conducting a referendum to ascertain the opinion of the general public on fluoridation?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: After considering all the ways in which this addition to health services could be achieved, Cabinet believed it should be achieved administratively. However, in making my Ministerial statement to Parliament yesterday, I said that members would have the opportunity to ask questions about the matter and to debate it if they desired. Therefore, obviously the matter can be debated. Finally, the Government did not choose to have a referendum on this issue.

Mrs. BYRNE: Will the Premier table the documents used by Cabinet to formulate Government policy on this matter?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will consider the question and bring down a reply.

CHIROPODISTS

Mr. HURST: Has the Premier, representing the Minister of Health, a reply to a question I asked last week whether the Government intended this session to amend the Chiropodists Act?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The question of amending legislation in this matter is at present being considered.

FLOATING LABORATORY

Mr. McANANEY: In this morning's newspaper appeared a report about a "floating lab" that is coming to South Australia. As this could be of interest in regard to the development and progress of the State, can the Premier give some information about it?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: As I was interested to learn of the berthing of this well equipped ship in a South Australian port, I inquired about the work being carried out in South Australia in this regard. The report I have states that the Horace Lamb Centre at Flinders University is the main university centre in Australia in the field of oceanographic work. At present, it is conducting a deep-sea programme investigating the Southern Ocean, particularly the area south of the Bight. This work is part of a general world-wide effort of investigation into oceanography. Another particular project being carried out by the centre is the use of wave regulators around the southern coast of Australia. These

regulators look out southwards into the Southern Ocean, and as a result of this work it is hoped to establish a system of advance warning of storms. A further project being carried out at the centre is the simulation on a large computer of oceanographic flow and atmospheric flow. The centre is equipped for the purpose of and is playing a leading part in oceanographic research in Australia. In view of the many questions asked about what influences climatic conditions in the southern part of Australia (whether ocean currents are sometimes responsible for variations in our climatic conditions), it is pleasing to know that South Australia is leading this field in Australia and that two scientists from our research centre will have the opportunity to serve for, I think, two months on this notable ship.

PETERBOROUGH WATER SUPPLY

Mr. CASEY: At Peterborough, the South Australian Railways has available two sources of water supply, namely, the Belalie reservoir and the reservoir at Peterborough, the two reservoirs combined providing a total of about 80,000,000 gallons. As the two reservoirs are full at present, if the Railways Department uses the water at Peterborough rather than the supply of the Engineering and Water Supply Department revenue will be saved, and that is what the Railways Department wants. As the required pumping gear is available at Peterborough and is in excellent order, will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Transport to see that the reservoir at Peterborough is used by the Railways Department?

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

PROFESSOR RICHARDSON

Mr. HUDSON: Yesterday, in answer to my question, the Minister of Education said that the Government had given its approval for the trip that Professor Richardson will make to Russia soon, but beyond that statement she refused either to associate herself with or to dissociate herself from the attacks that had been made on the professor. As this leaves considerable doubt in the minds of many people about just where the professor stands, will the Minister now say whether she has the fullest confidence in Professor Richardson as Principal of Bedford Park Teachers College, and will she make it clear that neither she nor the Government regards Professor Richardson as a subversive element in the community?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I thought I made the position clear yesterday, and I have nothing further to add.

Mr. HUDSON: I think that I should recapitulate on this matter as I see it. Professor Richardson has been effectively smeared as a possible Communist or Communist sympathizer by a member of Parliament operating under Parliamentary privilege. Professor Richardson has no right of redress against this smear in the ordinary courts of law as he would have if such accusation or implication had been made against him outside the Parliament. I should say that Professor Richardson is known to me personally, that I have been in his house and that, from my own direct knowledge, the smear against him is completely and utterly unjustified and completely groundless. As Professor Richardson is the Principal of Bedford Park Teachers College, will the Minister of Education say whether we are to assume that this sort of accusation can be made against an officer of the Education Department, smearing the officer's name, without his having effective protection from or answer by the Minister in charge of the department?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I say emphatically that neither I nor the Government has made any imputation whatever against Professor Richardson. Further, I ask that the honourable member put this question on notice.

POLITICAL EDUCATION

Mr. EDWARDS: I refer to the matter of political understanding by South Australian children so that they may appreciate our free system of Government. Can the Minister of Education say whether there is in South Australia a policy of explaining our political system to our children, and will she outline any such programme?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The honourable member having indicated to me that he would ask this question, I have obtained the following report:

Local government is considered in grade 7 Social Studies and serves as the basis for a study of Government in secondary school syllabuses. The latter syllabuses proceed from that point to a description of the State Parliament in South Australia and the Commonwealth Parliament in Canberra. The amount of detail varies between the different secondary school syllabuses. The most recently prepared syllabus is that used in high schools and gives a fairly detailed account of the above three forms of Government (and their powers) at each level. This syllabus includes a brief

comparative study of the forms of government in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and a broad picture of the United Nations Organization.

KINGSTON ELECTRICITY

Mr. CORCORAN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on July 24 about the extension of a reticulated electricity supply in the rural area surrounding the township of Kingston in the South-East?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The General Manager, Electricity Trust, reports that there is much work to be done on electrification of rural areas in the South-East of the State. The trust is carrying out this programme as fast as possible and is working to the policy of progressively extending supply from existing main transmission centres.

Under this policy, most of the electrification of the southern part of the Millicent electoral district has been completed. This area has been supplied from the transmission system radiating from Mount Gambier. However, the town of Kingston and the surrounding area must be supplied by means of a new transmission line from Naracoorte via Lucindale. At the present time the Electricity Trust is fully engaged building extensions in the areas around Naracoorte, and it will be some time before this work can be completed. Unfortunately, Kingston is so situated that it will be on the end of the line from Naracoorte with a considerable amount of work to do in the intervening country around Lucindale after the Naracoorte work is completed. It is not possible to set a firm date for carrying out work in the Kingston area, but present indications are that it will be about 1974.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. VENNING: Since I have become the member for Rocky River I have received much correspondence concerning assistance given to State schools and to independent schools, some of which correspondence favours assistance being given to independent schools and some of which does not. Can the Minister of Education say whether independent schools are supervised in the same way as State schools are supervised?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Like the honourable member, I have received many letters on this subject. Departmental inspectors inspect independent schools at the request of those controlling the independent schools.

MILLICENT BY-ELECTION

Mr. VIRGO: The Attorney-General, when supplying a written reply to his colleague in another place concerning the objections lodged in respect of the recent Millicent by-election, stated (and I quote part of it although I do not wish to take it out of context, but it is the only part applicable to my question):

The information to originate the objections came mainly from the Hon. R. C. DeGaris and the Hon. F. J. Potter.

Can the Attorney-General say whether these objections were lodged by these gentlemen in accordance with section 44 of the Electoral Act, whether the 5s. deposit was paid as required by that section of the Act, and whether the 5s. was retained by the Government on the ground that the objection was frivolous? Alternatively, was the 5s. deposit returned?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: As we now operate with decimal currency, I presume the honourable member means 50c.

Mr. Virgo: The Act provides for 5s. I am being specific, but you are being facetious.

The SPEAKER: Order! Only one member at a time is allowed to speak. If members want to hold a conversation I will adjourn the House with pleasure.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will get the information for the honourable member.

FIREARMS

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: In last week's *Sunday Mail* there appears the following article:

Sales illegal in other States, but people can send to S.A. for silenced rifles.—Melbourne, Saturday: A mail order or a quick trip across the South Australian border can get you a gun fitted with a silencer and telescopic sight. Such a gun is referred to by criminals as "the dream weapon".

The article then goes on to state that it is illegal to fit a silencer to a rifle in other States but it is permitted in South Australia. We appreciate that South Australians are usually law-abiding citizens, but many people are concerned about this situation. Can the Attorney-General say whether he has read the article and, if he has, has he determined on action to remedy the position?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I did not read the article but it was brought to my attention. On Monday, I discussed the gist of it, as I understood it, with the Chief Secretary and I understood from him that he had already arranged to receive a deputation tomorrow on this matter, this arrangement having been made before the article appeared in the newspaper.

In our conversation on Monday we agreed that we should wait to hear the points that would be put to the Chief Secretary by the deputation before discussing the matter further, and I hope to be able to discuss it with the Chief Secretary either tomorrow after the deputation or on Friday. Any action will be a matter for Cabinet.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. WARDLE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked on July 24 about a visit by the medical officer to the Murray Bridge Primary School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Arrangements have been made by the School Health Branch of the Department of Public Health to send a medical team to the Murray Bridge Primary School immediately after the September vacation. It is proposed that children in grades 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 will be examined fully and hearing/vision will be done on children in grades 3 and 6 (these children will be fully examined in 1969).

TAXATION DEDUCTIONS

Mr. BURDON: I understand that water, sewerage, and council rates are deductible items for all private citizens for taxation purposes. Can the Minister of Housing say whether he could have these items separated in the total rent paid each week by people renting Housing Trust houses and flats, and whether details of these amounts could be given to the occupants annually so that they might claim the benefit of these deductions?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member's question is an interesting one and not without ingenuity. Of course, it is a principle that a person's domestic living costs are not a deductible item on an income tax assessment. If this principle were applied to lessees of Housing Trust houses, it would automatically apply to all persons occupying rented premises of any sort (business, domestic or any such thing). This matter would therefore be of some magnitude, and I am sure that the Commonwealth Treasurer would have some problems and also some misgivings about it, because it would have a marked effect on his revenues. I do not know whether it would be possible, anyway, for the Housing Trust to segregate these amounts in its accounts in such a way as would be acceptable to the Commonwealth Income Taxation Commissioner in making assessments. However, I will consider the matter in consultation not only with the Housing Trust but also with other financial

advisers available to me. If the honourable member will give me a little time, I will consider the matter and let him know more about it later.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Mr. GILES: My question relates to a remark made by the Leader of the Opposition regarding my maiden speech. It is most gratifying to know that both the Leader and the member for Enfield absorbed what I said, particularly my remarks about biological control. As biological control will be one of the major steps to be taken in the future in both agriculture and horticulture, the Agriculture Department must carry on work in this field. Can the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Agriculture, say whether work has been undertaken on biological control in South Australia (indeed, in Australia) and whether money has been allocated for future work in this field?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I suggest that the honourable member become not too sensitive about statements made by the Leader of the Opposition regarding the honourable member's speech. As I have heard the Leader of the Opposition in this House, long after he was elected to Parliament, making speeches about fruit fly measures then in force, I do not think the honourable member need apologize for discussing horticultural matters. Although I think I could give some information to the honourable member on biological control, it would be more appropriate to refer the matter to the Minister of Agriculture and to ask for a full report, which I would hope to have tomorrow.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mr. HURST: Has the Premier, representing the Minister of Health, a reply to the question I asked last week about the tabling of departmental reports?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: My answer relates to two questions emanating from the Opposition benches: one question was asked by the member for Hindmarsh (Mr. Hutchens), who dealt with the policy of Liberal Governments regarding Engineering and Water Supply Department reports. I couple my reply to that question with the reply to the question asked by the member for Semaphore about Hospitals Department reports. The first part of my reply deals with the inquiry of the member for Semaphore. The annual reports of the Hospitals Department are being tabled as quickly as

possible. Annual reports of the Engineering and Water Supply Department are being tabled progressively, those for 1961-62 to 1966-67 having already been presented. The Engineering and Water Supply Department has presented its reports annually to the Minister, but the collation into the Public Works Report has been delayed.

PARLIAMENTARY CATERING

Mr. RODDA: A couple of days ago an editorial appearing in the press referred to a statement made by the Premier in which he expressed the opinion that better facilities should be provided for important visitors to this country. Doubtless the Premier, while overseas, saw some of the things that he believes are lacking in this State. As references have also been made to the effect that certain facilities within Parliament House are inadequate, I ask the Premier whether he would care to comment on what he considers to be adequate arrangements for distinguished people who may visit South Australia.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: When making the original suggestion which prompted the editorial in the press, I cast no slur whatsoever on the catering arrangements in this place or on the people who work under those arrangements at the present time and who fulfil the purposes for which they are here. I have full admiration for the caterers who have, in difficult circumstances, produced meals here during the last several sessions at short notice and at peculiar hours (hours which my Government does not intend to keep in the future, if it is at all possible). I pay a tribute to those performing the catering services here.

My previous remarks were based on my belief that there should be closer contact between the Government and important visitors to this State. I refer to functions other than the present Ministerial dinners which are given in this place and to which I make no reference here. I have in mind visitors concerning whom we should take more pains to welcome to South Australia. I should like to give such people the opportunity to meet all of my Cabinet Ministers and, if such meetings can take place over lunch, during which important business to this State might be discussed, we will try to make this facility available. I am sorry that my suggestion has been taken in some quarters as a criticism of the catering staff here. After all, the catering in this place

is undertaken strictly to a price and, obviously, we could have a higher standard if the staff received adequate opportunity.

Mr. Clark: They have done very well on special occasions.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I concur completely, but we should not expect the catering staff in this place to take on the additional work which I foresee, because for one thing I do not think it is a load which they should be asked to bear. I take the opportunity to reassure the catering staff that they have my whole support. Whether or not some people who have made various criticisms consider themselves to be V.I.P.'s, I do not know. However, I believe that the Government should examine the proposal to give certain people who visit South Australia a better welcome.

The SPEAKER: As this matter relates to some of the functions of the Joint House Committee and involves the catering staff, I think it would be appropriate for the Speaker, who represents members of this House on the Joint House Committee, to make a statement. This matter was considered by members of the committee at its meeting this morning. As we were alarmed at the statement in the leading article, we instructed the President to reply to it. We have also instructed the President, who is Chairman of the committee, to convey the appreciation of all members of both Houses to the catering staff for the magnificent job it has done over the years in helping us to entertain oversea visitors and other visitors. The catering staff has catered for Her Majesty the Queen, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, and Prime Ministers of many countries.

Mr. Clark: On many occasions.

The SPEAKER: Yes. For whatever function the Premier wishes to arrange, the catering staff is capable of providing the required service.

EYRE PENINSULA ELECTRICITY

Mr. EDWARDS: Can the Minister of Works say what is the position regarding provision of electricity in connection with the Kimba-Polda main? When the main operates later this year will the trust install a transformer station west of Cleve and take the power to Lock?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I will obtain a report on this matter.

Mr. EDWARDS: Will the Minister of Works ascertain whether, when power supplied by the Electricity Trust is coupled to Lock, it

will be possible also to take electricity to Ceduna and all towns along the route? Further, when electricity is supplied to Rudall, might it also be supplied along the line to Kimba?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The member for Eyre having asked a question on this subject a little earlier, I shall be glad to consider these additional points at the same time, and I will incorporate the replies in the one report.

DENTAL HEALTH

Mr. CASEY: I have been delighted to read in the press and to see on television that the young dental nurses whose training had its origin under the former Labor Government are now performing dental work. Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked on July 24 regarding this service, particularly as it affects country areas?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I must correct the honourable member on one point: the dental nurses are not yet in operation; they do not graduate for some months.

Mr. Casey: They are treating patients.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: They are still training. The Director General of Public Health reports:

In the past, the policy has been to give dental treatment to as many primary school children as possible in areas out of reach of private dentists. Because of the general shortage of dentists and the difficulty of attracting numbers of them to work in remote areas, the Government first introduced a dental studentship scheme under which students are supported during their university training and then serve under a bond where required. More recently the training of school dental therapists has been undertaken, and the first of these will begin field work in 1969.

I pay a tribute to those whose work has enabled the dental therapy school to commence operations. In company with the Minister of Health I visited it the other morning and was most impressed by what the young students were doing. The report continues:

It is expected that this will allow dental care to be given to many more children, including some in towns where a limited amount of private dental care is available. It is not proposed, with present resources, to extend the scheme to secondary pupils except for emergency treatment. The training and use of school dental therapists is a major task. It will spread the benefits of dental care much wider, but for the present it has required the use as teachers of some dentists who might otherwise have been working in country schools. Where staff shortage does not permit all children to be treated, the greatest permanent

benefit is obtained by concentrating on the younger children to allow proper development of the mouth, and to get the most lasting benefit from dental health education.

Mr. McKEE: In his Opening Speech the Lieutenant-Governor referred to the Government's intention to establish dental clinics at Port Pirie and other country centres. Will the Premier ask the Minister of Health when these clinics will be established? When they are established, will the Government consider extending the service to pensioners in these areas, because many pensioners who do not enjoy good health must face hardship in travelling long distances to Adelaide for dental treatment?

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

BUILDING INDUSTRY

Mr. BROOMHILL: No doubt members have noticed several reports in the press recently drawing attention to the disturbing situation now confronting the building industry in this State. I have also noticed that there has been no Government announcement in relation to the problems of the industry. A recent article in the *Advertiser*, under the heading "Research on S.A. Housing", states:

South Australia's house building industry had "miles" of over-capacity, the national president of the Housing Industry Association (Mr. R. L. Seares) said in Adelaide yesterday. The situation was such that the association felt it should again carry out some fundamental research so it could advise the State Government on action to correct a "quite serious" problem.

Has the Minister of Housing requested the association to undertake this research?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Since becoming Minister of Housing, I have made it my business to invite to my office all people connected with the building industry, including representatives of the Housing Industry Association, to talk about any matter of mutual interest and to invite them to suggest any ways in which the Government can help improve the industry's activities in a general way, including the building of houses. I agree that there has not yet been a significant upward trend in the building industry, but I suggest it might be useful if the honourable member were to look at the last report of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics on this matter. He will see there that in the six months ended June, 1968, in all of the various types of building to which reference is made in the report there is an upward trend in approvals for housing,

flats, factories, office premises, schools, religious buildings, health, entertainment and recreation, and miscellaneous buildings. As a result, the total approvals for the six months show an increase. Although that increase is not as good as I should like it to be, it shows a hopeful trend. I shall be addressing members of the Housing Industry Association at their dinner on, I think, Monday evening next. Although I am in constant touch with the association, I have not specifically asked it to undertake the research to which the honourable member has referred. Incidentally, I did not see the article he quoted. I repeat that I have invited all connected with the building industry to offer their views to me and to come to me or telephone me at any time to discuss any matter. I believe that I have the full co-operation of the people concerned as well as that of the industry generally in a joint effort to see what can be done to uplift building activity.

MINISTERIAL LETTERS

Mr. JENNINGS: On July 19 I wrote to the Minister of Roads. I received a reply, which was merely an acknowledgment, dated July 22: that represents fairly prompt treatment even for an acknowledgment. However, I received that reply only this morning. Although I know that the Attorney-General has the greatest respect for my integrity and would not doubt my word, I have brought into the House the envelope, which is postmarked July 30. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads why there has to be such a delay between writing a letter on July 22 and posting it on July 30? I would not have mentioned this if it were an isolated case, but I assure the House that it is not. I often wonder what happens to Government letters between the time they are typed and the time they are posted. I do not believe for a moment that, to make it look a little better, the letters are given a date earlier than the date on which they were actually typed.

The SPEAKER: Does the Attorney-General desire to reply?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes, of course. I will discuss the matter with my colleague. If the facts are as the honourable member puts them, there is certainly room for improvement.

PUBLIC SERVICE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. RYAN: During the last three years, members of the present Government, mainly those now sitting on the front bench, levelled

much criticism at the previous Government over appointments made to the Public Service of persons outside its ambit. During the last few days I have read newspaper reports that Cabinet has appointed a publicity officer named, I think, Mr. Peter Middleton. Can the Premier state the circumstances of this appointment and say whether it was made from within the Public Service or whether the person appointed came from outside the Public Service?

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

INTERMEDIATE COURT

Mr. FREEBAIRN: On June 22 our active and forward-looking Attorney-General announced that he had plans to establish an intermediate court. Can he give any more information on this matter?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Although what the honourable member has said about me is perfectly accurate, the report to which he has referred is not quite accurate. However, I have certain proposals in mind that I am discussing with relevant Government officers and the legal profession. I am not yet able to make any announcement, because this is a complicated and important matter, but I hope that I shall be able to make an announcement soon.

PORT AUGUSTA BRIDGE

Mr. RICHES: Yesterday in this Chamber it was advocated that a toll of \$1 be levied on motorists using the Port Augusta bridge to finance the construction of the new bridge, which is now under way. As a survey showed that about 80 per cent of motorists who used the Port Augusta bridge were local residents, many of whom use it up to four times a day to travel to and from work, can the Premier say whether, before the action that normally follows a suggestion made in an Address in Reply speech is taken, an opportunity will be given to present facts which may counter the suggestion advanced, because this proposal would cause great concern if it were ever implemented?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: As I was not in the House when these remarks were made, while the honourable member was asking his question I tried, perhaps rudely, to find out who made this suggestion. I now understand that, in stressing the importance of reconstructing this bridge, a member (and he may correct me if I am wrong) drew a comparison between

the possibilities. He said, I believe, that local people would rather pay a toll than not have a bridge. However, I will confer with him later to see whether that is so.

Mr. RICHES: But are you considering a toll?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Government is not considering it, and I assure the honourable member that it will not consider it.

WATER RATES

Mr. WARDLE: The Minister of Works has announced an increase of 5c a thousand gallons in the rate charged for excess water consumed, the reason given for this increase being that it will discourage people from using excess water. I have no doubt that this could be so in some cases. However, living in my area are many market gardeners who grow glasshouse tomatoes and cucumbers and who use about 1,000,000 gallons of excess water a year. Can the Minister of Works say whether excess water consumption as it applies to this area has been considered? If it has been considered and decided against, will the Minister consider reducing excess water charges on quantities exceeding, say, 50,000 or 100,000 gallons a year?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I will consider the matters raised and give the honourable member a reply as soon as possible.

Mr. RICHES: What the member for Murray had to say about the heavy impost on market gardeners, following the increase in the cost of excess water, applies with equal force to the gardeners in the Flinders Ranges foothills. During the life of the previous Government, the then Minister of Agriculture appointed a committee to make a special investigation into the economics of the fruit-growing and market-gardening industry in the Flinders Ranges foothills, and that investigation related also to this matter. Will the Minister of Works also take into account the effect that the new charges may have on growers in my district and, when reaching a decision, will he study the findings of the committee to which I have referred and which I think reported about 18 months ago?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I shall be happy to include the honourable member's suggestions in the matters to be investigated for the member for Murray, and I will bring down a report as soon as possible.

GEDVILLE CROSSING

Mr. HURST: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Transport, a reply to my recent question about the Gedville Road crossing?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes, I have some good news for the honourable member. In accordance with the reputation that this Government has already established for taking sound decisions and speedy action, automatic warning signals will be installed at the Gedville Road level crossing during the current financial year.

PINE TREES

Mr. RODDA: A constituent who is engaging in farm afforestation and who, with a neighbour, will be planting out about 14,000 pines this year has written to me requesting that I ascertain whether there has been any change in the Government's policy of providing, free of cost, pines from the Woods and Forests Department. In this constituent's neighbourhood there seems to be an opinion that this has been the policy of the Government. Is the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Forests, able to comment?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will get a report from the Minister of Forests.

ROWLAND FLAT SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: My question refers to the future of the Rowland Flat Primary School property. The school has been closed and on March 12 I was told by the then Minister of Education, in reply to a letter that I had written, that two parties were interested in purchasing the property and that the department intended to sell it. On March 20 two spokesmen for 101 of the 109 residents of Rowland Flat presented to the Director-General of Education a petition asking that this property be transferred to the Rowland Flat community. These two spokesmen waited upon me, too, and on March 22 I again wrote to the Minister pointing out that to my knowledge there was not another piece of land available at Rowland Flat, that there was no community hall or centre there and that this building would serve this purpose. I received an acknowledgment in which I was told that I would be advised of any decision made. As neither I nor the spokesmen for the residents of Rowland Flat have heard anything more about the matter, can the Minister of Education say whether there are any further developments to report?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I saw people about the old Rowland Flat school and, as far as I know, a meeting was to take place and I was to be advised of the date and outcome of that meeting. In the meantime, I have

heard nothing further, and I shall be happy to call for a report to see whether there is any further information that I can give the honourable member.

POLITICAL ALLEGATION

Mr. CORCORAN: I am reminded to ask this question because of the question that has been asked by the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson). The Premier will recall that, during the Millicent by-election campaign, several Liberal canvassers told people in the district that I was subject to the influence of Communists. The Premier, when asked to comment on a press report about this, said he thought this was untrue, but subsequently said that he was prepared to have the matter investigated. During the grievance debate I mentioned the subject briefly and said that I would be happy to assist the Premier in any investigation he cared to make. Will the Premier say whether he has carried out this investigation and, if he has, what was the outcome?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Some weeks ago, after the grievance debate, I mentioned this matter to some members of my Party, and got some sort of reply to the effect that no charge had been made that Mr. Corcoran was a Communist.

Mr. Corcoran: I didn't say it was.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. R. S. HALL: If honourable members do not want to hear the reply, I suggest that the question be put on notice.

WAYVILLE INTERSECTION

Mr. LANGLEY: For some time now part of the Greenhill Road to just east of Goodwood Road has become a two-way highway and, because of increased traffic (particularly that travelling to the city), it has become an extremely busy thoroughfare. As there has been an intimation that traffic lights will be installed at the intersection of Goodwood and Greenhill Roads, will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads what progress has been made with this necessary traffic installation?

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

EDUCATION FINANCE

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: As the Minister of Education, during an interview on television immediately after being appointed, said there was a crisis in education, can she

now say what steps she has taken to approach the Liberal Prime Minister (who does not believe that there is a crisis in education) for assistance in South Australia to relieve the alleged crisis?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I think the honourable member has taken my remarks out of context, because I referred to a crisis in education throughout the world. The present Commonwealth Government is making a great contribution to education, and the honourable member would be well aware of this as he was previously Minister of Education. I believe that the Commonwealth Government is looking for other fields in which it can help the States meet the costs of expansion and development that require a greater expenditure of funds than State Governments can find.

FREELING SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: Previously, I have asked questions of the Minister of Education concerning the need for new toilets at the Freeling Primary School. As the toilets have not yet been installed, can the Minister say whether tenders have been let for this project and, if they have been, when work will be completed?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I shall be pleased to get a report for the honourable member.

RIVERTON-SPALDING LINE

Mr. ALLEN: For years much repair work has been done on the Riverton-Spalding railway line, namely, the installation of new sleepers and heavier rails on curves. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Transport whether the service on this line is to be upgraded when this work has been completed?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will find out for the honourable member.

HOME FOR AGED

Mr. EDWARDS: The people of Ceduna are contemplating building a home for aged people. Can the Minister of Housing say if such a project is eligible for a subsidy whether a new house be built or a suitable home bought for this purpose?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Commonwealth subsidy for the building of homes for aged persons is available on approved projects anywhere in Australia. The project must first be submitted to the Commonwealth authority so that it may establish whether the home is within the specifications laid down by the Commonwealth Government for such a subsidy.

I think I am correct in saying that the Commonwealth does not subsidize the purchase of land, but that would not be a major aspect at Ceduna. The Commonwealth restricts its subsidy to capital building costs, although sometimes requests are received from a building authority for the State Government to assist with furnishings, fittings, and such matters, and the State Government has helped in this respect. Several years before the Commonwealth authority entered this field, the South Australian Government as early as 1952 commenced such a scheme and disbursed substantial funds to authorized religious charitable organizations as a subsidy on homes for aged persons. Later, when the Commonwealth Government entered the field the State Government vacated it, but retained an interest in the outfitting and furnishing of the homes. If the honourable member wishes I will obtain further details so that he can inform the authorities at Ceduna about this matter.

WILD DOGS

Mr. CASEY: A statement has been attributed to Mr. Gwyn Hughes of Clifton Hill Station that over 1,000 calves have recently been killed by wild dogs in that part of the country. This information, together with other reports that have come in throughout the Far North in the past few months, indicates that, because of the lush seasons, the dingo population has increased alarmingly in the last two years. I think that the best way to eradicate dingoes is to trap them. Aerial baiting has its problems although it is doing a good job, but it is difficult to assess its success. In these circumstances the trapping of dingoes is probably the only way to eradicate them, but some incentive has to be given to trappers in order to bring them into this area. Will the Minister of Lands consider increasing the dingo scalp bonus, because it is some years since this matter was considered and an increase in the bonus would seem to be justified at present?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Pastoral Board has received reports that the number of dogs is increasing outside the dog fence. I have discussed the various means of eradicating dingoes and, generally speaking, the honourable member's comments are sound. Aerial baiting is believed by many people to be an effective method of dealing with dogs but there seems to be much doubt about how effective it really is. Although it is useful, there is no certainty about it because few dogs are found dead as a result of this method.

On the other hand, trapping and poisoning by ground operators are different propositions. As the matter of raising the dog bounty affects policy, I shall have to take time to consider it and possibly discuss it with the Government.

STUDENT TRAVEL CONCESSIONS

Mr. NANKIVELL: I have received a letter from the head prefect of a girls' college in the city stating that she and many of her colleagues at school are obliged to travel on public transport during week days and week-ends on school business. They find that this is costly because, if they are over the age of 14, they are not entitled to any concession fares. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Transport to consider providing a concession fare for these students if they are travelling at any time in school uniform?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I have taken up this matter with the previous Minister of Transport both by way of question in this House and also by way of correspondence. Since the change of Government, I have discussed the matter at some length with the present Minister, and I shall be only too happy to put to him this specific matter.

PARINGA PARK SCHOOL

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about rebuilding the Paringa Park Primary School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: There are no immediate plans to build a new school building on the site owned by the Education Department near the present Paringa Park Primary School. Therefore, following an offer from Mr. R. F. Hamilton, approval was given for Mr. Hamilton to lease this area of vineyard land from March 31, 1968, to June 30, 1969. The conditions of the lease are that no rental will be charged. Mr. Hamilton is to pay the rates and taxes and keep the land free of noxious weeds and any other growth that constitutes a fire hazard. The rates and taxes amount to about \$650 per annum.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Premier an answer to my recent question about unemployment?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The unemployment figures quoted by the member for Glenelg were correct; unfortunately his quotation of the relevant headline was not. The headline in the press reads "Sharp Fall in Jobless for June" and is set above a report on unemploy-

ment statistics for Australia. Features for June in South Australia were listed as follows:

Seasonally increased employment in fruit packing and bakeries.

Seasonally reduced employment in fruit and vegetable canning.

Increased employment in non-electrical plant and machinery, ship-building and repairs, motor vehicles, non-metal mine and quarry products, electrical plant and equipment and clothing.

The "end of June" figure disclosed 8,359 persons registered as unemployed: this represented 1.7 per cent of the work force and an increase of 167 from the May figure. However, the June figure is an improvement on the figure of 8,484 registered in June last year, being 1.9 per cent of the work force. It is hoped that improved financial conditions in the Eastern States will be reflected in the Eastern market for South Australian goods so that improved employment figures will flow on to this State. The Government will continue its policy of actively encouraging industrial expansion in South Australia.

GAS

Mr. HUDSON: Last week I asked the Premier whether he would give the House information about a letter which was written by the previous Premier to Mr. Reed of Jackson, Mississippi, relating to the provision of natural gas for Wallaroo. At that time, the Premier replied:

I had the report in my bag, but it is not there now.

Can the Premier now give me the information for which I previously asked?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am happy to make the file on this matter available to the honourable member. I do not at this stage intend to read the letter. Many letters on the file are of some significance to the project concerned, and I do not intend to read only one of them which may be of some political significance.

Mr. Hudson: Why did you choose mine?

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am getting tired of interruptions from the member for Glenelg when I am replying to his questions.

Mr. Jennings: What are you going to do about it?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will ask him to put his questions on notice. I do not intend to do that at present, because I wish to be as obliging as possible. However, it does not

facilitate Question Time to have these interruptions. If an interruption facilitates a reply, I am happy to hear it but, if it is obstructive, I shall ask that the question be put on notice. In this matter I am happy to make the file available to the honourable member.

Mr. HUDSON: Will the Premier explain to the House why he was prepared to select one letter from the file, namely, the letter I wrote to the previous Premier from New York, and to table it in the House so that the press, if it wished, could quote from it extensively? On the other hand, will he say why he is not prepared to quote to members of the House the letter the previous Premier wrote in response to my letter which the current Premier has already tabled in the House?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member is pursuing a course of some political significance in this matter. He knows why I tabled the letter. I brought that letter to the House to show privately to one of the members of the honourable member's own Party, but I had no intention of reading it to the House. I tabled it at the request of the member for Glenelg. What kind of inference is the member for Glenelg trying to draw in this matter and what is he trying to prove? I had the letter here to show to the honourable member's colleague. The file in my office was prepared by his predecessor. I resent any imputation that I used his letter wrongly. The honourable member asked for the letter to be tabled, so I tabled it at his request.

Mr. HUDSON: In my letter to the previous Premier regarding the position at Jackson, Mississippi, I suggested to the then Premier that a specific offer should be made to Mr. Bridges, Mr. Reed and other members of the syndicate in Jackson for the provision of natural gas at Wallaroo. I suggested clearly to the then Premier that the Government of that time should make clear to these people that it was prepared to provide natural gas at Wallaroo at the price at which it would be made available in Adelaide. This is a matter of some considerable importance, and the relevance of the previous Premier's reply to my request (and this matter was first raised in this House by the Premier) came in discovering just what offer—

Mr. McAnaney: Question!

Mr. HUDSON: —was made by the previous Premier to the principals of the syndicate in Jackson for the provision of natural gas at Wallaroo.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: If the honourable member puts that question on notice I will give him an answer.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S SPEECH

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I feel compelled to make a personal explanation about two matters to which the Attorney-General referred in his speech in this House last night. The first of these was an accusation that I had, in Government, become opposed to the views on fluoridation that I had expressed as a member of a Select Committee of this House. Sir, that is not true and I want to make perfectly clear to the House that, although my Party has no specific policy on this and members are completely free to express their opinions on the matter, as far as my personal opinion is concerned I agree with the decision of the Government and commend the Government for it. However, I express that as a personal view and not on behalf of any other member.

The second matter was the Attorney-General's reference to the staffing of the Full Bench of the Licensing Court. In view of the statements the Attorney has made, I think I must give to the House the history of this matter. On the passing of the Licensing Act, the Judge and Deputy Chairman of the Licensing Court were appointed. At that time the Deputy Chairman was a magistrate in the Adelaide Local Court. The staffing of the Full Bench comprised the Deputy Chairman, who, because of his position, was required for all major Full Bench matters necessarily, and another magistrate from the Country and Suburban Courts Department.

It was found by Judge Gillespie that it was difficult to provide a Full Bench of the Licensing Court and to keep up the staffing of his own courts at the same time. As a first measure in consequence, Mr. Marshall, S.M., was appointed on a full-time basis to the Licensing Court Bench. I may say that I made the appointment against advice that the Licensing Court would be over-staffed if the appointment were made. At the time the appointment was made it was considered that

the Full Bench could be reasonably constituted, because an extra member ought to be able to be found from the large number of magistrates in the other courts departments. However, difficulties arose about this and I consulted both Judge Gillespie and Judge Johnston and then gave authority to Judge Johnston to approach the Chief Summary Magistrate to ascertain whether he could obtain the services of one of the magistrates in that court, which he did. It was Mr. Pellew, S.M., to whom reference was made in the report of the Licensing Court Judge read by the Attorney-General to this House.

However, it still transpired, because Mr. Pellew, S.M., was not able to fulfil all the requirements of the Full Bench, that additional assistance would have to be sought, and before I left office I gave authority to Judge Johnston to approach members of the profession, including Mr. McLaughlin, Q.C., to ascertain whether assistance could be acquired from that direction so that a Full Bench could be constituted. Now, certainly the approaches to Mr. McLaughlin were to be made at just about the time we left office. I had not personally approached him previously, simply because I had had earlier discussions with him about certain judicial or semi-judicial appointments, unsuccessfully, and it had not occurred to me until I received Judge Johnston's suggestion that we might approach Mr. McLaughlin. However, the Attorney has told the House that, during the whole of this period of office, I did nothing. That is not true.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member's time of five minutes has expired. He may continue to make a further personal explanation for another limited period of five minutes by leave of the House.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the House. For the Attorney-General to say that I did nothing during this period is plainly not the truth. I certainly did everything that I could to see to it that the bench was fully constituted and that every opportunity was taken to staff it. Although I appreciate that the appointment of Mr. McLaughlin was made during the present Attorney's term of office, and although he points to this as a singular achievement by his Party, I point out to him that his remarks on this matter concerning me are without justification.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: PARTY MEMBERSHIP

Mr. McKEE (Port Pirie): I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr. McKEE: I refer to a question that I asked of the Premier yesterday. In his endeavour to answer me, he seemed to think that I was confused. However, I consider that he, in his attempt to answer, became confused. The question related to the statement made by the Premier, when he arrived in London recently, that his Government had a majority of only one. At no time did I say that I was confused, because I knew the position only too well. What I did ask the Premier to do was to clarify his statement, because the people of this State were confused. I now take it from his reply that I can accept, on behalf of the whole of the public of South Australia, the sympathies that he extended to them for not knowing where they were politically and for being blinded by the Liberal and Country League political fog.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on the motion for adoption.

(Continued from July 30. Page 344.)

Mr. McANANEY (Stirling): Almost on the adjournment last evening the member for Millicent made an interjection in regard to the pieces of land cut off when an alteration is made to a road. He differed from my view and said that it was the responsibility of the landowner to have noxious weeds on such land eradicated. I have asked four or five of my colleagues who are experienced in local government matters and they have told me that it is the responsibility of the landowner to have the weeds removed.

Mr. Corcoran: I did not differ from you; I merely referred you to the Act.

Mr. McANANEY: The honourable member disagreed with me. In his Address in Reply speech the Leader of the Opposition mentioned the closing of certain railway lines by the Government. The Labor Government was completely useless in facing up to a difficulty that had arisen in the State.

Mr. Langley: What did you do in 25 years?

Mr. McANANEY: In two years of Labor Government the losses of the Railways Department increased from \$7,700,000 to \$10,400,000, and the situation was deteriorating further.

The Labor Government should have faced up to this situation during that period. The Leader of the Opposition stated:

The Minister announced a whole series of rail cuts in South Australia. True, in the time of the Labor Government a report had been prepared by the Railways Commissioner—This was one of the reports for which the Labor Government was always asking. How many committees did the Labor Government set up? That was its mode of action; yet no action was ever taken on the recommendations in the reports. However, immediately there was a new Minister of Transport, he went into action to face up to this position. A deterioration in finances of \$2,700,000 in two years is something on which action had to be taken. This illustrates how the socialistic mind works in these matters.

The report went hand in hand with the Railways Commissioner's proposals for the co-ordination of road and rail transport. Many of the proposals were rejected by the Royal Commission on State Transport Services. The then Premier rejected most of the suggestions in the report. This was another of those expensive Royal Commissions set up by the Labor Government, yet immediately it produced its report the then Government did not take action if a recommendation interfered with what it thought was right. The Leader of the Opposition also said:

Therefore, in order to rationalize rail services in South Australia, it was necessary to develop a programme so that, when a railway service was discontinued, a reasonable alternative service to country areas would operate.

It was necessary for the Government to do this, and this is always the cry of the Socialist. What happened in Strathalbyn when control-free transport was made available to that area? Before that, when people had to use the railway line, if they wanted a spare part it had to be brought up from Adelaide. If they ordered it in the morning, it was often two or three days before they received it. On many occasions the train took it through to Victor Harbour, and it would come back to Strathalbyn the next day. If it was put on a truck at Port Adelaide, sometimes they would wait for the truck to be filled before sending the consignment, thus causing delays because people could not get necessary parts. Immediately road transport was allowed to operate in that area, first of all we had one truck that left Adelaide at 4 p.m. and people would get their parcels at Strathalbyn that evening. Now there is an additional truck leaving Adelaide at 1 p.m. It is obvious that, when allowed,

private enterprise will provide such services at a cheaper rate and will not be a big drain on the assets and resources of the State. Is this not as it should be? There should be competition. I am not opposed to the State's operating various works, provided it can furnish services on a competitive basis. The Leader also said:

Further, with the abolition of controls on the road transport of freight, it was necessary to have a system that would ensure that country areas got an adequate service from road transport and that those who provided a road transport service that comprised both economic and uneconomic portions would not be undercut by people who wanted to compete with them, simply undercutting on the cream of the services.

Many carriers operate in the Strathalbyn area. Although they do not run regular services at present, if the railway service were terminated they could provide the necessary extra cartage. If a railway line has to be closed it is the job of the Transport Control Board to see whether any contractor wishes to provide a service in that area; if no contractor is interested, then it is the Government's responsibility to do something. I heard only one complaint in regard to the closing of the Strathalbyn railway line and that was made by the local miller. He had a problem because he provided half, if not more, of the revenue earned by the Strathalbyn railway station. Naturally some alternative transport will have to be provided for him. I understand that negotiations have already taken place with a carrier to provide a service to him at a competitive rate, and, from what I know of transport costs in the area, the new service will be cheaper for him. Even now some farmers in the district by-pass the railway service, transporting their wheat direct to Port Adelaide and consequently saving costs.

I have received complaints from people in Victor Harbour about the possibility of the line being closed, because at present the rail service is used for parcels, there being no alternative road service. However, now that the line may be closed, a transport operator is initiating a service and, once that alternative service operates, these people will be reasonably happy. If the line is closed, age pensioners and possibly students will have something to complain about because they will lose the subsidy they now receive in cheaper railway fares. Even before the closing of the line was suggested, many pensioners asked me (and I asked the former Chief Secretary) whether their fares on private buses could be subsidized. The train has always run at awkward times, which has

meant that pensioners have had to get up early in the morning and have arrived home late at night. Therefore, they would have preferred to use buses. However, the argument for not subsidizing bus fares was that these pensioners should use the trains because hardly anyone else used them. If the line is closed, pensioners in this area should receive subsidized bus fares. I hope the Government will provide for this. The present practice in regard to subsidies is that a certain sum is transferred in the Budget to the Railways Department: therefore, to subsidize bus fares would not mean a drain on the State resources. I have been told that closing the line would result in a saving of \$100,000 and, if people in the area can be satisfactorily catered for by other means of transport, this will be to the advantage of the State.

The Leader referred to the overwhelming vote received by his Party at the last election, saying that it was the highest vote received by any reigning Government in Australia. However, I understand that the present Commonwealth Government received a similar vote. Incidentally, the *Shorter Oxford Dictionary* defines the word "overwhelm" as follows: "To overcome or overpower; to bring to ruin or destruction; to crush; to overpower utterly with some emotion." I do not think it was an overwhelming vote in that respect, because the country vote overwhelmed the Leader. Dr. Blewett, about whom we hear and see so much, despite his advocacy of one vote one value, said that there must be a system of voting in which there are marginal seats and by which various groups of people can exercise their view if they are upset in any way. The country people were subjected to large tax increases and obviously did not fare as well as they had in the past; therefore, they should have had the chance to overwhelm the Party that had caused their trouble. In that case, the system worked well. However, I do not advocate the continuance of the present system: we all desire an improvement and possibly this will be achieved.

I live at the tail end of the Murray River and, over the years, I have seen many millions of acre feet of water go to waste. I believe that the object of building Chowilla dam is to save this water so that it can be used in time of need. I cannot understand what the Commonwealth Minister for National Development meant when he said:

The whole aim of the commission was to provide South Australia with its entitlement of 1,250,000 acre feet of water a year in every year.

However, compared to the needs of South Australia, 1,250,000 acre feet is nothing. Much of that water is lost in evaporation, and what is left is not enough to fill our needs. The level of Lake Alexandrina dropped about 1,000,000 acre feet last year. If there had been another dry period, Adelaide would have been without water, and what a tragedy for the State that would have been. The Minister continued:

At present there are dry years such as this year when there have to be restrictions.

If we had Chowilla dam, we would not have to have restrictions to the same extent as we have them now. The Minister continued:

If Chowilla had been built with a storage of 5,000,000 acre feet, it would have been larger than was ever required.

How unrealistic can one be? The Minister would only need to live in my area for six months to realize how unrealistic is that statement. The Minister said that 1,500,000 acre feet would have ensured that South Australia did not have restrictions, but that quantity would barely keep Lake Alexandrina full and much more water could be used if it were available. The Minister also said:

We have found there are very much better sites for which you get a cheaper amount of water.

Winter has hardly started and the Snowy water has barely begun to flow. On the last figures I saw, the Hume dam was 24 per cent full. The suggested dam above that catchment area, to be effective, would necessitate first the filling of the Hume dam and, after that, the filling of the other dam. Lake Alexandrina, which is receiving water from the lower reaches of the Murray, is full, the barrages have been opened and water is already flowing to sea. That water should be stored in the Murray, but it would be likely that millions of acre feet would drift towards Antarctica before a new dam built on the proposed site at Dartmouth was filled.

I cannot follow the statement that a major storage higher up the river would give the commission greater control of water. Then the Minister said:

It was preferable to have the new major storage high up the river where additional water could be obtained and the present imbalance in storage could be corrected. Salinity in the lower reaches of the Murray had built up to such an extent that water was suddenly constantly having to be passed down-river to flush it out. A lot of this is wasted.

This did not happen during the last dry year. Near Renmark salt seepage from the sides could be somewhat reduced by diversion from the river. There was quite an outcry about the damage that salt had done to orange trees, but when I was at Waikerie some time ago I found that only the older trees were affected and that a record crop of oranges was being produced from the younger trees.

Water could be flushed into the lower reaches where the land, although not suitable for growing fruit and vines, could be used for crops such as potatoes and lucerne. I understand that potatoes can be irrigated successfully with water containing 180 grains. Admittedly, when we were using water in which the salt content got as high as 350 grains, the lucerne was not growing well and perhaps the soil was being damaged, but this happened in only one lagoon. We cut a channel to go over the lake and the water was pure having regard to the standard of bore water. During the last dry year, I argued with the then Minister of Works about too much water having been let down for flushing purposes. I said that because of the rigidity of departmental control, a prescribed number of acre feet had to come down each month, whereas perhaps the water should have been retained for later use. The water filled Lake Alexandrina and a quantity was blown to waste by the north winds. However, that was all that went to waste from the lake.

The Labor Party suggested that it would introduce rigid licensing in the lower reaches of the Murray and Lake Alexandrina, giving a person a licence to irrigate on the basis of the amount of water available in a dry year. Surely additional licences should be granted, perhaps on the understanding that in a dry year the holder of the licence could not use the quantity of water allocated. This may have some adverse effect on lucerne crops for a short time, but lucerne can be left for a few months and then rejuvenated, and potatoes, etc., need not be planted in a dry year.

Much of the lake is shallow and, because of this expansive factor, much water is lost in evaporation. Perhaps in the lifetime of some of our younger members, much of the area of the lake will be reclaimed, leaving the main channel down the middle. Of course, this will not be done until the growth of Adelaide warrants the extra production, because there is no point in exporting surplus production, only to sustain heavy loss because of the

disastrous state of the national economy. Our water resources must be examined so that they can be used to the best advantage.

There has been much criticism of universities and university students but I consider (and I have had two children at university) that the university students today are a better bunch than was the case when I attended. In my day many of the students were the sons of wealthy parents. Although I worked during the day and attended night lectures, I still was able to join the students in fun on occasions. Students at the university today know that they have been given an opportunity, and most of them work hard. A small group, probably from the art section, may cause trouble, but students attending the science section realize that because of the heavy programme of study they have to work hard. Last week a stir was caused about a pamphlet that had been circulated at the university. I did my best to find out who was responsible for it, but it had been printed outside the university. People who print seditious trash, whether as a joke or seriously, should somehow be brought into court so that this sort of thing would be stopped. It is the responsibility of the Government of the day to ensure that these people are controlled.

People should have the right to march up the street and protest. I have walked up King William Street at the head of the Captive Nations group, and everyone should be allowed to protest in this way if they think it is necessary. I blame newspapers for the fuss that has been caused, because too much publicity is given by some irresponsible newspapers to actions by small groups of agitators. The few ratbags that attend the university should not be given this publicity: if it were denied them they would soon stop their pranks and perhaps do something useful. As a supporter of the modern generation, I believe there are far more irresponsible parents than there are irresponsible children. I have six children and no doubt they have played up occasionally, but the only time I had real trouble was when I first became a member of Parliament and could not take the interest in them that I had taken previously. I had my mind on my job as a member of Parliament.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: One of the main problems of political life is that you can never pay enough attention to your family.

Mr. McANANEY: Yes. Parents lose touch with their children, and often it is the wealthy

people who do this, because they have other interests. Five members of Parliament are members of the Adelaide and Flinders University Councils and if something was wrong Parliament should take action through its members. I am a new member of the Adelaide University Council, but I find it most difficult to read all the committee reports and to know what is going on, because I do not have the time. The Students Representative Council wants representation on the university council, and I believe it should have that representation. The more responsibility given to young people the better they react to it. The failure rate at the Adelaide University is far too high and is causing concern to many people. As I understand it, about 50 per cent of the students do not pass in some subjects, so there must be something wrong with the system in the first place.

Are our children trained sufficiently during their secondary education to be able to cope with a university education? I do not know the answer, but some children who are good enough to win a Commonwealth scholarship do succeed whereas others fail. Perhaps this is caused by the makeup of the child. Some secondary teachers cram the children with knowledge about which they think the examiner will ask questions. The children learn it parrot fashion and are lucky to pass the examination but, if they are unlucky, they fail. At the university they have to think for themselves, and children who have learnt parrot fashion are all at sea. It seems that there is too large a gap between secondary and tertiary education. From what I have read a gradual levelling off of control and supervision has been introduced in Paris at the secondary education stage so that the children can cope better when they reach the university stage. This system has succeeded so well that about 90 per cent of the students pass.

Have we enough teachers in our secondary schools? Are professors with brilliant academic records sufficiently trained as teachers? I am not criticizing anyone, but many of these problems should be considered. As I understand that certain senior officers of the Education Department are opposed to continuing the present Matriculation course, I believe that this matter should be examined thoroughly. At one stage I said my piece, when at a meeting of the university council, about the requirement of the university, under the National Service Act, to disclose to the Government the records of its students. On the other hand,

I admit that the Government is entitled to know certain details, because what is the use of a law if it cannot be administered effectively?

During the last Parliament, I was opposed to the restrictions placed on many people. Under the Planning and Development Act, I think that a town clerk who does not produce within a certain time records containing the details of everyone living within his district may be charged with an offence and, if the charge is proved, he may receive three months' gaol. I do not agree with such a provision. However, I agree that we cannot discriminate between university students and other people in the community. Although some academics may believe that a good relationship should exist with their students and that we should not impose on them something they do not like, I know that, if parents adopted such a policy, they would not get far in disciplining their children. I admit, though, that members of our younger generation mature at an earlier age nowadays, and I believe that we must give young people today more say in the running of the community. I doubt whether I could have coped with running a farm at the same age as my son was able to cope, when I put him in charge of the farm, and gave him a complete say in its running, when he was 19 years old. My son is now 23 and has two children; he owns the farm and successfully runs it.

Our primary industries in Australia are in trouble today not only as a result of the recent drought but also as a result of oversea prices falling. We make big losses on many of our exports. Although the position may be alleviated somewhat by increasing the prices paid by the local consumer, I point out that this inevitably leads to an increase in the cost of living which, in turn, increases the costs of the farmer, as well as those of everyone else in the community. As a result, secondary industry is also placed in the position of not being able to compete with imports, or of not being able to develop sufficiently in order to export its products. We saw recently what happened in the motor vehicle industry, when an oversea competitor was told to increase the price of his article before it could be brought into this country.

Increases in the cost of living are the result mainly of man-made actions: the Commonwealth Arbitration Commission increases margins under the Metal Trades Award, wages are increased generally, and hence there is a general increase in the cost of living. Despite an increase in wages, employees must pay a

higher rate of income tax and are no better off in the long run. When secondary industry is in trouble, it can go to the Tariff Board and apply to have its product protected under a tariff. I think that an industry protected in this way is allowed to make a profit of 9 per cent, although a certain chemical industry that recently received protection subsequently brought out a balance sheet disclosing a higher rate of profit. In these circumstances, unions may approach the Arbitration Commission and prove that the industry concerned is a prosperous one; wages are increased and, again, the cost of living is raised. If costs are increasing, with the result that industry suffers, the whole economic structure of the country may be weakened.

It is no good being critical without perhaps advancing a solution. If at any stage the secondary industries are in a state where the Arbitration Commission considers that it can raise wage levels, would it not be better if the Tariff Board and the court amalgamated, and when the stage was reached where secondary industries were making a profit the tariff protection could be reduced? This would give cheaper goods to the workers, as the manufacturers would have to reduce their prices to compete with imports, thus making goods cheaper, so that working people would be able to buy more goods with the same wages and would therefore be better off and the primary producer would not be in this "nutcracker" position he is in now. It would be advantageous to him, and the worker would be better off, and we would overcome the present artificial inflation.

Regarding the correct financial control we have now, apart from the 1961 recession the financial control in Australia has been the envy of the rest of the world. The Commonwealth Government has proved that credit can be made available up to a stage where full employment can be achieved. If it is issued beyond that point, where there is an excessive demand for labour, there is a tendency for the price level to rise. If the economy is competitive with world markets, prices are kept under control. This matter should be considered in Australia if the country is to make the progress it should. We have the greatest opportunity of any country in the world, yet our national production is not increasing as it is in other countries. It is only by having scientific inquiry into this on an accountancy basis that the living standards of everyone in the country will be

raised. It cannot be done by methods advocated by the Labor Government, namely, that handouts should be given to various sections of the community. This has been proved by the fact that despite the Leader of the Opposition's claims of what his Government achieved with its handouts and concessions, the average wage in South Australia compared with the Australian average dropped during this period. It is only by having conditions under which industry can produce goods that living standards of everyone will be raised. The leading advocates of the trade unions and the Arbitration Court have claimed that, although wages have increased considerably, their share of the gross national product has remained more or less static over a period. This emphasizes what Sir Thomas Playford, who reformed South Australia and its activities, said, "The more goods we produce the more the people share in the better living standards".

In the dairying industry, the same number of cows have given double the production of milk for the metropolitan area. I spent a day at the university recently and attended a lecture by a university professor, who said that we must import our butter from New Zealand because the dairy farmers in Australia were too inefficient to produce it. I was later urged to ask him a question and I stated that our dairy farmers are, on a production basis, as effective as any in the world. It is only because of the "nutcracker" operation, with increased costs all the time, that the dairy farmers are in the position they are in. When I tackled the professor on this, he admitted that some dairy farmers were efficient but others were not. I agree with him. There are certain sections in New South Wales and Queensland whose production for each cow is only half that of South Australia's.

Regarding soils testing and the application of superphosphate to land in this State, I think this is one of the biggest needs of the South Australian farmer. He has to know how much superphosphate to put on the land and what is the best type of fertilizer, and he can only know this by experimentation, which is not always possible on the land. I know one farmer who was in difficulty. His stock were not doing too well and he complained to one of the superphosphate firms, saying that he wanted to use another superphosphate, and the firm said, "Can we send the farm consultant to your place to report on the farm?" He agreed, and the firm sent

the consultant along. He looked at the place for three hours and put in a long report. If one puts in a farm consultant, the consultant should have some experience in public relations. Every paragraph in the report stated that the farmer was inefficient and was the worst manager the consultant had met. After running the farmer down, the firm thought that it could help. One of the things the firm said was that the farmer should not employ a man on his fairly large farm. When a consultant says that one man should be able to look after 1,450 sheep and put in so many hundred acres of crops, his statement is ridiculous.

Regarding superphosphates, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization made many experiments and found that on a heavily-supered property, where the stock-carrying capacity has been built up, the superphosphate goes through the sheep into the droppings and back onto the land again. Superphosphate is not as necessary as it was in the past. In my area and in other areas farmers are not getting the results from superphosphate that they should get. Some farmers are using dolomite and some are using wooltana, which is a natural superphosphate and which does not have the approval of the Agriculture Department. It is worked out by the department that one fertilizer has more superphosphate in it than has another and, therefore, it is a more valuable superphosphate than the other. I have used wooltana at times and have not been able to see where the line was in the paddock, and possibly next year I would get more food off the area that had been treated with wooltana than off the area that had been treated with superphosphate.

I agree that possibly the department is right. However, I do not think it makes sufficient tests of the use of dolomite and wooltana superphosphate. I see that the department has now agreed to conduct one or two tests with dolomite. Before a fertilizer can be immediately accepted, the department should prove to farmers where it is best suited and under what conditions. I point out that nobody has a greater respect for public servants than I have. Since I have been a member of Parliament and have seen their courtesy and so on my respect for them has grown greatly, but occasionally I encounter a rigidity of mind that must be counteracted. Nobody is perfect, but when I make a slight criticism of these officers I do not intend it to be a severe

criticism, because I appreciate that they do excellent work.

I have now come to the end of another Address in Reply speech. I hope that we will have another successful session in Parliament which will be productive and for the good of South Australia. I have confidence in South Australia. We now have a strong Government which has proved in its first 100 days that it is the most active and energetic Government we have had in South Australia. Its achievements in the next three years will be great and mighty.

Mr. EVANS (Onkaparinga): I have pleasure in supporting the motion. I express the appreciation of the people in my district and myself to Sir Edric and Lady Bastyan on the loyal manner in which they carried out their duties on our behalf and on behalf of Queen Elizabeth II. I congratulate the Lieutenant-Governor on his Speech and on the manner in which he delivered it, and I trust that he will make a speedy recovery from his recent illness.

I take this opportunity of congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on your appointment as Speaker in this House. It is the highest position this House can confer on one of its members. I know that you are justly proud of your appointment and will do all in your power to maintain the dignity of this House. Mr. Speaker, you and the member for Stuart (Mr. Riches) must at times cast an eye towards the new faces in this Thirty-ninth Parliament and think back to when you entered this House about 35 years ago; perhaps you even attempt to compare us with those whom we followed into this Chamber. Having heard the other new members speak already, and having heard their many sensible questions, I am sure that any doubts members may have had as to their ability have been dispelled.

I know that I follow in the footsteps of a Parliamentarian of the highest order, whose service has been appreciated and reflected in the ballot box, first in the multiple District of Murray and then in the new single District of Onkaparinga. I have noticed from reading *Hansard* that his great debating qualities were respected, and, in many cases, feared in this House. He was often referred to as the silver tongued orator. His broad knowledge of finance, primary production, and the problems of everyday life and, in particular, his unlimited reserves of energy which he used in working for what he believed was right, made him one of the greatest politicians

South Australians have ever had to serve them in this political arena. I say "South Australians" because, as Chairman of the Public Works Committee, he had the opportunity to cast his fatherly eye and direct his powerful voice to saving moneys whenever he believed departments recommended unnecessary expenditure.

During his 35 years as a member, Mr. Shannon held the position of Government Whip from 1938 to 1941; he was a member of the Public Works Committee from 1941 to 1968, and its very active Chairman from 1954 until his retirement. In 1960 our Queen bestowed on him the Order of Companion of St. Michael and St. George, which we all know he richly deserved. There were (and maybe still are), some that said, "Why force a plebiscite upon someone whom you hold in such high repute?" Mr. Speaker, within the constitution of our Party the opportunity is there for any financial member of a particular district to contest the pre-selection to select the required nominee. Further, Mr. Shannon was a man who believed that anything that is worth having must be worked for, and he made sure that whoever replaced him had to earn that honour; and it is an honour which I will endeavour to respect at all times. That is one more reason why I admire this great statesman.

I am proud to say that Mr. Shannon accepted the decision of the members of the Party in the manly manner that we have all known him to use in representing us. One point of interest to those present today is that on the evening of July 5 over 300 residents of the hills and many of Mr. Shannon's ex-colleagues attended an evening of appreciation and tribute at Aldgate to thank Mr. and Mrs. Shannon for the wonderful service they had given and sacrifices they had made for our benefit. Mr. Speaker, you would know, as would any man who has been a servant of the people for any reasonable length of time, that there must be a steadying rein at home, with a heart of gold and an attitude of kindness and forgiveness. Mrs. Shannon had these qualities which are so rare today. On behalf of the people of Onkaparinga I thank Mrs. Shannon: she is a lady of whom we are very proud.

It was natural that the man chosen to move the motion of appreciation to Mr. Shannon would be Sir Thomas Playford, and he ably carried out this task. To Sir Thomas Playford this State will always be indebted for the great foresight and wisdom he used. He left here with the name of "Honest Tom". I have heard some condemn him for what he did

(and I hear some members laugh now). To them I say this, "Put yourself in the public eye for 35 years; then, if you are still classed as honest, cast your stones." The member for Gumeracha has thanked and paid tribute to Sir Thomas Playford. I support his remarks and thank Sir Thomas and Lady Playford on behalf of the people of Onkaparinga. Today, Mr. Speaker, I have been honoured to be able to say, on behalf of the people of Onkaparinga (regardless of their political opinions), that we are thankful and indebted to Sir Thomas Playford, Lady Playford and Mr. and Mrs. Shannon for their untiring efforts on our behalf. We can be sure that when South Australia's history is written a chapter or two will tell of our great advances during the period 1933 to 1965 when these people and their colleagues led us to prosperity.

I have been referred to as garbage as well as its collector, and on this I will speak a little later. However, I should like to explain my association with another trade—stone masonry. I am sure members opposite would not degrade this trade when the only man to lead them to victory during the last 35 years was the late Hon. Frank Walsh, a stonemason by profession before he entered Parliament. At about the time I was born Frank Walsh worked with my father, and as I grew older his name was mentioned many times in our home as one who was determined to be a member of this House. As we all know, he succeeded in this ambition.

Mr. Speaker, 1946 is the first recollection I have of seeing Frank Walsh, when he came to my father's quarry and, while there, offered me advice, as it was the first of the 12 years for which I worked as a stonemason. Knowing he was a member of Parliament and realizing one of his attributes was to help others, I well remember the advice he gave me when I asked how could a stonemason become a member of Parliament. This raw-boned man's answer was cold and simple. It implied that, regardless of one's vocation, if one was honest and worked hard and respected the other man's point of view, one would succeed in most fields of endeavour. I hope to succeed by being honest and hard working and by listening to the other person's point of view, even if I do not always agree with him. We all know that the late Frank Walsh was honest and hard working at all times. He may not have had a high education by modern standards, a glib suave tongue or an Oscar award for acting, but he did lead his Party to success.

He has the distinct honour of being the only man to achieve this for the Australian Labor Party in this House in 35 years.

One cannot help but comment that the late Frank Walsh won the State election in 1965 with 21 seats, and the present Leader of the Opposition, using similar boundaries, could not even hold them: in fact, on March 2 this year he lost two and morally lost the third. We must consider also that most of the so-called political experts agreed, because of population increases in fringe areas, that the Liberal and Country League would lose Alexandra and probably Onkaparinga in the 1968 elections. This makes Frank Walsh's achievement all the more commendable.

There has been much disquiet by honourable members opposite inside, on the threshold of, and outside this House, about electoral reform. The member for Port Adelaide (Mr. Ryan) suggested that the sooner people have the opportunity to have true representation the better it will be for this State. What is true representation? I take it that he means equal representation, every elector being able to receive similar representation and the same opportunity to meet and speak in person to his Parliamentary representative as any other elector of the State. I do believe in having equal numbers in districts where all other factors are about equal. In this State all other factors are not anywhere near equal.

Members opposite tell us that there is not a "country area" and a "city area", or that if there is they should not be discussed as such in relation to electoral redistribution. I am sure that a Parliamentarian can represent as many as 22,000 electors in a densely populated area like Enfield or Burnside, as the members for these districts would agree, because they now represent far more than this number. I defy any member of this House to give the same representation to 22,000 electors in the Districts of Eyre, Flinders and Yorke Peninsula combined, or even to half that number, as he could give to 22,000 in a densely populated area, as in a metropolitan area. It would not be possible, as every person inside and outside this House knows.

I consider that South Australia, in relation to population density, is divided into three categories—dense, medium and sparse areas. This being the case, the point that arises is whether we enter this House to work and represent the people (that is, communities) of today only, or whether we are here to legislate to protect the future communities as well. What would have happened if our forefathers had taken

this attitude of forgetting the electors in the sparsely and medium populated areas, as the members opposite are saying by recommending that the representation in these areas should be cut by 39 per cent? This would leave Port Augusta as a medium density area, as it would also leave many other towns with similar density. Under the Australian Labor Party's plan the densely populated areas of Mount Gambier, Whyalla and Port Pirie stay as they are, and rightly so, except that perhaps some of the rural area could be removed from the Whyalla District.

Now we move to the biggest area of high density population, the metropolitan area, and we see under the A.L.P. plan an increase of representation by 138 per cent and an overall gain of power to the densely populated metropolitan area of at least 170 per cent. It can be seen from these figures that the electors in the outlying areas are to be completely denied an effective voice in this House and in the Government of this State. I challenge the members for Wallaroo, Millicent, Mount Gambier, Frome, Port Pirie, Stuart and Whyalla to go back to their respective districts, call public meetings and ask their electors whether they believe that we should decrease the vote for outlying areas by 39 per cent and increase the effect of the metropolitan vote by 170 per cent or more. I ask them to tell their electors that they believe in decentralization but that they would fight to have 34 Parliamentarians to represent the communities in the 736 square miles of densely populated areas of the State and 14 Parliamentarians to represent the communities in the other 389,334 square miles of South Australia.

Also, just to make it interesting, they might mention the word "democracy" and that they believe all communities should have true or equal representation. To take it a little further, I believe there could be an interesting meeting or two held in Murray and Chaffey, if the members representing these districts could organize them, to put the A.L.P. plan or, better still, to invite the Leader of the Opposition or his Deputy along to explain the plan. Perhaps the egg producers in Murray may even help to supply the entertainment when the covering shell of the A.L.P. plan is removed!

Mr. Speaker, most of the electors in these lower population density areas are wage-earners and their spouses, people who would find it hard to believe that a Party such as the A.L.P., which claims to represent the wage earners (although I doubt it), could suggest such an outrageous plan. I must add that

under an A.L.P. Government people on low incomes soon found that their wage packet purchasing power has been brought to its lowest ebb, and we all know the reason. It is easy to pull something, even our economy, downhill, as the A.L.P. proved in the period of three years of poor Government. The members opposite have accused this Government of not rectifying a position which they admit exists, and which was developed during their term of office. The L.C.L. has always governed for the benefit of all sections of the community and the advances made in the standard of living of the community as a whole under the L.C.L. Government from 1933 to 1965 stand as evidence in the L.C.L.'s favour. We are the working man's Party, because we encourage those who are prepared to work and attempt to do likewise for the loafer, although this is a difficult task in present times.

Speaking of work, Mr. Speaker, I spent some time at Millicent before and during the by-election campaign and found it a very interesting and, to me, worthwhile exercise. One factor that was very evident from comments I heard in Millicent was that the Parliamentarians from both Parties representing metropolitan districts were pleased that Millicent was not their responsibility, as they found the distance to travel between communities a big time consumer. We all know that communities in outlying areas suffer from the lack of nearby services of doctors, dentists, schools, universities, and recreation facilities, and in many cases must travel scores of miles for normal household shopping. For 13 years, 13 members have represented the metropolitan area and 26 have represented the rest of the State, but have the communities in the outer areas received any advantage over the metropolitan communities? None whatever: in fact, it has been the reverse, and with such representation metropolitan electors have reaped the advantage. What will happen if over 170 per cent gain in representative value is given to them? The people in outlying areas may as well forgo all representation and be treated like peasants, because the voice of their representative will really only be heard in the wilderness of where they live, that is, if anyone is prepared to stay in the country without an effective Parliamentary voice to serve them.

Democracy means government by the people, and the word "people" is described as a body of people who comprise a community. So if we considered the present A.L.P. policy (and I say "present" as it changes often), we would

realize that one group of community interest would suffer severely whilst the other gained the enormous increase of up to 170 per cent of representative value. The position of electoral boundaries at this moment is out of all balance in the metropolitan area as well as in the outer areas. The District of Adelaide has 15,000 electors, but the District of Enfield contains 45,000, and I agree, as does every thinking person, that a redistribution is necessary before another election.

We all know that there must be a redistribution with more seats allotted to the city, but to advocate something so wide and so damaging as the A.L.P. plan is out of all proportion, and that Party will have to compromise in order to satisfy the people of the State. I turn now to problems within my district but, before doing so, I should like to speak about intellectuals who are professors and lecturers at universities but who do not put into practice their theoretical knowledge. I quote from a report of the 1968 Australian Petroleum Exploration Association Conference, a body that hopes to be self-sufficient by 1975. The extract states:

In his address to the conference, Professor E. A. Rudd said there was a need for more extensive and advanced training in mineral exploration within Australia. "The tradition of Australian universities is against training people for mineral hunting, including non metals and oil," he said. "There is a national need to discover these resources. Much of the exploration in Australia is at present in the hands of imported people. Australia has its own conditions which need local knowledge of understanding." Professor Rudd said there could be few doubts about the availability of mineral resources in Australia. There could, however, be doubts about the supply of adequately trained Australians to cope with the situation that has been created, and to continue the exploration and development.

This is an important point and something that we should be concerned about in our modern way of life. The extract continues:

"Too many of our university people are too far from the realities of life," he said. "It is my experience that some university people are not really interested in the outside world, except as a source of funds, or as objects to criticize." Professor Rudd said the setting up of the faculty would cost \$2,000,000. The annual budget would be less than \$200,000.

I agree that many of our university people are too taken up with their theories but cannot put them into practice. The Heathfield High School is probably one of the best constructed schools in this State, especially for a country high school. It does not have a Matriculation class, and I hope the Minister of

Education notes that the people of the district would like to have one soon. The Mount Barker High School resembles a Highways Department camp with its many temporary buildings. I have exchanged letters with the Minister of Education about the school residence at the Echunga Primary School. At many near-city primary schools, within an hour or 90 minutes' drive of the city, the headmasters prefer to live in their homes in the city and not to live in the country townships.

This problem has existed at Echunga for some time but, at present a teacher is prepared to live in the town, and if a school residence were built on the ample school land available, future teachers applying for positions at the school would know that a good house was available and would be prepared to live in the small community of Echunga, where every extra family means something to the trades people. Also, it is an asset to the school for a headmaster to live in the community, because he becomes known to the parents and can take public positions in the community. At Mount Barker, Kangarilla, Meadows and Aldgate problems occur with primary school crossings: either they are not suitable or do not exist.

These schools are situated on busy roads with the danger of a child being killed or injured in an accident. The situation is an embarrassment to the parents, to the school staff, and should be an embarrassment to the department. I ask the Minister to consider this problem. At most of the high and primary schools reasonable sporting facilities are available, except at Heathfield. I consider that the general public should be allowed to use school buildings and sporting facilities, if suitable supervision is provided.

It is ridiculous for school committees to raise half the cost of developing sporting areas, which are used for five days a week but cannot be used by the community at weekends. These facilities should be available to the general community under proper supervision. To provide this supervision may be a problem, but it is not insurmountable. At a public meeting over six years ago my predecessor promised that if the Heathfield High School was built on the present site sporting ovals would be developed and would be ready for use within two years. This high school is already overcrowded, although it has existed for only six years. The school committee, of which I am a member, is concerned because, except for a hockey field, these improvements have not been

made. However, I was pleased to note from a letter I received in reply to a request to the Minister of Education that these improvements were being considered, and I hope that a decision to develop the area will be made quickly, although I know that providing finance is a problem.

I refer now to the Millicent by-election, which caused much interest throughout Australia. Indeed, we were told at the time that the eyes of Australia were upon us. I am sure that all those who participated in the campaign enjoyed the exercise, even though the weather was cold, miserable and a little wet. The Premier has been asked certain questions about statements made in connection with Communism, and I should like to refer to this matter to the extent that I am involved. I have been accused in more ways than one of calling the newly elected member for Millicent a Communist or a Communist sympathizer. At the same time, I myself have been referred to as a garbage collector or just "garbage". During the campaign that preceded the State election in March, there were four (maybe five) Millicent candidates: those candidates represented the Liberal and Country League, the Democratic Labor Party, the Australian Labor Party, and the Communist Party.

I accept the Opposition's criticism (indeed, I am not ashamed of the fact) that we accepted the D.L.P.'s second preferences. However, I at no time said that the member for Millicent was a Communist or a Communist sympathizer: I said that he was a member of the A.L.P. and that his Party was supported in the State election. Indeed, on May 29, the Communist Party Secretary made the statement that his Party would do everything in its power to ensure an A.L.P. win. To my mind, that is saying that the Communist Party is supporting the A.L.P. I admired the conduct of the member for Millicent during the by-election campaign, and I respect him here as a politician. I have indirectly been asked what I am doing here, hiding behind 20-year-old men, when I could be overseas fighting the Viet Cong. I have done little until now (and the member for Port Pirie may have a point here), but I think that I am a little old now to go away to fight, leaving behind me a wife and five children who would have to be maintained.

I believe that those of us who are ashamed of Communism have the opportunity to fight it here in this House, and outside if necessary.

I believe the member for Millicent has been overseas to fight, and I thank him for what he has done in this regard for the country. I personally do not believe the Communist Party, as now constituted, represents the real Communism that we are fighting. It has been said that a Mr. Killen (Commonwealth member for Moreton) took the second preferences from the Communist Party to win an election. If this is true, then, to my knowledge, that is the only sound decision that the Communist Party has ever made in Australia. I wonder why I have been called a garbage collector and accused of being a sub-standard species of human being! Indeed, this name-calling was used long before I came into the House.

The member for Port Pirie has said that he walked into a hotel and spoke to two Government members about this matter at lunch one day. However, I believe that this conversation took place during the evening meal, and I know that only one Government member was present. The other person came close to becoming a Government member, and I am sure that he will be one in the future. The Secretary of the A.L.P. admitted to Martin Cameron (L.C.L. candidate for Millicent) that at least one statement made about Mr. Cameron was not true, yet no-one on the other side, to my knowledge, has ever stood up in this House, or on the platform during the campaign, to say that he knew it was an untrue statement or to apologize to Martin Cameron. The statement made, which was published in the *Advertiser*, was that Martin Cameron received \$3,000 from his father to fight the State election on March 2 and was given 18 months' holiday to do this. In fact, Martin Cameron had not worked for his father since 1959 and, in any case, I do not know what use there would be in giving him a holiday in 1957 to fight an election in 1968.

Further, Martin Cameron never received \$3,000 from his father to fight an election: he worked his own way up in the world and developed his farm through hard work. The member for Millicent will possibly agree that, although Martin Cameron may have been born into a home with a background of some financial significance, he fought his own battles. When the A.L.P. Secretary was challenged on this point, he admitted that what had been said was a lie. I believe it was also stated by the member for Whyalla (Hon. R. R. Loveday) that Martin Cameron was in Birdland at mid-day on the Friday before the by-election, but either the honourable member has had visions

or his informant has, in fact, been ill-informed, because Martin Cameron was not in Birdland at mid-day on the Friday before the election. I can vouch for that. If anyone doubts this, he will find, if he cares to speak to the Government Whip, that the Whip and Mr. Cameron were together on the day in question but that they were not in Birdland at mid-day.

I believe that in the by-election at Millicent the candidates conducted their campaigns fairly. I disagree with the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson), who stated that Mr. Cameron was not fair. I maintain that Mr. Cameron was fair at all times. He is honest, straightforward and sincere, and I think the same about the present member for Millicent. I take this opportunity of congratulating him on his win. He is a good Parliamentarian who genuinely thinks of the people in his electoral district. We were there to fight not only the member for Millicent but the A.L.P. Any reference I have made about the Communist Party supporting the A.L.P. is not against the present member, because he is only part of a machine and has been used by that machine to further the aims of that Party.

I believe it was a personal as well as a Party fight. Both the major candidates had a great personal following and I think the member for Millicent agrees that he had much support from people voting for him personally in preference to voting for the L.C.L. candidate. It was not his Party those people voted for: it was the member for Millicent himself.

I refer now to an extract from the *Bulletin* of June 29, 1968, which states:

Speaking shortly after Cameron had conceded defeat, Corcoran even publicly thanked those voters who had voted for him personally rather than his Party.

I should be proud to think that somebody was voting for me personally instead of for my Party. It is a credit to the member for Millicent that he had this support: I congratulate him on it.

I shall now leave Millicent, no doubt to the satisfaction of many members, and speak of an action carried out in my electoral district at Mount Lofty, most unwisely. It has regard to a stationmaster's house that has been built at Mount Lofty in one of the best residential areas in the Adelaide Hills. It is a beautiful area, and it has some lovely houses near the Mount Lofty railway station. I contacted the Minister of Transport asking that a tin fence around the house be removed and possibly some other type of fence placed around it, because it was unsightly in this area. I read

with interest a letter I received from one of my constituents who lives nearly adjacent to this eyesore. The letter could be used in many other instances, as it would be worth many of us in this House considering it. It reads:

I thank you for your interest and I read the reply of the Minister of Transport and I must say that I found his attitude annoyingly condescending. Unlike me, he does not have to live opposite the offending party and has not the dubious advantage of inspecting the station-master's draped clothes line from any of the upstairs windows. In short, I am not at all satisfied that the application of a tin of paint and placing the piece of wood on top of the galvanized iron has really done very much to change the situation. It is my opinion that the rights of individuals in situations like this are being increasingly ignored by various Government agencies. I sincerely doubt whether anyone connected with this erection had any thought for the effect it would have on the surroundings. Thank you again for your interest.

I have read that because I believe that this is true of many Government agencies, that they formulate their policy or plans inside a city office and they never inspect the site on which their plans and theories have to be carried out.

I deal now with water. In the Onkaparinga District are two reservoirs. The Minister of Works today replied to a question asked by the member for Gumeracha (Mr. Giles). In June, I wrote to the Minister about a second reservoir on the Onkaparinga River, and after quoting the letter I received from him I shall make some comments on the problem. I did not hear the answer to the question this afternoon so it will be interesting to read this letter from the Minister, which is as follows:

Further to your letter of May 8, 1968, regarding a second reservoir to be built on the Onkaparinga River near Clarendon, it is planned to have such a scheme submitted to the Public Works Standing Committee early in 1970. Without defining in detail a precise area proposed for acquisition, it would be acceptable for any landholder who finds himself in a difficult position for forward planning for development or security to approach the Engineering and Water Supply Department regarding his prospects for acquisition of his land. While no assurance can be given that funds will be available at an early date for the purchase of properties, the landholder could be put into a position of arranging for his future and it may be possible in some cases to proceed with acquisition. It is realized that the whole problem has not been definitely stated here but I do consider that undue hardship to landholders could be avoided under this proposal.

I thank the Minister for the reply. As long as the department accepts any representation sincerely and genuinely and advises the land-

holders honestly what will happen in the future, I am sure no future problems will arise, but it is difficult for a man to develop his property and then find that in three years' time it is acquired for a reservoir and he possibly does not receive what in his opinion is fair compensation in the light of all the money he has spent in the years between now and when the reservoir is built. I hope it is not like the freeway—but I will come to that later. In the reservoir run-off areas the farmers to a certain extent pay two penalties, in some cases. I know the Minister will look at me in amazement over this but under section 58 of the Waterworks Act and section 99 of the Health Act inspectors for those respective departments can stop people polluting water, which is only fair and just. I agree that it is fair and just that inspectors should enforce these Acts where necessary, but the farmers do not have only this problem to worry about. In many cases, especially in the Cherry Gardens area, we find that it does not affect the run-off area now but it will later. The water mains have been laid past the farmers' properties and they are rated as other people are rated in this State. The time has arrived when those of us using water (even the glass of water I have here) should pay for it; we should pay what it is worth for each 1,000 gallons at the gate for its use. I am not directly concerned as a farmer now, although I was three or four years ago. I drilled to a depth of 465ft. and 410ft. respectively to obtain a small quantity of water. A few years later the department installed mains past my properties and I had to pay rates for water again. This happened after I had spent a phenomenal sum in the first place to find the little water I did find. Farmers with small farms in the Adelaide Hills are finding it increasingly difficult to make their properties pay, and this increase in rates has put them in a position where they do not know whether or not they can survive. It may be said that what I propose will double the cost, but if each thousand gallons of water is worth twice what we are paying now, then that is what should be paid for it. People should pay for what they use. I honestly believe that one section of the community should not have to subsidize the other but, in this case, that is what is happening.

In the run-off areas a problem has now arisen in relation to the planting of pines by the Woods and Forests Department. Although I think this is a wise move because it will help to purify the water, we must be sure that the

department is fully responsible for its half of the boundary fence. I am led to believe that, under the law, the department is not compelled to maintain its half of the common boundary. Therefore, the farmer has to pay the whole cost of building a vermin-proof fence to keep his property free from vermin. He also faces the added disadvantage of being burnt out in a bushfire. I believe the law should be changed so that the department is obliged to pay half the cost of the common boundary. I am pleased that many people are employed by the department to plant these pines.

Darlington, Happy Valley, O'Halloran Hill and Flagstaff Gardens are experiencing the needs of rapidly developing areas. Amenities are not available as they are in small communities in the hills where people have lived as small communities for up to 100 years. One of the principal needs at O'Halloran Hill is a school. Happy Valley has a small school but children in the rest of this area must catch a bus to Reynella to attend school. I know that the department is looking at this matter and that finance is the main problem, but the people of O'Halloran Hill, Flagstaff Gardens and Happy Valley are hoping to have a primary school in the area soon.

Under the Piggott Range Road the Engineering and Water Supply Department has put through a tunnel from the Clarendon weir to the Happy Valley reservoir. In doing so, the department cut off the underground water supplies of many of the property owners. These people now have no water other than rainwater. As they had bore water before the department put in the tunnel and took water away from them, I hope that the department will soon take action to see that the supply is replaced. Members may have seen recently a television programme that showed that landholders at Clarendon were irate about moieties. The Meadows council has charged a moiety on the construction of a road in front of areas that local residents regarded as rural or agricultural areas (actually they are within the township area). All I want to say about this matter is that I believe the situation can be settled amicably and that there will be no further trouble in the area. I am pleased that the citizens have taken such a sensible attitude and are fighting their case in a proper manner. I believe they will earn their just reward.

The Meadows council does not come under the Early Closing Act. This means that retailers such as butchers are able to conduct busi-

ness outside normal trading hours. I believe it is desirable that this should happen. A petition is presently circulating in the Stirling area praying that the restriction be lifted and that trading be possible at all hours, particularly in the township areas of Stirling, Aldgate, Bridgewater and Crafers. With the present standards of living, many people would prefer to work overtime and earn wages at the rate of time-and-a-half or double time, because it is becoming difficult for people to live on what they receive as average wage-earners. If small businesses such as those conducted by a family are permitted to remain open for longer periods they will prosper in competition with the bigger chain stores that have caused them hardship in the past. If the petition in Stirling is successful, it will be an advantage to the area as a whole.

Chandler Hill, Meadows, Echunga, Kangarilla, Scott Creek, Longwood and Bradbury are areas that do not have a reticulated water supply. People in the areas would like such a supply, which I believe is essential if development is to take place. However, the Minister of Works would agree with me that, immediately water is taken past seven or eight miles of farmlands to serve small settlements, farmers along the way, who are in dire straits financially, have an extra burden placed on them. One point of interest at Clarendon is the old winery, which I believe was built by Mr. Peake in 1851. Those interested in national trusts and so on would recognize that this would be an ideal building to preserve. It still has some of the shingles on the roof and is constructed of Clarendon sandstone. A family lives in the first storey of the three-storey building.

The Stirling area now has some galleries and displays of arts and crafts. Without doubt Aldgate has one of the best displays of arts and crafts in South Australia. This is only a small family business, but it has a magnificent display and is a credit to the people of Aldgate who have organized it. I congratulate them on their work. Throughout the Stirling area generally a large influx of this type of business and display has taken place during the last three years. The area is fast becoming a tourist attraction. We must see that more money is spent in the tourist trade in the Adelaide Hills.

The people of Hahndorf are proud and honoured to know that Sir Hans Heysen, who passed away recently, lived among them. I pay my respects to the family of Sir Hans and express my appreciation of the work he did for artists generally in South Australia while he

lived at Hahndorf. His name will stay on record in galleries throughout the world for many years, and this is a credit to him. We are pleased that he lived in the Adelaide Hills for most of his life and that he enabled others who lived there to share in his glory.

Members of the three district councils in the Onkaparinga District give their time freely; I often wonder whether Parliamentarians should not give their time on the same basis. These councillors serve their community well and sincerely. One such gentleman is Mr. Rogers, the Chairman of the Stirling District Council, who was awarded the Order of Member of the British Empire. He started off as a truckdriver for the council about 30 years ago; he stayed with the council, and later went back to serve the people of the district as a councillor. This is the success story of a working man who worked his way up to this position; it is a credit to him and to the Stirling people, who accepted him as their district council chairman.

District councils in the Onkaparinga District have two main problems: the high cost of road construction and of road maintenance, both caused by the country's terrain and its very high rainfall (the highest in the State). The only electoral district with steeper terrain is the Gumeracha District, where the people stand up to pick strawberries, whereas in Onkaparinga they bend down to pick them. Councils in these areas should receive more consideration in respect of the cost of construction and maintenance of roads than do other areas.

The Hills area is fortunate that it has many community service organizations. I should like to honour the memory of a woman who worked hard for elderly people; I refer to the late Miss Doris Taylor, who worked magnificently by organizing Meals on Wheels in South Australia. I am pleased to say that a Meals on Wheels kitchen is planned for Aldgate; it should be operating by April, 1969. I am grateful for the work of the service organizations in the area; they are contributing their efforts towards this very worthwhile cause, and I am only sorry that Miss Taylor cannot be amongst us when the kitchen is completed, to enjoy the glory she deserves. We owe much to Miss Taylor.

[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.]

Mr. EVANS: A major service organization in the Hills area is the Emergency Fire Fighting Services, a basically voluntary organization and one of the community services that I regret I have not, because of other community commitments, been able to participate in to any great extent. The member

for Gumeracha has already dealt with this service. In the hills there is a real danger of the outbreak of a disastrous fire. We have had bad fires, the worst in my lifetime having been on black Sunday. If a fire were to start in a vulnerable spot in the hills, the towns of Stirling, Aldgate and Bridgewater would be in serious danger and I doubt that the E.F.S. would have sufficient members or equipment to be able to control the spread of a bad fire.

I commend the many people who fight strenuously to retain our natural heritage and the land that these people regard as important to preserve. However, I consider that people who are interested in this preservation, some of whom have radical views, should themselves help to protect the areas, because there is an ultimate responsibility resting with them or with the Government. Those who believe that our natural fauna and flora should be preserved should endeavour to help in this work. My statement may be criticized by many people, including some in my own district, but I will help to carry out this work. I discourage the constant criticism that we hear at present.

The Onkaparinga District has two reservoirs, with areas of natural vegetation surrounding them. In addition we have National Park and Cleland Reserve, many hundreds of acres of which constitute a fire hazard. I hope that the Government will be able to ensure that sufficient firebreaks are provided, in the same way as substantial firebreaks have been provided in the Mount Bold area. If these firebreaks are not provided, it will be impossible to avoid the ravages of a fire. We know what happened in Tasmania, and many of us contributed assistance to those affected there. We should not think of Tasmania as being a long way away: we may have a similar occurrence in our midst and we may ultimately have to contribute more money than would be necessary to provide protection by way of firebreaks. I commend all those whose actions are directed towards preventing fire damage and shall help them in future if I am able.

We are fortunate in having in the Hills area three youth clubs. The sphere of youth club activities is a field in which every Government has fallen down. The facilities offered by these clubs bring our young people together and provide a way in which they can occupy their otherwise idle moments in these days when the motor car enables speedy travel from place to place and thus more time for recreation. The position was different for those of us

who had to work on the land and did not have time for recreation on days other than Saturdays. Failure to provide these facilities will tend to result in young people getting into mischief, because we know that one person, by bad conduct can cause 10 other persons to follow him. We must guard against this, and I hope that my colleagues will help me to ensure that funds are made available to youth clubs to purchase equipment and facilities.

I understand that the former member for Onkaparinga mentioned that there had been a swimming pool at Loftia Park. There is need for this facility, and I hope it will be provided. Approval was given this year for a swimming pool to be built at one of the primary schools in the hills, and I will help those concerned to complete the project by physical as well as financial help. However, I am not sure that the policy adopted in regard to the provision of swimming pools is correct. In Stirling there is a centrally-located high school, and six primary schools are located within a distance of three miles of that town. In such circumstances, we should endeavour to build one pool, either at the high school or nearby, so that it can be used by students from all the schools and made available to the public at a fee. I do not consider that there is merit in building five or six swimming pools that serve only the children attending the particular school. The construction of a 50-meter Olympic standard pool would be more desirable.

Most sporting communities in my district have their own facilities, such as ovals, tennis courts and basketball courts. In the last few years, some of the best golf clubs in the State have been established. I commend all the people who are working for these community activities. The facilities controlled by the Blackwood and Flagstaff Hill golf clubs would be among the best that have been developed recently. The people of Mount Barker and Echunga are working on their golf clubs, and there is also the private club at Craigmare Park. On the perimeter of the Onkaparinga District are three other golf clubs, and there is another club at Hahndorf. The Hahndorf golf course will perpetuate the memory of the late Councillor Nitschke, of the Mount Barker Council, who was injured in a motor car accident and passed away after being unconscious for several weeks. By his death we suffered a great loss and I convey my sympathy to his family. As a result of the generosity of the Nitschke family,

Hahndorf has a golf club which is controlled by the community and which stands as a memorial to a man who did so much for the district. It is fitting that those who play on the golf course will think of the late Mr. Nitschke and his work.

Although we have many industries in the Onkaparinga District, we have fewer now than we had four years ago. For the people of the district this would be the saddest aspect of the Labor Government. Two milk factories, a co-operative at Meadows and a company have closed within the last three years. One sawmill is about to close and two sawmills have reduced their staffs to a minimum. One building stone business that employed 35 men now has seven, and one young man who started with nothing and worked hard lost almost everything and went to another State when the Australian Labor Party took office. These conditions in the building trade will not be rectified for some months, even by the present Government. Once people leave the State the decline is not stopped for a long time. A slight improvement is noticeable at present but, because of past conditions, many people have gone to other States and until we regain their confidence and convince them that we can push the State forward we will not be able to boost the building trade.

It took nine months for the State to slow down into the doldrums, and it will not be put back on its feet in 100 days. It will take equally as long to pull it back up the hill of economic stability. One brickyard in my district may be in the path of the freeway but, in any case, production has almost stopped, because of the decline in the building industry. In the other yard at Littlehampton, which employed 28 men, only 12 are now employed. Mount Barker is the basic centre for the District of Onkaparinga, and many small businesses and Government departments are represented there. Whatever slight improvement has occurred in business activity, I think this has been caused, to a degree, by the recent good rains and the confidence gained by farmers.

Mount Barker desperately needs an industry or a factory that would employ women living in the district. Today, the average family is not content with one wage packet, and in most cases the wife would like full or part-time work. If the Minister of Industrial Development could find this type of industry for

Mount Barker the local women would appreciate it, and it could be a move towards decentralization.

Two or three private abattoirs or small-goods manufacturers employing more than 300 people are situated in Mount Barker. Johnson's tannery, one of the oldest industries in the district, employs more than 100 people. The directors of the abattoirs are concerned about the levy that has been imposed. Up to a point, I agree with the levy, but it is being charged on green bacon and green ham, because the department rules that, as it is salted in some way, it is pickled pork. In all other countries this is classed as green ham and green bacon.

Those concerned object to the imposition of this levy and of a levy being charged on meat that has been brought from outside the metropolitan area to a freezing works in Adelaide, but when the meat is transferred back to the factory and made into smallgoods a further levy is charged, resulting in a double levy being imposed. The person who eventually pays is the consumer, as this is an indirect tax, and I do not agree with that principle. Most farms in the hills are of small acreages.

The member for Albert said that farms should be aggregated in order to make them an economic unit. Possibly 20 years ago a family in the hills could lead a reasonable life and obtain a reasonable income from a 50-acre farm, but that is not possible today. If these smaller farms are aggregated into, say, 200-acre farms, what will happen in 10 years? Will we say that because of rising costs the farms should be of 400 or 500 acres? Are we letting monopolies take over? Standards have to be set, but small farms cannot continue to be aggregated, as this would force the small man out of business.

I believe that the man on a small farm is more economical in his way of life than is the big man. This practice seems to be a quick way of disposing of the small man, and I disagree with it. I know that the Commonwealth Government intends to do the same thing, but I hope this will not be carried to the extreme. Not only dairy farmers but also poultry farmers are concerned. The plan of the Council of Egg Marketing Authorities has not improved the position of the poultry farmer. I believe that the investor has moved into the poultry industry in a big way and that the small man has suffered. The C.E.M.A. plan at first seemed sound, but it has proved ineffective in the sense that, although it was supposed

to help the average poultry farmer, in many cases it has caused his downfall.

Horticulture is not in a sound position for oversea markets, and this industry's problems will have to be considered by the Commonwealth Government. Potato growers in the hills are combined through the Potato Marketing Act, but the distribution and marketing of potatoes is unsatisfactory at present. I understand that within the next few months members will receive deputations from growers complaining about the inefficiency of the Potato Board. If the growers can prove this allegation (and I believe they can) it may be necessary to consider whether the board should be changed from its present set-up. As there are many small farms in the Hills area, the electricity transmission lines and pylons and the water mains from the Murray River to Hahndorf are impositions on these farmers. No doubt they have to be built, but people living in the suburbs receive most benefit. An easement is taken over the farmer's property, and that is an interference with his rights.

Either the land is compulsorily acquired or an easement is taken over it. He accepts it as one of the things that must happen and he raises no objection, provided he is given adequate compensation. I am not sure that in all cases where the Electricity Trust has taken easements over properties recently for pylons or transmission lines the compensation has been just. We may have to use some strong words about this within the next few months.

At the moment the Electricity Trust allows only one meter on a property. This has been the position for some time. The trust will ask a person to run his own private line from that meter to any pumping plant on the property that requires power. At times this may be satisfactory but there is one instance in Echunga where the owner is emphatic that it is incorrect and unjust. He had to run a cable underground to a depth of between 18in. and 2ft. for seven chains to serve a new dairy that he had constructed, yet he purposely constructed the dairy alongside an Electricity Trust pole so that he could have a direct connection. Even so, he was told by the trust that he would have to hire a private electrician to run a cable underground to his dairy. This may have given the private electrician some work but it also lays a future owner open to risk and danger. If the present owner sells and does not advise the new owner that there is a cable only 18in. to 2ft. under the ground alongside his fencing and he happens to be delving

there for any purpose in the future, he could receive a shock.

Another "bug" in the hills at the moment is the freeway. It will be an important part of our State transport system some years hence. It has been in various stages of construction now for many years. I am not sure that those people at the moment watching it being constructed will have the opportunity of using it in its completed form unless we can speed up the process. The stage has been reached when possibly we should let much of this major construction work to private enterprise. Immediately some people will say, "This is typical of an L.C.L. member—advocating private enterprise in opposition to a Government department". I ask those who doubt me on this to stop and look at the machines being used on this freeway. I am not blaming the men on the road, because they do endeavour to do a full day's work, but it starts from here and we should endeavour to see that those machines work full time. When we drive along there, we find that many of these machines on the road are not, generally speaking, used to their full advantage. There is one section that used to be called the "mad mile", not because a madman was living on it but because it was the only straight stretch of road in the Adelaide Hills. It was developed only seven or eight years ago. Immediately people were able to use it, we then started to build a freeway and ripped the road up, yet it could have been duplicated. That section of road had no curves, yet on the new section that has replaced it there are two curves. We tore up the straight stretch of road and left it to be beautified with trees. I congratulate the department on the steps it has taken towards beautifying the areas left bare and barren during the construction work. I do not like criticizing the department but, if we do not start here, it will not be started at all, and I think some of our departments have become so big that it is becoming hard to administer them effectively.

We have in Crafers for all to witness, if they care to go on a tour of the Adelaide Hills, a magnificent footbridge. It is ivory in colour but there is no ivory tower at the top of it. It has cost a fantastic sum of money—about \$35,000—and has two curves. The member for Enfield (Mr. Jennings) spoke of curves, but they are not the order of the day when it comes to building footbridges to serve the public. This footbridge passes over the freeway from Crafers to Waverley Ridge.

I think a straight bridge half as wide as this would have cost half as much. A civil engineer assured me that, if it had been built straight instead of as a curved structure, at least 20 per cent would have been saved. I admire the people of Waverley Ridge for sending in a petition to obtain it, but they did not visualize an ivory bridge at such expense.

Many farmers in the path of this freeway will have their farms divided. When this happens, if they have 100 acres on one side and 50 acres on the other and they wish to pass from one side to the other, they will have to travel to a cloverleaf or underpass to be able to service the other part of their farm. I hope the department will construct underpasses where possible, even if they are only of concrete piping 10ft. in diameter, so that a vehicle can pass through or goods can be transferred from one pocket of land to the other. If this is not done, many of these farms will become uneconomic and the people concerned will have to move out of the area, which again will be detrimental to the Hills area in general.

I spoke earlier of the building industry. Regardless of what comment has been made about my being a garbage collector, this industry is my main field of endeavour in my life. It is a field in which I have spent most of my time and efforts and I am dissatisfied that in this State the industry has reached such a low ebb.

I thank all the people in my district who have helped me to attain my present position. I hope I do nothing in the future that may be detrimental to them or to my position. I give special thanks to my family and in particular my mother, who came from another land and gave up the teaching profession to help my father pioneer some of this country. I hope the people of the future do nothing to squander what the pioneers have done in the past to make South Australia such a wonderful State to live in. I congratulate those members elected to committees, the Ministers upon their appointments and my Party colleagues upon their choice of Ministers and of the Leader of our Party. I have a recollection of a man, many years ago, saying to me when I was participating in a certain field of endeavour and was being criticized strongly by the opposition, "I shouldn't worry because, when the opposition is criticizing you, you are doing better than they expected and you are of better quality than they expected. If there is anything that the opposition is criticizing and trying to condemn, they are afraid of it because it is better than they have." In this

respect I congratulate the Leader of our Party, the Premier of this State. I believe that the criticisms from the other side are really congratulations and a credit to him that he attracts this attitude of regret from them. We are confident in the Premier and thankful that we have him as our Leader. We know he will carry on with success. It is with great pleasure that I support this motion.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE (Minister of Education): I rise with pleasure to support the motion. With most loyal Australians, I should like first to reaffirm my loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen. While making this reaffirmation, I should like to say how significant and how gratifying I thought it was for the Premier that one of the first things that happened after his accession to office was that Her Majesty the Queen received him in audience at Buckingham Palace. I should also like to refer to the pleasure which the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh gave to South Australia some months ago when he declared open, in rather inclement weather, the fine fountain that now graces Victoria Square.

I believe all of us, as citizens of South Australia (and particularly those of us who live in Adelaide and its environs), are very proud of the execution of such a beautiful fountain by a South Australian sculptor who is establishing a fine reputation not only in Australia but also overseas. I refer to John Dowie who, incidentally, happens to be one of my constituents. This fountain has been a wonderful addition to the aesthetic side of Adelaide's culture and I only hope that in future we may have more fountains; perhaps the projected development of Hindmarsh Square will include in it some more plays of water. One of the things I noticed during my oversea visit last year was the wonderful and simple use made of water in the newly developed parks and gardens of some of the rebuilt devastated cities of Europe. We do not really require works of art (beautiful as they are) in this respect: many of the cities of Europe have simple lakes of water, rectangular square or circular, with simple jets of water which are particularly effective. This type of moderately inexpensive fountain would particularly suit the hot and dry climate of Australia.

I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your appointment as Speaker of the House; I also congratulate the Chairman of Committees. Of course, both he and you have graced these positions before and have shown great ability in carrying out the duties which these offices

impose. With all South Australians, I regretted when the term of His Excellency Sir Edric Bastyan as Governor came to an end and he and Lady Bastyan left the State to return to England before his taking up his appointment as Governor of Tasmania. I do not remember any Governor and his lady who so identified themselves with almost every aspect of public life in the State as did Sir Edric and Lady Bastyan. I believe they left here with genuine regret; I am sure that the experience they had here encouraged them to accept the appointment offered to them in Tasmania.

I believe everyone is glad to know that the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Mellis Napier) has recovered so well from his recent operation. Most of us realize what a wonderful citizen he has been. For many years he graced the Supreme Court Bench, establishing a fine record in the service of law and justice in South Australia. Of course, he has often served as Lieutenant-Governor. As a member of the Executive, I have watched Sir Mellis attend Executive Council meetings, and one realizes what a remarkable man he is.

With other members of this House, I was very saddened by the passing of two members of the same surname—Frank Walsh and Fred Walsh. When Mr. Frank Walsh became the Premier of South Australia in March, 1965, I remember watching him on television. It was said of him on his accession to the Premiership: "If he could not do you a good turn, he would never do you a bad one"; I really think that comment exemplifies the late Frank Walsh. I am glad that a man who had served his Party and State so well at least had the opportunity of being its first citizen for a brief period. I knew Fred Walsh well. He could be direct when he spoke in this House; he had strong principles for which he always spoke up strongly and in which he believed. In addition, he was a most kindly man. In the passing of both of these gentlemen, I experienced a very real personal regret.

I congratulate those speakers, particularly the new members of this House, who have already spoken in this debate. The new members have gone through the ordeal of making their first speech, as I did when I became a member in 1959. I know therefore that it takes much courage to get up in this House and make a maiden speech. We have listened to a number of speeches made by members of my Party and also that of the new Opposition member, the member for Edwardstown. These speeches are always

worth listening to because members can learn something about other members' districts. Usually in such a speech one refers to the things that concern one's district most.

I have enjoyed listening to these new members of Parliament. As Minister of Education, I can tell them that I have listened with much attention to their references to things educational. If I have not already been able to answer the queries which they have addressed to me or which they raised in their speeches, I assure them that these matters will be looked after: I will see what I can do to answer the questions they have raised. It is not always possible to give the answers people want to hear. Many suggestions made to me are, for reasons known to all of us, sometimes impossible to implement quickly. However, all requests will receive the attention they merit from me and the officers of my department. It is always very gratifying to hear members praising aspects of one's department. So I was very pleased when several members mentioned aspects of schools that they approved in the districts they represent; it was good to hear of the successes that students at these schools had achieved. Ministers usually get the other end of the stick and hear only the complaints and difficulties that are brought to members' attention.

I was particularly interested in the speech of the member for Albert because whenever he speaks in this House he offers something constructive and stimulates our thinking along the lines of his subject. Because he is first and foremost a country man interested in agriculture, because he is a Bachelor of Agricultural Science of the Adelaide University and because he holds the Diploma of Agriculture of the Roseworthy Agricultural College, we pay much attention when he speaks on this subject.

He referred to the agriculture courses offered at some South Australian schools and lamented that some of these courses were not progressing as quickly as he would like and were not reaching the standard he would like. I have found after making investigations that the difficulty lies in attracting teachers to undertake the special course of training. Unfortunately, although the Government has purchased land and erected buildings for agricultural purposes, it has been greatly hampered by the shortage of suitably trained teachers.

Deputations have waited on me in recent weeks and have suggested that agricul-

ture courses should be established in various parts of South Australia. Only today I received a letter commending the agriculture course at the Urrbrae Agricultural High School, which provides the kind of education that many South Australian farming people would like to see more widespread. I know that you, Mr. Speaker, in particular, are interested in seeing this sort of development take place in other parts of South Australia. I only hope that we may be able to do something about this problem; I repeat that the solution depends mainly on the number of trained teachers who come forward to undertake this course.

It is noteworthy that a survey made by Education Department officers showed that, generally speaking, it is not boys who come from farming families who undertake the agriculture courses at the schools where they are provided: it is quite often the boys of parents who live in the townships who want to follow this kind of pursuit. The member for Albert referred also to the need to replace some schools. I think I said last week that it is evident that a number of South Australian schools need to be replaced, but what is one to do? Should we replace existing schools, which are at least providing facilities for children, or should we deny educational facilities to developing districts? I believe that, in the first place, we must provide schools in the developing districts and that, as it becomes possible, we should provide replacements for some of the older schools.

I have already visited some parts of South Australia, and some of the schools I have seen need to be replaced; they have for a long time outlived their usefulness. New school buildings are needed to provide these new courses and to provide an environment in which teachers and children can get the greatest possible advantage from education. I have said many times in this House that we are spending too much on our schools. If we could perhaps cut finishing costs so that instead of building eight relatively expensive schools we built 10 schools for the same cost, we might overcome the lag in the replacement of old schools. Actually, once the Education Department advises the Public Buildings Department of the requirements and expected enrolment of a certain school, it then becomes the Public Buildings Department's job to design the school, and on that basis it is submitted to the Public Works Committee. I believe very strongly that what I have suggested is one way of overcoming the lag in

the replacement of schools in the older districts.

Mr. Nankivell: But the Public Works Committee looks only at plans submitted by the Public Buildings Department.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I realize that. I was going on to say that I hope some current developments may lead to schools being provided at a lesser cost than they are today. I agree wholeheartedly with my predecessor, who earlier this session said that South Australia was the envy of other States and that this State had been the pioneer in many aspects of education for a long time. I do not want to go into this at great length but I point out that South Australia has been the leader in many fields of education. Members of this House have heard me say before that perhaps nowhere have we done more trail blazing than in the field of specialized education.

Recently several senior education department officers have returned from oversea visits and I have been most interested to hear that they believe that South Australia is superior in some aspects of education to some of the countries they visited. They have confirmed this by telling me of the interest that educators in the countries they visited showed in current South Australian developments; their opposite numbers in the United Kingdom, the United States of America and some European countries were surprised at the advanced teaching methods and the range and standard of some of the subjects taught in South Australian schools. This is something that makes me proud not only because I am the Ministerial head of the department but also because I have always been interested in education in South Australia. I am also proud that South Australia is more than holding its own in education with some of the other countries of the world that are considered by some Australians to be more advanced than we are. This gives the lie to certain expressions of opinion. When the Leader of the Opposition spoke in the House the other day he made a dramatic play on the first 100 days. He did this not only in speaking of the Education Department: he also ran through the whole gamut of departments represented by Ministers in this House and was highly critical of the fact that we had, allegedly, not done anything, whereas he enumerated the various things his Government had done in its first 100 days in office.

I have checked on a few of the things he reproached the Government for not doing in

education, and I suggest it would be a good idea if he had been a little more factual as far as the time was concerned. He said that in very much less than 100 days his Government had increased the pay and allowances for student teachers in order to get better recruitment to the department. This is not true, because the Government came into office on March 3 and these new developments, announced on June 3, did not come into effect until later in the year. Some of the things he claimed had been done in the first few months of his taking office did not come into effect until late in 1965. I think that if he is going to be critical, at least he could be more factual. In a question to me the other day the member for Whyalla referred to the Western Teachers College as Adelaide's educational slum, but the college must have been in the same condition in his time as Minister because it has been going for a long time. I wonder why his Government did not do something about it, because it has been the same to my knowledge for some years, certainly during the term of the last Government.

Mr. Langley: They have playing fields there now.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Yes, but in August, 1965, the Government made a dramatic announcement that the Adelaide Gaol would become the site for the Western Teachers College. I have been very careful in reading through the dockets—

Mr. Langley: They did something about the playing fields.

Mr. Ryan: You are not doing anything better, either.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I said the previous Government had done nothing about the Western Teachers College. In August, 1965, I think, the Government announced dramatically it would make the Adelaide Gaol site available to the Western Teachers College, but then nothing happened because the Government found the same thing as I found on investigating this matter. It was brought to my attention soon after I assumed office that this whole development was tied up with what was to happen to the Adelaide Gaol and where the alternative sites for the remand gaol, for the women's centre and for the maximum security gaol would be. This matter was referred to the then Chief Secretary, who controls the Prisons Department. After August, 1965, no further mention was made on that docket of any move to secure the Adelaide Gaol site for the Western Teachers College.

Mr. Ryan: What moves are you making?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: If the member for Whyalla refers to the college as Adelaide's educational slum, then it was that three years ago. Nothing was done by the previous Government to alter the situation. Immediately this matter was referred to me I went on a visit to the Western Teachers College accompanied by the Director-General of Education to see what were the conditions under which the staff and students were working. As a result of my visit a committee was formed to draw up plans for the immediate amelioration of the conditions then prevailing at the college and I was happy to announce a few days ago what was being done in this direction. I made this clear in a question the other day that, in view of the report that came back from the Prisons Department, it would appear that it may be a few years before the Adelaide Gaol site will become available, if then. Accordingly inquiries have been instituted to try to find alternative sites for this teachers college so that we may take some action as soon as we are able to do so.

I think it was during the grievance debate that the member for Whyalla said that his successor as Minister of Education said on her appointment that there would be an investigation into education. He said at the time he wondered whether this was merely a repetition of what the Premier has said during the March election campaign. He wondered what this examination would cover and said that the investigation appeared to be merely a continuation of the previous Government's policy. The Government's declared policy on an examination of the education system stands where it stood when the Premier made his statement before the election and is the same as that written into the speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor. Discussions and negotiations are proceeding and I hope to be able to make an announcement on this matter soon. I should like the members of the Opposition to know that the Government is not letting the grass grow under its feet. The Government is not rushing into anything; it is laying solid foundations on which to bring about the real reform it has promised in all departments, including the Education Department. The Government intends to reverse the downward trend in development and progress in this State that occurred during the three years of the previous Government.

Finally, I wish to say how pleased I am that the Premier yesterday was able to announce

the Government's intention to introduce fluoride into the reticulated water of South Australia. As members may know, I was a member of the Select Committee which inquired into this matter at great length and which took much evidence, both oral and written. In fact, I was one of the three members of the committee who voted in favour of fluoridation. I am extremely pleased about this decision of the Government. On Monday last I went with the Chief Secretary to see the dental therapy school which was established by the previous Government, to its credit, and which I consider will play a very important part in improving the dental health situation amongst our children in South Australia. This kind of specialized care will be greatly helped in future by the introduction of fluoride to the water supply. On Monday, when I was speaking to some of the supervising dentists and inquired about the dental health of school children in South Australia, I was informed that it was very bad indeed. Therefore, the introduction of fluoride is most timely and welcome as an endeavour to correct the extremely bad dental health situation that has been with us in South Australia for a long time. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Treasurer): I did not expect that I would be speaking tonight, and I do not intend to speak at any great length. However, there are some things that I consider I should deal with, because I shall probably not have any other opportunity. I join with other members in their remarks about the previous Governor, the present Lieutenant-Governor, officials of the Parliament (including yourself, Mr. Deputy Speaker), and the esteem in which such people have been and continue to be held because of their previous reputation.

I want to say a word, without appearing to be patronizing in any way, about the present Cabinet. Some members may think that I am settling myself up as something of an elder statesman. I do not want to do that although, of those in the present Cabinet, I have had the longest experience. Members of the present Cabinet have done credit to themselves and to their positions. Without making odious comparisons I consider that they are, in calibre, knowledge, ability and application, the equal of the members of any Cabinet that we have had since I have been in this place. I say that in full knowledge of the services rendered to this Parliament by their predecessors in office. I have in mind such prominent and

well-known figures as Sir Thomas Playford, the Hon. Reg Rudall, and Sir George Jenkins.

Perhaps I should not have started mentioning names, because I would assuredly omit some who would come into this category. I omitted to mention Sir Malcolm McIntosh, who probably served longer in this Parliament than did any other Minister. I succeeded Sir Malcolm in office, and I know of the work he did. One of his characteristics was that not only did he do his work as a Minister very capably but he was at all times the champion of those in his department. Despite whatever disciplines Sir Malcolm may have exercised over his officers and whatever corrections he may have administered to them at times, anybody who had anything disparaging to say about any of Sir Malcolm's staff had it coming to him in a big way. He was intensely loyal to those who served him.

Mr. Ryan: Wasn't there one good Labor Minister?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Of course, we have had few Labor Ministries.

Mr. Langley: You know how that was brought about?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes, but the Labor members of Cabinet within my memory have possibly not had long enough in office to enable them to develop their full capabilities. I consider that there were in the last Government some promising and able Ministers, and I do not wish to deprecate the services they rendered or the grip of their departments that they obtained in the short time available to them. However, I consider that the present Cabinet has already commended itself to the public of this State for application, wide-eyed appreciation of problems, the work it is doing and its live and imaginative approach to the departments and current issues of the day. As time goes by and as they gain more experience, the quality of Ministers will become better and more widely known.

I say my word of appreciation of the services rendered to this House by the late Hon. Frank Walsh and Mr. Fred Walsh. I refer particularly to those departed members. I agree with all that has been said about them, and that does not in any way diminish the regard in which I have held them and still hold them in my memory. I have said publicly that public recognition of the services of the Hon. Frank Walsh was evidenced by the crowd of people that lined the streets when we followed his cortege to the cemetery. I

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said then, and I repeat now, that this was a tribute to a man who had established himself high in the esteem of the community that he served for so long. No words could be as eloquent a tribute to him.

I hate to introduce a jarring note in this context, but I remember some of the great Labor leaders of the past, whose names are inscribed in the history of the Labor movement and who were in every sense true Labor men. One could go back in South Australian history to my old country man, John Verran, who held office as Premier of this State when I was a boy. Although he may have been illiterate and may have used the first person pronoun with a small dot over it, that did not matter. He had hard common sense and acumen, and it was unfortunate for him that certain issues of the day loomed so large and that his services for the State were somewhat curtailed. More particularly in the Commonwealth sphere the names of Scullin, Curtin and Chifley come to mind. These names are inscribed in the history of the Labor movement, and it is a pity that the leadership of the Labor movement has descended from that type of man into the hands of, well, the smarter intellectual type (and as one Labor man said to me in my district) whose hands have never touched dirt.

This was the genesis and origin of the Labor movement and, throughout its history, a leading place has been taken by the people who, like the late Hon. Frank Walsh, came up through the ranks of the movement. Intellectuals have not been a success as leaders of the Labor Party. There may have been rare exceptions, but when one considers the Australian and United Kingdom scenes one realizes that there has not been a successful Labor leader who has not come up through the Labor movement by working his way up from the bottom.

This is an essential characteristic of the Australian Labor Party and of Labor Parties in other democratic countries. To assume its full role, particularly in the Commonwealth sphere, the Labor Party needs a leader of this type. Since this Government took office it has tried to carry out what it said it would try to do, that is, to get the State moving again both economically and industrially. The first thing it did was to have the Premier take over the duties of Minister of Industrial Development. As far as I can recall, for the first time in the history of this State the

Treasury has been divorced from the Premiership. This action was deliberately taken in order to allow the Premier the greatest possible time at his disposal for the tasks of development and leadership.

Because the role of any Minister, and more particularly the Leader of the Government, has changed substantially from what it was 25 years ago, it is essential that the Premier should have at his disposal all the time that is available to him on seven days a week and heaven knows for how many hours each day to devote to the task of leadership, of developing the State, and of public relations in every possible sphere. For that reason the Treasury has been removed from the Premier's control. I cannot and will not comment whether this is a good thing, but for my part I accepted it with some reluctance. However, I have always considered that if one is in the team one plays where the captain puts one, and that is why I am in this particular Ministerial role.

The Government has set out to establish a close liaison with industry and commerce. Within four weeks of taking office I invited the manager of every banking institution in Adelaide to my office. They came gladly in response to my invitation and I spoke to each of them separately at length about financial matters. I have tried to establish with them a relationship that will be fruitful and beneficial to the Government and to commerce and industry. In addition, I have asked for their assistance in every way to enable this Government to continue to develop the State. They have gladly undertaken to do whatever they can do to assist us in this task.

Leaders of industry, commerce, and banking in this State are aware that the task of development is one in which we are all engaged for our mutual advantage. They are not interested in the political situation as such, and, indeed, I refrained from discussing this topic with them. Without exception they agreed that their business was tied with our business and that the State would progress or regress as a unit. I have discovered this attitude and this kind of co-operation, both of which, if you are prepared to invite them, you can readily receive from leaders of commerce in this State.

Similarly, I have discussed matters with the managers of the various commercial institutions in this State, more particularly the stock firms and people interested in rural credit and rural progress and, again, I have had the same degree of co-operation and purpose. I believe

rural development in this State is one of our most important activities. We have had phenomenal developments in agriculture. Perhaps, sometimes, we are apt to overlook the revolution that has taken place in agriculture, horticulture, and in the pastoral field, blinded a little, perhaps, by the dazzling technological developments that have taken place throughout the world, not excluding South Australia. But there has been a revolution in agriculture, and this has been largely responsible for the tremendous upsurge in agricultural production. I shall not give details, but I draw attention to this fact because, unless we remember that the agricultural, horticultural, and pastoral pursuits of this State are still responsible for a great contribution to our economic well being, we will forget it to our detriment. The Leader of the Opposition frequently said, when we were in Opposition and chiding him about the economic downturn of the State, that what was responsible for it, if it was admitted, was that there was a drought somewhere. He constantly reiterated this, so he must have realized the importance of the contribution that agriculture and its associated pursuits made to the economic condition of the State. I do not refer to the Chowilla project in any political sense, because I am satisfied that, at present, if there is anything on which both Parties in this House are united it is our desire, intention, and determination to ensure that the Chowilla dam is constructed. It is unfortunate but nevertheless one of the facts of life that, where the numbers lie, there is the greatest strength. The Eastern States, our partners in sharing the Murray River and its associated waters, have numbers that far outweigh ours, not only in voices but also in political influence. This has been evident in the approach that has been made or the alternative suggested, and in the resistance that has been built up, and deliberately built up, in other States, which has held up the construction of the Chowilla dam. I do not apologize for saying that—I think it is absolutely true. The Minister for National Development has, I believe, been guilty of making statements and comments which, although they may not appear to him as a Victorian to be slanted in a certain direction, have in fact had that effect.

Only recently there was an announcement under a Melbourne date line in the Adelaide press in which the Minister was reported to have made a visit to the site of a proposed alternative dam on the Mitta River, which he was reported to have said was a

favourable alternative site. In the absence of the Premier, I took some action to elucidate the facts, and I discovered that the Minister had made a visit, so far as he was physically able, to inspect the site of the proposed new dam, after which he made this statement to the press.

The authority was only then bulldozing tracks through the jungle (if I may use that word), which it was doing with some difficulty because of the inaccessibility of the site; the authority was engaged in endeavouring to make roads to the proposed site of the dam so that the machinery and drilling equipment required on the site to carry out preliminary tests could be moved into the area to commence work. That was as far as the investigation had gone, and the only approval that the River Murray Commission had given at that stage was to provide the necessary funds for a camp site to be set up and for the roads to be bulldozed through the mountain country so that preliminary drilling tests could commence; yet we would be led to believe, and the public was intended to be led to believe, from a casual announcement in the press that this site had already been inspected and tested and was a favourable site. Knowing that that was untrue, I immediately took steps to have that statement corrected and asked the press to put it on the interstate wire service so that it would get through to the Melbourne papers. This is the kind of propoganda constantly deriving from the Eastern States. It is not only hardening the attitudes of the public in those States but also undermining the confidence of the people of this State in the viability of the Chowilla dam.

It behoves everybody in this Parliament to see that every opportunity both in season and out of season is taken to present the case for Chowilla in its proper form and to see that the proper facts are stated. The Leader of the Opposition in this debate had much to say about what had happened in this State since this Government took office. There is much that one could say (but I do not propose to say it tonight) about what happened in this State during the last three years. In recent years I have asked myself the question honestly: could we, having in mind the rate of development that we had achieved during the period from 1955 to 1965, have expected in all honesty to continue development at that rate? Not only did I ask myself the question but I posed it to two prominent industrialists in this city on two

different occasions and got two different answers. After some thought, one said, "Yes: I see no reason why we should not have maintained this rate of growth." The other, who was in a different line of business, said, "I see no reason why we should not have maintain it but whether we could have quite done so is open to question." The Leader of the Opposition on becoming Premier immediately set about criticizing the South Australian economy, which he called a "milk bar economy". This was a catch phrase, an apt sort of phrase; the Leader of the Opposition is a master in using expressions of this sort.

I put it to you, Mr. Speaker: was this a just assessment of the economy of South Australia? Could we honestly consider that a steel-rolling mill and all the associated things attached to it which, whatever anyone may say about it, Sir Thomas Playford got for Whyalla and for this State after years of painstaking work, could be called part of a "milk bar" economy? Could you call an oil refinery which took us some time to negotiate and which we successfully negotiated (I know, because I was in the Cabinet at the time and so was the Minister of Lands, the amount of work that had to be done and the amount of competition that had to be met from other competitors and other States competing for this industry) "milk bar" stuff? Would you say that the encouragement and assistance we gave to petroleum research in this State, which resulted in the discovery of the Gidgealpa-Moomba field, which has been developed and carried along by the late Government (I do not disagree with that) to the point where we are now laying a pipeline, was the kind of development and research that could be called "milk bar" stuff? Would you say, Mr. Speaker, that the arrangement that has helped us greatly in the establishment of the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories at Parkside savours of just a retail business? Would you say that the development of power and water in this State, of the complex in the northern towns of Port Augusta and Leigh Creek and of the Torrens Island project, which was of our making and was carried on by the late Government, was of a transient and passing type? These are basic promotions which were achieved and are the foundation upon which our present industries and so-called "milk bar economy" rest. A description of South Australia's economy in the terms in which it pleases the Leader to describe it is an entirely false representation of the facts. On becoming Premier, one of

the first pronouncements the Leader made was to say that he had balanced his Budget. Indeed, that was what I saw on the hoardings as I came down the street on that particular day. However, when the State's accounts were closed off on June 30 and when the situation became properly understood, the fact was that the State's Revenue Account had a deficit of \$5,500,000; yet the Leader had the hide to announce to the public that, within about 30 days of his taking office, he had completely re-organized the finances of the State and converted an expected deficit into a balanced Budget, whereas such was not the case and he knew it was not the case.

This is the kind of thing that the Leader of the Opposition, as Attorney-General and later Premier, set up the people of the State constantly during the whole of the time that he occupied the Ministerial benches. He did not do this only in the House: he was busy doing it outside. Because of the plausibility of his arguments and his ability to present a case, he was able to convince many people. However, the facts belie the statements he made. In about September or October of last year he told us that the State would be booming by Christmas. Was it? I do not know. He said he would revive the building industry. No-one would have blamed him if he had said it would take him some time to do this: indeed, it will take some time. However, the industry was not revived in the nine months he was Premier. Just before the last election he announced that he had achieved an arrangement for an enterprise, worth about \$80,000,000, concerned with the West Lakes scheme. At the request of Cabinet, I called for all dockets and papers on this matter. I do not intend to elaborate on this tonight but, when it was announced, this proposal had virtually no basis in fact. Admittedly, an interest was expressed in it by a powerful financial group. However, when one looks at the timing of this announcement and at the material on the files (I have had an opportunity to get these together to compose some sort of a report), one sees that not until a late hour after the election was held was there any degree (and I emphasize that) of solidity in these proposals. Indeed, the indenture itself was signed in Adelaide by the Government (before it was signed by the Sydney consortium) on the Thursday afternoon before Good Friday, when Parliament was to meet on the following Tuesday. Therefore, at the time the announcement was made (purely for political purposes before the election) there was no real basis for the assump-

tion that the project, nebulous as it was at that stage of the negotiations, was anything like a fact at all.

The Leader prided himself that, during the years of his Government's term of office, much social legislation was introduced and passed in this House. He prided himself, notwithstanding the fact that members of my Party supported these measures wholeheartedly in many respects and furthered considerably the discussion on them. In the minds of the people it was the Leader who was responsible for all of these things. On each of the occasions I did not favour the legislation, and I still do not do so. I think that the results already accruing in this State are showing in various ways that I was somewhat correct. This is my view.

Mr. Hudson: Will you support the removal of these things now?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: There is no possibility of their removal, and the member knows quite well that, once a level of expenditure and cost has been established in regard to the State's accounts, there is no possibility whatever of drawing back.

Mr. Hudson: Surely the Government could go back to 6 p.m. closing if it wanted to do so.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am not suggesting (and I have never suggested) that the public is with me in this matter. The honourable member knows that I did not suggest that, nor do I suggest it now. I am only expressing my personal view, which I have always expressed in the House, as I expressed it when that legislation was before the House. I make this comment in passing that, for my part, much of the legislation was unfortunate. My colleagues did not agree, and they said so at the time. That is by the way, and it does not detract, I admit, from the Administration of the present Leader of the Opposition when he was Premier. All I am complaining about is that it was presented to the people of South Australia as being his doing.

Mr. Hudson: It certainly was not your doing.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: He only contributed to it. One of the measures was initiated by the present Premier when he was a private member.

Mr. Hudson: That is a complete and utter joke.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Glenelg may make a speech in five minutes' time. Interjections are out of order.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member is not allowed to do so. What I am complaining about is that, when the previous Government assumed office, whatever stage projects were in at that time and regardless of who had initiated them, the present Leader of the Opposition, the then Premier, took unto himself the full credit for carrying out these projects. I want to take this a little further. When the Whyalla steelworks was about to be opened, the then Premier (Sir Thomas Playford) was invited by the management of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited to open the works. It was at a time shortly before the 1965 election and Sir Thomas said that an election was approaching; he did not expect to be defeated but he might be (and, in fact, he was defeated). He therefore told the management that he could not accept the invitation to open the steelworks because it was possible that he would not be Premier in April, or whenever it was that the steelworks was to be opened. So, the company invited the incoming Premier, Mr. Frank Walsh, to open the steelworks—and good luck to him: he was Premier of the State.

Other projects have been opened that were initiated by the Playford Government. Parts of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the State Library and one or two others have been opened by the Ministers in charge at the appropriate time or by the present Leader of the Opposition, the then Premier, but I have not heard that any credit was given to anyone else for the furtherance of these projects.

The Hon. C. D. Hutchens: What about the Bolivar treatment works?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I did not refer to those works. The member for Hindmarsh has always been most courteous in these matters, but I did not name him in respect of these matters. I referred to the Leader of the Opposition in particular. I regret that the Leader of the Opposition, the then Premier, took it upon himself to open the Torrens Island power station. I was the first person in this House to know about the Torrens Island power station—

Mr. Hudson: When was the bulk of the money spent?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I knew about the Torrens Island power station before Sir Thomas Playford knew about it. The financial provision was made as a result of planning by the previous Government. The Torrens Island power station should, in all decency, have been opened by Sir Edric Bastyan, who was about to leave the State. The power

station was the biggest single Government enterprise that had been established in the State for many years, so surely this privilege should have been extended to Sir Edric. If the member for Glenelg does not understand the decencies of the situation, then I forgive him; but I think he understands them, so I do not forgive him. I think that if this matter had been submitted to the opinion of people in the street, who regarded Sir Edric Bastyan highly, they would have said, "Yes, this would be a proper and fitting project for him to attach his name to." Such a gesture would have had widespread approbation. I am sorry he was not extended this privilege. By contrast, when we went up to the Port Augusta power station to open the Sir Thomas Playford station (it was named after Sir Thomas in recognition of the fact that he had been, as it were, the father), what happened? The then Leader of the Opposition (Mr. O'Halloran) was invited to Port Augusta to address the gathering.

The Hon. B. H. Teusner: It was usually the case.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: It was always the case. When the South Para reservoir was opened I was Minister in charge. My predecessor (Sir Malcolm McIntosh) had advanced the project almost to the completion stage. I invited Sir Malcolm to take a leading part in the opening, although Sir Thomas opened it, and Sir Malcolm's name is on the plaque at the reservoir. It was a matter of argument in my department whether or not Sir Malcolm's name should appear on the plaque, as he was not Minister at the time; and I insisted that Sir Malcolm's name appear on the plaque. The other day, when the Minister of Health went to Elliston to open a hospital, he invited the Hon. Mr. Shard to accompany him, and Mr. Shard did so.

Mr. Hudson: You hit back to front: Elliston invited Mr. Shard to go across. Mr. Shard was invited by the Elliston people to go and open the hospital.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: At any rate he was there, but he was taken over by the Minister of Health. As the matter was reported in the press, the situation was not as the honourable member alleges it was. Two nights ago on television we were shown the opening of a dental clinic. There were also some people in training as dental nurses. What did we see? The Hon. Mr. Shard was also present.

Mr. Hudson: Did he speak?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I do not know whether anyone spoke.

Mr. Hudson: Who initiated that scheme?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: He did, and he was there.

Mr. Hudson: Did he speak?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I do not know, but I am illustrating—

Mr. Hudson: You aren't illustrating anything: you are just talking for the sake of talking.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am correct in substance, if not in detail.

Mr. Hudson: You aren't even correct in substance on that.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: One other matter which affects the last three years and with which I want to deal is finance. I made a study of the finances when I took over the Treasury and I found that, on an equivalent basis of financing, the State's finances had run down in the three-year period by \$21,000,000.

Mr. Hudson: That's all a fraud, too, that statement.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: That statement was never denied.

Mr. Hudson: It was rubbish.

The SPEAKER: Order! I am not going to allow this conversation to continue. The honourable Treasurer.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Leader of the Opposition said on television that I was wrong in saying that it was incorrect accounting to include in the Loan Account certain items that had taken the load off Revenue, but never, to my knowledge, did he attempt to challenge the validity of my figures. I appeared on channel 7, at the channel's invitation, to discuss this matter and I heard a review of what the Leader of the Opposition had said. He did not say a word about it. He was careful not to mention that, but he went on about the validity of the accounting, although I had not, in referring to the accounting, said it was illegal.

Mr. Hudson: What was the overall deficit at the end of June?

The SPEAKER: I must ask the honourable Treasurer to address the Chair, please, not the honourable member for Glenelg.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Very well, Mr. Speaker, I will not be led away by the honourable member, because I have been speaking for too long.

Mr. Ryan: We agree with that.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Well, you asked for it and you got it. On many occasions the Leader of the Opposition has made

statements about what sort of taxation measures we should have and during his time as Treasurer (indeed, during the time his Government occupied the Treasury benches) the Government did make some attempt, strictly limited in character and specific in nature, to increase revenue, particularly and almost entirely in the fields of land tax and succession duties. Only recently the Leader of the Opposition was reported in the press as saying that, if the Government of the day needed to raise additional revenue, it should do so by way of a massive increase in succession duty.

Mr. McKee: What about water charges?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Labor Government increased water charges.

Mr. McKee: You put them up again.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Labor Government put them up.

The Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe: And the Leader said it had not and it was a deliberate untruth in this House. It is in black and white.

The SPEAKER: The Minister of Works is out of order.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: What I am leading up to is that the Leader of the Opposition has repeatedly said that the Liberal and Country League, or the Liberal Party of Australia, or any Party with the word "Liberal" in its name, has repeatedly protected its wealthy friends and refused to tax its wealthy supporters. He has used this term repeatedly in this House and outside. I wanted to give information about this matter, and I refer to the incidence of income tax in the Commonwealth of Australia. Bear in mind that these taxes have, by and large, been imposed by a Liberal-Country Party coalition in the Commonwealth sphere or by Liberal Governments in the States. My authority for the figures on the incidence of income tax is a publication published by the Institute of Public Affairs (Victoria), a reputable publication put out by a body which has on its committee and directorate some of the best known persons in commerce in Australia. In 1964, and the figures have not changed much—

Mr. McKee: Go back to 1961.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: For the benefit of the honourable member I will go further back—to 1959. There, I find that 64.5 per cent of all the taxpayers paid only 23 per cent of all income tax; 31 per cent paid 35 per cent of the taxation; 4 per cent paid 23 per cent of the taxation; and .5 per

cent paid 19 per cent of the taxation. Divide the four groups into two, and it is obvious that 95.5 per cent of the taxpayers paid only 58 per cent of the taxation, but 4.5 per cent of the taxpayers paid 42 per cent of the taxation. In 1964 a similar situation existed: 66.9 per cent of taxpayers paid only 25.5 per cent of the tax; 25.4 per cent paid 29.7 of the tax; 7 per cent of the taxpayers paid 27.2 per cent of the taxation; and .7 per cent of the taxpayers paid 17.6 per cent of the taxation.

Mr. Ryan: They couldn't afford it!

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Dividing these into two groups it is found that 92.3 per cent of the taxpayers paid only 55.2 per cent of the taxation, but 7.7 per cent of the taxpayers paid 44.8 per cent of the taxation. Is this letting the wealthy escape? Is it protecting the so-called wealthy friends of the Liberal Party when 4.5 per cent of the taxpayers pay 42 per cent of the taxation, or when 7.7 per cent of the taxpayers pay 44.8 per cent of the taxation? I now compare the situation with that in three or four oversea countries. I give the figures for a married man with two children with earnings of \$12,500 a year, and for every additional \$100 he earns above that he takes home \$62 out of the additional \$100 if he lives in West Germany; in Britain he takes home \$63 out of each \$100; in France he takes home \$78 out of each \$100; but in Australia, this fair land where the wealthy are protected, he takes home only \$44 out of each additional \$100.

This is taxation that has been imposed by a Liberal-Country Party coalition in the Commonwealth of Australia that has been in office since 1949, and by subscribing Governments in the various States of Australia with a similar political complexion. I think these facts effectively answer the assertions by the Leader of the Opposition that the wealthy people of this State and of other States are escaping scot free from paying their taxes. I hope that these figures will have some effect on him: I hope they will become known outside this House and be appreciated by the public of this State, as they indicate the extent to which the Leader of the Opposition is prone to pull the wool over the eyes of the general public in his able, capable, and plausible manner, and the extent to which they should evaluate the statements he makes not only on this matter but on other matters on which he speaks so frequently.

Before I resume my seat, let me commend the new members for the speeches they have made in this debate. I listened with much pleasure and appreciation to those speeches and also to the member for Edwardstown (Mr. Virgo) on a certain memorable night a few weeks ago in this House. The incoming members have given evidence that they can contribute substantially to the debating strength of this House and for that we are grateful because, after all is said and done, the problems of Parliament are thrashed out on this floor. It is gratifying to know that the members who have come in here can make as valuable contributions to our work as those six members who have departed from this House and are no longer with us. It is gratifying to know that we have with us replacements of the capacity that these new members have exhibited. I wish them all well in this House and believe they have a potential of importance to us. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. FERGUSON (Yorke Peninsula): With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, first let me say "Thank you very much" to members of Parliament for the kindly interest they took in my welfare when I was ill and incapacitated because of an accident in which I was involved. The good will expressed was as much appreciated by Mrs. Ferguson as it was by me. It is just one more instance of recognizing that, when it comes to human values and personal concerns, we have an interest in one another.

I do not think there was a citizen in South Australia who was not disappointed when he learned that the term of office of Sir Edric Bastyan as Governor of this State was to be terminated. He was a Governor who displayed all the qualities that a Governor should display among the citizens of the State. He was fair and in all his criticisms he was unbiased. He carried out his duties to the best of his ability. He had a record as Governor of South Australia the equal of that of any previous Governor. We tend to think of the actions and good deeds of the most recent Governor, forgetting the record of previous Governors. However, I believe Sir Edric did an excellent job. His trips into the country areas were much appreciated by country people.

At the opening of Parliament, I could not help observing that in the Lieutenant-Governor we have a man who has given valuable service to the State. In performing the function of opening Parliament he displayed the virtues he possesses of grace, dignity and decorum. With other members, I welcome the newly elected

members. I believe they have given some indication of their value and ability in the maiden speeches they have made in this debate. I particularly congratulate the member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Evans), who made an excellent maiden speech this afternoon. With a little grooming, he will prove a worthy successor to the former member for that district. This evening I wish to refer to only two matters concerning my constituents. I was interested in an article, which appeared in the *Advertiser* of July 24 under the heading "Rustling of Sheep, Cattle" and which was as follows:

Sheep and cattle valued at more than \$3,000 have been stolen from properties in the South-East during the past four weeks. Mr. J. G. Heggie has reported to the Naracoorte police the loss of eight three-month-old heifers from his property at Stewart's Range, about three miles west of Naracoorte. They have a JH tattoo on the ear. While investigating this loss he found a stud calf valued at more than \$2,000 dead. A post-mortem revealed a wound in the head which was apparently inflicted with a sharp instrument—and not a shotgun. Another five young cattle have been reported missing from the property of D. and R. Davidson, of Keith.

Other losses are 37 nine-month-old lambs from F. C. Stanfield's property at Keith and 51 corriedale ewes from R. W. and M. Davis at Brecon, near Keith. Detective J. Furnell, of the Naracoorte police is investigating. He believes drovers, mistakenly or deliberately, could be responsible for the loss of the sheep. On the opposite side of the picture Naracoorte police are trying to find the owners of 300 hoggets which have become boxed in with other sheep in the Padthaway district.

Two hundred sheep are boxed in on the property of M. B. and E. H. Stanfield, near Padthaway. They are branded either AL, RL or HL in red paint on the shoulder. Another hundred are with a mob of sheep on Mr. I. F. Harding's property at Keppoch. On both occasions the extra sheep became boxed with mobs being shifted from one paddock to another along the road. Detective Furnell suspects the sheep to be abandoned sheep stolen from properties in the far north of South Australia. If the sheep are not claimed they will be impounded and sold. Any claims for the sheep and cattle should be directed to Detective Furnell at the Naracoorte police station.

This is not an isolated case. I think the member for Victoria asked the Minister of Agriculture a question last year about 57 bulls that had been stolen or were missing in his electoral district. Stock stealing is occurring not only in the south and the north but also in the east and the west of this State. It has been occurring on Yorke Peninsula for some time and, as most members know, it is difficult to detect. Some people were once detected on Yorke Peninsula and were charged with

the crime of stock stealing. They were charged on separate counts, and I believe that each was fined about \$80. After the penalty had been imposed, the persons concerned went around from place to place bragging that it had not cost them very much for committing the crime. I draw the Attorney-General's attention to this matter because I believe that, where persons are detected stealing stock, the penalty should suit the crime, I hope that if any matter of this nature comes before the Attorney-General in future he will give it special attention.

I commend the Highways and Local Government Department for the part it is taking in a tree planting scheme throughout South Australia. As we traverse the countryside of this State it is easy to see that it has been denuded of the natural tree life that was once there. This kind of scheme is being undertaken at present not only by the department but also by many South Australian district councils; they are trying to put back into this country some of the nature and the trees that have been removed from it.

Small district councils and corporations have been interested in amalgamation. This interest has been brought about because it has become uneconomic for small district councils and corporations to operate. I believe this matter has been considered in Murray Bridge and Clare; it has also been considered in the Maitland township, in my electoral district, and it has been decided that the Corporation of Maitland and the District Council of Yorke Peninsula should amalgamate. I believe that this is to take place next April so that elections can take place in July for the election of a full council. I know that many corporations in small towns will be reluctant to amalgamate with district councils because they believe that some status is given to a town if it has a mayor at the head of its corporation. I believe it has been proved otherwise in my district, because Maitland is the only township that has a corporation within its boundaries. I believe that one of the difficulties in the amalgamation of corporations and district councils is that the township areas are reluctant to give up this status gained by having a mayor within their boundaries.

I believe that the Minister of Local Government is trying to find a way of having the head of the new district council, which will be called the Central Yorke Peninsula District Council, known not as the chairman but as the mayor. I believe also that this newly-formed council may be one of the first district

councils to have a mayor as its head. I have never been happier in my life about making a speech in this House than I am at present, because I know that I support a Government which has a positive programme that will be carried out and for which the electors of South Australia will be very grateful. I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply.

Mr. RODDA (Victoria): I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, and in doing so will be brief. I join in the expressions of goodwill that have been made towards His Excellency Sir Edric Bastyan. He was a personable gentleman and, with his good lady, set a fine example for the people of South Australia. We are proud that he was associated with this State. We were grateful to have the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Mellis Napier, open Parliament with an excellent and most constructive Speech. I join with my colleagues and most of the Opposition members in congratulating the new Ministry.

Mr. Ryan: What's that got to do with the 57 bulls?

Mr. RODDA: I would expect the member for Port Adelaide to say something like that, because I have been subsidizing him for a long time.

The SPEAKER: Order! If the honourable member wants to make a short speech, I suggest that he address the Chair and not heed interruptions.

Mr. RODDA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I join other honourable members in congratulating the eight new members upon their election. I was pleased about the maiden speech made by the member for Edwardstown (Mr. Virgo) in unusual circumstances. He proved that he was capable of speaking for himself. I came to know him on another occasion, when we were skirmishing in another part of South Australia. Although our views may differ, I have found the honourable member to be a pleasant person to work with. We had opposite roles but on occasions we had to negotiate.

Regarding the Millicent campaign, I was accused of directing certain people to say nasty things about a certain person whom I like. Perhaps that is as nicely as the matter has been put in this House. As the on-the-spot director of the campaign, I say to my South-Eastern colleague that I hold none of those thoughts that have been expressed about him in certain places. I, like the honourable member, have been attacked and people have charged me quite vigorously, making no bones

about the fact that they did not like those accusations. I dissociate myself and my colleagues from the comments alleged to have been made about the honourable member.

My district comprises valuable country and there is a real need for the extension of Electricity Trust services. This part of the State has enormous potential. We are only scratching the surface, and I make my plea to the Minister to get on with the job in my district, as well as in other areas such as the District of Eyre.

I endorse the remarks made by the member for Albert yesterday about the need for a thorough investigation into the water position in our districts. Members on the other side have refrained, for one reason or another, from taking part in this debate, but the Leader of the Opposition has told us why they have not done so, and who are we to quarrel with this? I hope that they will co-operate equally as well in the future.

Mr. Hudson: We are always prepared to assist this Government to get on with the business.

Mr. RODDA: The Aged Citizens Clubs (Subsidies) Act was introduced in 1963, and it limited to any club the sum of \$6,000 subsidy to purchase, build, or furnish these institutions. I understand that 17 clubs have been enlarged with the assistance received and that about \$102,000 (about \$20,000 a year) has been spent since the Act was introduced. In South Australia there are 42 senior citizen clubs in the metropolitan area and 14 in country districts, and these clubs play an important part for future generations. A progressive nation cares for its youth and its aged, and these clubs provide companionship and recreation, and are creative. We must concern ourselves with the interests of the older people in the community. Money spent on such subsidies is a saving on hospitalization, and I have seen in my district the value of a club of this type. After losing their loved ones, people find themselves at a loose end, and the club with which I am associated has done much for these elder citizens. The Treasurer should consider increasing the subsidy from \$6,000 to \$10,000, which would be in keeping with increased costs and wages. This would be a most valuable contribution to the aged section of the community. About 10.7 per cent (109,000 people) of the population of this State is of a pensionable age. The number is increasing with advances in medical treatment and hospitalization, and the general knowledge of medical care. These clubs have

proved their worth throughout the State and I urge the Government to increase the subsidy.

I join with previous speakers who have paid a tribute to the new members. The gentlemen with whom I am associated on this side have devoted themselves with great care and attention to being good representatives of their districts, and I know that the same applies to the new member for Edwardstown. I do wish them well in this thirty-ninth Parliament and look forward to the ensuing debates.

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier): I thought perhaps the move by the Opposition to curtail the debate so that the House could the sooner proceed with the Bill on electoral reform might have been more effective if the members opposite had got the member for Glenelg to his feet and let him have a go. He has been having three-quarters of a go throughout the debate. If the Opposition had let him go on a little more, it might have speeded up things. He always wants to go a little bit more. I do not intend to be provocative this evening; I will be brief. On the eve of introducing a Bill to which I am sure members will agree, I am sure this attitude is appreciated even though members opposite seem a little jumpy at present and appear to think they have some inside information about the Government's plans. They seem to be shying at them already. Their fears will be put at rest tomorrow at a time which, since our assumption of office, is sooner than the time in 1965 when they introduced a Bill on the 114th day after assuming office. If we have the permission and co-operation of the House tomorrow, we shall bring in our Bill on the 107th day after assuming office. Members opposite may say that this is of little consequence, but how long have they been talking in this House about our delay? Under examination, it does not add up, because apparently they want one standard for themselves and one for us. If they are consistent, they will listen to the Bill tomorrow, which will be introduced sooner than theirs was.

I heartily congratulate the new members who spoke in this debate. They displayed a high standard of debating and we can expect as the months and the years go by a very good standard of debate from this side of the House.

Mr. Clark: For that side of the House?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: From this side of the House. Again, I congratulate the new members on their contributions to this debate. The Leader of the Opposition mentioned a few topics before he instructed his members

to be quiet. I thought he made an apology for his three years in office, by trying to compare the first 100 days to justify his Government's existence. It was a noble attempt to try to gloss over the real errors made in those 100 days of Labor Government. If there is one significant thing that this Government has said in its first 100 days, it is that it believes in private enterprise. It is one of the most significant and simple statements that any Government could make and one that will put this State back on the road to prosperity again. We know the Opposition said, "Let us forget the detail of the policy." We know what happened in those 100 days of Labor Government. It said clearly to the business community of this State, "We do not believe in private enterprise."

Mr. Hudson: That is rubbish, and you know it!

The Hon. R. S. HALL: That is the essential difference; that will continue to have its effect on South Australia. The Leader of the Opposition went on to make various comparisons. He said that the new Government had engaged in publicity with press secretaries; and, of course, that we had some people who could not do the job very well. (I think those were his words; they are in *Hansard*.) In fact, however, the two people we have engaged are accredited journalists, something that the members of the staff of the former Premier were not.

Mr. Ryan: You said this afternoon that you knew nothing about these appointments.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: In fact, the staff of the Premier's Department is now three fewer than it was under the previous Premier. When I first took over the Premier's Department, it had a special man to deal with the District of Norwood.

Mrs. Byrne: That isn't so.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: That might not have been his special title, but we know who were the people who came in to see him. I understand that he had been the Leader's campaign manager in Norwood. This was the sort of thing that existed in the Premier's Department.

Mr. Corcoran: He would be a good man, too.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: He probably was—the Leader won his seat, so he must have been a good campaign manager. However, there is not time to go into these matters this evening. We have gone ahead with the Industrial Development Department, the setting

up of which was still unfinished when we came into office; in fact it is still unfinished. Of course, its setting up was partly due to the prodding of our Party when in Opposition.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. R. S. HALL: When we came into office, at the request of the Industrial Development Advisory Council and with the agreement of the Director of Industrial Development, we appointed a new Chairman (Mr. A. B. Barker). By his appointment, we obtained for the people of South Australia the services of one of the most highly qualified and respected industrialists in Australia: he has a world-wide reputation and standing. However, the Leader said that this appointment should not have been made. Why not?

Mr. Corcoran: I think he told you that.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: His criticism was nonsense and utter rubbish. We are putting this department on a proper footing, and I assure the House that the re-organization will continue until we have a department that is effective under the Minister.

Mr. Casey: That is his one and only portfolio.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Let us briefly consider the much vaunted West Lakes plan. This is the Upper Port Reach development scheme which was initiated by the Playford Government and which was suddenly found again by the Labor Government just before the last election. The scheme was rushed through and signed on the last working day before we took office. It was signed in a passion which the Government and the other party now regret: arrangements have to be revised by both parties. Why was it put through so hastily?

Mr. Clark: The Treasurer told us a completely different version.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: He did not.

Mr. Clark: You should have listened to what he said.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The scheme was rushed through on the last day before this Government took office. Obviously we have taken much immediate action to put things right in South Australia. We have had obstacles in our path. For instance, both parties were busy fighting a by-election, and the Court of Disputed Returns occupied the time of two Cabinet Ministers. Therefore, the Government has been working under a handicap in the initial period of its office through its members being unavailable.

Mr. Hudson: And you went away for a trip.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Yes, I made an important trip.

Mr. Clark: Just as well; you got in just in time.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I agree that a trip overseas by a Premier was not before time.

Mr. Burdon: You can have another one if you like.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Most assuredly the Premier of the State must make such trips without too many years intervening between them.

Mr. Casey: You think he should go every year?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: No.

The SPEAKER: Order! Will the Premier address the Chair and ignore all the interruptions?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I accept your admonition, Sir; I will try to ignore them, but members opposite are trying to be helpful. Today I received some newspaper cuttings concerning my trip overseas from the Agent-General in London, who has taken an interest in developments. I pay my respects to him for he is an efficient officer and helped me immensely during my trip abroad. Of course, we asked him to make intricate arrangements for my trip, and they were made efficiently. He was present during possibly 50 per cent of the interviews and joined in the discussions, and I very much appreciated the assistance from him and his staff.

It is interesting to read some of the reports he sent back about my trip. Yesterday I again received evidence of what I regard as the real value of these trips: they make contacts possible not only with industrialists but also with financiers, private enterprise and the business community generally. It may embarrass some members opposite if I read some of these reports. I stress that I did not make the statement I am about to quote; one report, dated July 1, 1968 states:

The Prime Minister of South Australia arrived in London by air today from Sydney for a fortnight's visit to industrial groups.

These reports provide an impressive public record of some of the interviews we had; some were with industrialists and some with smaller distribution firms, but they reflect the necessity to maintain and widen these contacts. There was an occasional mistake: I think I was twice referred to as the Prime Minister of South Australia. Although this is a somewhat humorous sidelight to these reports, they are

an important and impressive record of the necessity to maintain these contacts. We have also received further copies of public statements made in the United States of America and in Holland. I again say that, whilst the Government does send (and all Governments send) experts overseas to conduct research in their fields, it is also necessary to ensure that the people in Government are experienced in oversea techniques and in the latest oversea progress. This applies regardless of who is sitting on the Ministerial benches: they must maintain these contacts. I again congratulate the members who have spoken in this House

for the first time and I hope that the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply will have a speedy passage.

Motion carried.

The SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor has intimated that he will be pleased to receive members for the presentation of the Address in Reply at Government House on Thursday, August 1, at 2.10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.10 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, August 1, at 2 p.m.