

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, August 1, 1968

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

## ADDRESS IN REPLY

The SPEAKER: I now invite the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply and other honourable members of the House of Assembly to accompany me to present the Address in Reply to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

At 2.2 p.m. the Speaker and members proceeded to Government House. They returned at 2.19 p.m.

The SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that, accompanied by the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Lieutenant-Governor's Opening Speech, together with several other members, I proceeded to Government House and there presented to His Excellency the Address adopted by this House on July 31, to which His Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:

I thank you for your Address in Reply to the Speech with which I opened the second session of the thirty-ninth Parliament. I am confident that you will give your best attention to all matters placed before you. I pray for God's blessing upon your deliberations.

## DEATH OF QUEENSLAND PREMIER

The SPEAKER: It is with sorrow and regret that I refer to the passing of the Premier of Queensland (Hon. J. C. A. Pizzey). I had known Mr. Pizzey and met him several times, and I thought that he was on the eve of making a great contribution to the political and public life and welfare of Queensland. It was with great regret and shock that I learned this morning of his passing at such an early age. Members may wish to express their sympathy at his passing.

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier): I join with you, Sir, in expressing my sympathy to the relatives and friends of the late Mr. Pizzey, and I am sure that his friends were numbered on both sides of politics in Queensland. I had not known Mr. Pizzey for long, but I became acquainted with him at the Premiers' Conference and at the Loan Council meeting recently held in Canberra. Mr. Pizzey was a worthy member of that conference and a worthy representative of

his State. I join with you, Mr. Speaker, in expressing my extreme regret at his passing so soon after assuming the office of Premier of Queensland.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): The demands of public life are considerable. Mr. Pizzey had given many years of service to his State, but he was not an old man. That he should have been so suddenly taken when he was at the commencement of his Premiership must be a sad blow not only to his family and his colleagues but also to the whole of Queensland. He was a man of energy and personal integrity, and I am sure that everyone who knew him must have been shocked and saddened at his passing.

The SPEAKER: I think it would be fitting if honourable members stood in silence for one minute to honour the memory of the late gentleman.

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Premier of Queensland.

## QUESTIONS

## GOVERNMENT'S DESCRIPTION

Mr. JENNINGS: Yesterday, I listened with rapt attention to the member for Stirling, whose political perspicacity I have always greatly appreciated. I was rewarded by hearing the honourable member refer to the present Government as "the most enervated Government we have ever had in South Australia". Does the Premier agree (as I certainly do) that this is an accurate description of his Government? To enable the Premier to answer the question and to avoid embarrassing him I quote the *Oxford Dictionary* definition of the word "enervated": it is "wanting in physical, moral, literary, artistic vigour".

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The member for Enfield has often fully expressed himself in this House and if he needs the assistance of the dictionary he should make use of it. If he watches the results of the Government's actions—

Mr. Jennings: Do you agree with the member for Stirling?

The Hon. R. S. HALL:—he will, of course, be quite taken with them and impressed by its record within a few months.

## WATER RATES

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: My question relates to charges for excess water and how they affect market gardeners. Representations

have been made to me on this matter by market gardeners in the Barossa Valley. I realize that questions on this matter were asked yesterday and that the Minister of Works undertook to investigate the position regarding the districts referred to. No doubt the Minister knows that the Barossa Valley, out of its cornucopia, provides many of the most delectable wines and also a large proportion of the choicest vegetables, particularly carrots and cauliflowers, consumed in the metropolitan area. As I understand that the increased charges for excess water could adversely affect production in the Barossa Valley, will the Minister take into account what effect this increase will have on market gardeners in the Barossa Valley as well as on people in the other parts of the State referred to yesterday?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I will do as the honourable member requests.

#### MILLICENT SEWERAGE

Mr. CORCORAN: As the Minister of Works knows, the installation of a sewerage system is presently proceeding at Millicent. It has been brought to my notice that some people have received notices to pay certain rates in this respect although, to my knowledge, no house in Millicent has yet been connected to the scheme. Certainly the people who have complained to me have not yet had their houses connected. As I understand that a regulation is involved, will the Minister investigate the matter and bring down a report for me?

The SPEAKER: Order! Before the Minister replies, I am able to give members a rather more joyous message. I am sure honourable members would like me to congratulate the member for Millicent on another addition to his family—a delightful daughter, who will carry on the great name of Corcoran. I wish the honourable member good luck and offer him my congratulations.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Corcoran: Thank you.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I shall now be even more delighted to accede to the honourable member's request and to obtain for him as speedily as I can the information he has requested.

#### BERRI CHANNEL

Mr. ARNOLD: The Greek Orthodox Church at Berri is surrounded on three sides by a departmental main channel, which represents

a real hazard for children and parents attending the church. Will the Minister of Irrigation see whether the channel can be covered or this short section of it replaced with pipes?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will look into the matter and let the honourable member know the outcome.

#### SHOWGROUND FARES

Mr. RYAN: One of my constituents recently told me about an anomaly existing in railway fares from suburban stations to the showgrounds at Royal Show time. This constituent raised the problem with me some time ago and again brought it to my attention, hoping that it could be overcome before this year's show opens on September 6. I shall give an example of this anomaly. A person living at Kilkenny wanting to go to the show could obtain a return ticket from Kilkenny to either Keswick or Goodwood for 42c. That person would change trains at the Adelaide railway station, simply walking from one platform to another. However, if a person bought a return ticket from Kilkenny to Adelaide and another return ticket from Adelaide to the showgrounds, the cost would be only 34c. As the same journey is involved in both cases and as the difference in fares is 8c, will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Transport to see whether this anomaly can be removed so that people may be attracted to use rail transport to this year's show?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will ask my colleague to look into the matter.

#### UNDERGROUND WATER

Mr. GILES: I believe that all new members on this side have, in their Address in Reply speeches, referred to the subject of water. This morning's *Advertiser* contains a report dealing with underground water supplies on plains north of Adelaide. As our water supplies are not inexhaustible, will the Minister of Works examine the possibility of controlling the natural overflow from certain bores in order to prevent water from being wasted?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: As this is a rather interesting suggestion, I shall be delighted to look into it for the honourable member.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Mr. VIRGO: I understand that a few months ago a legal opinion was obtained from the Crown Solicitor's Department in relation

to postal voting at local government elections. Will the Attorney-General supply a copy of the opinion to the House, together with any subsequent opinion or direction that may have been issued on this matter?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I remember something of that matter, but not the details. I will look into it with a view to acceding to the honourable member's request.

#### ROAD FINANCE

Mr. FERGUSON: I am sure that all members appreciate the brochure that has been issued by the Minister of Roads, setting out the schedule of proposed works for the financial year ending June 30, 1969. In the last column of the schedule it is stated that district councils' contributions will be 5 per cent, 10 per cent, 20 per cent, or more. Will the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads, ask his colleague on what basis district councils' contributions are assessed?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I agree with the honourable member that the circulation of the information in the brochure is a notable advance which many members have been seeking for a long time, and I hope that the brochure will be of interest and value to every member, particularly with regard to his own district. I will seek the information the honourable member desires.

#### RAILWAY WORKS

Mr. McKEE: Has the Attorney-General a reply to the question I asked on July 25 concerning progress of work on the standard gauge line and the overpass at the Port Pirie-Solomontown junction?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: No.

#### NARRIDY SCHOOL

Mr. VENNING: Has the Minister of Education an answer to the question I asked yesterday regarding the Narridy school?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The closed Narridy school building is no longer required for departmental purposes and approval was given on April 19, 1968, for steps to be taken to dispose of it. The Public Buildings Department has been asked to provide a report and valuation on the improvements on the site, following which the Director of Lands will invite public tenders for the purchase of the property in the normal manner. Any local person interested in purchasing the building should then indicate his interest to the Director of Lands.

#### PARINGA PARK SCHOOL

Mr. HUDSON: My question concerns the land bought by the Education Department for the ultimate rebuilding of Paringa Park Primary School. This land comprises 7½ acres and at present many houses have backyards that are adjacent to the land. In reply to my question yesterday, the Minister said that approval had been given for Mr. R. F. Hamilton to lease this area of vineyard land from March 31, 1968, to June 30, 1969. There are advantages to the department as a result of this as the payment of rates will be avoided. In this district there is a considerable shortage of land for playing areas, and this piece of land, although not wanted for school-building purposes, would be absolutely ideal for playing areas and ovals, particularly if suitable arrangements could be made with the Brighton council which might well involve the avoidance of the payment of rates for the maintenance or joint maintenance of the area. If the rebuilding of this school is to be delayed for some years, then it would seem worthy of consideration that this land, when the lease has expired, should be converted to oval and playing area space. When the school is built in five or six years' time (or whenever it is built), the playing areas already established would benefit the school and only part of the playing area established would be occupied by school buildings. Will the Minister consider the possible development of this area for use as a playing area and for the establishment of ovals that could be used both by schools and by other local bodies, and will she investigate the matter with a view to approaching the Brighton council to see what arrangements can be made with the council for a joint scheme involving the council and the Education Department?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: This land has been leased for only a short period (from March, 1968, to June, 1969) and inherent in this is the uncertainty when work will proceed on the Paringa Park Primary School. However, I appreciate that the honourable member has raised this aspect of the project and I will call for a further report on it.

#### CITY ROBBERY

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Can the Attorney-General give the House any additional information on the serious robbery that occurred in Adelaide this morning?

The SPEAKER: The Attorney realizes that the robbery may result in a prosecution?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes, I realize that. Also realizing that this is a matter that is likely to be of great interest to members and to the public of South Australia, I have spoken to the Deputy Police Commissioner about it so that I could, if I were asked a question, give information to the House. I regret that the information I shall give is only sketchy at this stage, but that is because the robbery took place only this morning, at about 9.30. An employee of the Metropolitan Security Service was going into the Prudential Building, on the corner of North Terrace and Gawler Place, and was going to the sixth floor, I think, to one of the Commonwealth departments located in the building. He had with him a bag containing \$17,500. He got into the lift in the building, and, when he entered there were three men in the lift. I gather that before the door was closed a woman came over to the lift and asked about the location of some doctors' rooms in the building, and he gave her some directions and then turned and pressed the button for the sixth floor. He was then apparently hit over the head from behind and was later found unconscious in the lift. The bag, as one might expect, had disappeared. The police are trying to get in touch with the woman who made the inquiry, because they hope she may be able to describe the men who were in the lift. I am assured, as all members would readily accept, that the police are doing everything in their power to trace the men who are wanted in connection with this matter, and we can only hope that they will be successful.

#### TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Mr. HURST: My question refers to the installation of traffic signals at major suburban intersections. I have received complaints from the Woodville City Council regarding the many intersections at which it considers that signals should be provided. I understand that other municipalities encounter similar trouble, which I believe is a result of insufficient allocation of funds to enable this type of work to proceed. In view of the necessity of providing adequate safety measures to protect the general public will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads to consider making available more money to enable this desirable work to proceed more expeditiously?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

#### BRIDGE AT MURRAY BRIDGE

Mr. WARDLE: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads, a reply to my question about the proposed new bridge at Murray Bridge?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Minister of Roads reports that a site for the new traffic bridge at Murray Bridge has not yet been selected. Investigation of various alternative overall schemes and the determination of foundation conditions at possible river crossings are proceeding.

#### CLOVERCREST SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question about the Clovercrest Primary School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Evidence on the proposal for a new primary school at Clovercrest was presented to the Public Works Committee on March 12 of this year. Problems have arisen concerning road development in the vicinity of the site and possible effects on the school itself. It is expected that these developments will be included in the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study which, as the honourable member knows, has not yet been released. It is understood that the Public Works Committee's report is being held up pending the release of the transport study.

#### THEVENARD HARBOUR

Mr. EDWARDS: Can the Minister of Works say when the work of deepening the Thevenard shipping channel, approved by the Public Works Committee, will commence?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I will obtain an up-to-date report for the honourable member.

#### SULTANA VINES

Mr. CASEY: I was delighted to read in the *Advertiser* of June 24 that there was new hope for sultana vines. Some time before that date, according to the report, a Mr. Sauer, of the Merbein division of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, had discovered a type of vine that was resistant to nematodes. This discovery will be of enormous benefit to the sultana winegrape industry in South Australia particularly, where these grapes are being used more and more every year in the production of light wine: more particularly, this particular strain is very resistant to saline conditions. I consider that one of the best stimuli that agriculture, horticulture or viticulture can receive is a means of increasing yields, whether the product be wheat, barley, oats, or any other crop. In view of this great discovery, will the Minister of Lands obtain from the Minister of Agriculture information about the local demand for the root stocks

of this vine and about the steps the department intends to take to meet that demand?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I cannot comment now, but I will get a report from the Minister.

#### BURRA ROAD

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Attorney-General received from the Minister of Roads a reply to my question of July 24 about money being made available for work on the road from Burra to Lochiel?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Minister of Roads states that the schedule of proposed works contains provision for work to continue on the Burra-Lochiel Main Road No. 46 in the current financial year. The funds available will not be sufficient to complete the project, but it should be possible to seal a length of three to four miles.

#### METROPOLITAN DRAINAGE

Mr. LANGLEY: For many years this House has discussed drainage schemes for the metropolitan area, and during the last three years the Metropolitan Drainage Board has been formed. Since being formed, the board has met councils from various suburban areas and also representatives from the Engineering and Water Supply and Highways Departments to discuss an overall drainage plan for suburban areas. Several sections of my district need drainage, and much damage has been caused to houses in these areas. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Local Government whether a final decision has been reached between the councils and the Government departments about metropolitan drainage and, if it has been, will he obtain a report on the overall plan and the work that is intended to be done?

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

#### WHYALLA HOUSING

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Recently, the Minister of Housing, in reply to my question about the rate of house building at Whyalla by the Housing Trust, said that the trust was at present holding 643 applications for rental houses and 101 sale applications, that the trust had built 520 houses in Whyalla during 1967-68, and that at June 30, 1968, 546 houses were in the course of erection. At present, the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited is still demanding more labour for its programme on the pellet plant, the coke plant, and the increased production of steel.

Undoubtedly, the company is being hampered in obtaining this additional labour because of the waiting time for houses, which has recently increased to 12 months for both rental and purchase houses. As I explained recently to the Minister, a tremendous congestion has occurred at the caravan park, where there are 159 caravans, some tents, and some motor cars on a park designed to hold 158 caravans. Families of two adults and five or six children reside in some caravans, and probably more than 600 people are living on that caravan park site. In addition, there is a doubling up of families in some houses, and caravans are being placed on residential allotments in the town. Obviously, the supply of houses is not keeping pace with the demand. As reduced unemployment and increased production are necessary for the State and for this important centre, will the Minister of Housing inquire whether the rate of building of houses at Whyalla by the Housing Trust can be increased?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The short answer is that I shall be pleased to do that. However, I am pleased the honourable member gave me further details, although an investigation would have been made in any case. The honourable member gave me a note, the details of which are very much as he has recited them. However, one or two matters need considering. First, it would be essential for the General Manager of the Housing Trust to confer with the company about the future requirements of the company. I do not know whether the rate of increase of activity at Whyalla is likely to continue at the present tempo but, no doubt, the company could inform the trust about this. Secondly, I know from what the honourable member has told me that the caravan park is almost certainly more than full, but I understood from his earlier comment to me that not all people residing there at present were applicants for houses. However, I thank him for the information he has given, and I shall be pleased to accede to his request to have this matter examined.

#### KULPARA SCHOOL

Mr. HUGHES: On Monday last the President of the South Australian Institute of Teachers visited my home and spoke to me about the dangerous and disgusting condition of the teacher's residence that is attached to the school at Kulpara. I have been informed by the secretary of the school committee that the residence has been condemned.

The secretary telephoned my home on Tuesday last and again on Wednesday morning concerning my intended visit to the school on that day to inspect the building. When I arrived I was met by the secretary of the school committee and the relieving teacher. The head teacher in charge of the school was in Adelaide for family reasons. However, the schoolhouse, because of its condition, has not been occupied by the present head teacher, who has been travelling back and forth to Adelaide each weekend to be with his family. I inspected the residence and can appreciate why it has not been occupied, and why it has been condemned. Every room in the house is badly cracked, and the foundations have dropped so badly in the front that it has been necessary to saw off the top of one door to allow it to open and shut. If any of the iron rods through the wall were to break sections of the house would collapse. One wall of the schoolroom is the dividing wall between the school and the residence and part of this wall is in danger of collapsing, which could cause injury to students. As there is ample room on the property to build a new residence and schoolroom will the Minister of Education treat my request as urgent, and investigate whether a new Samcon school can be erected, with a new residence for the head teacher?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will get a report on this matter, but it would seem from the extent of the damage described by the honourable member that these conditions must have existed for a long time, and I am surprised that the previous Government did not do anything about the matter.

#### WALLAROO ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE

Mr. HUGHES: First, I assure the Minister of Education that I never ask a question in this House about schools unless I have first been contacted by a member of a school committee. Therefore, I very much regret that the Minister saw fit to ridicule the parents of children who attend the primary school at Kulpara.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member cannot debate the matter. He must now ask his question.

Mr. HUGHES: During the latter part of the Labor Government's term of office it was responsible for building an adult education centre at Wallaroo. However, the furniture requisitioned for the building has not been made available. To enable the Minister to expedite her inquiries, I shall provide the

following information: A requisition (No. C21913) was issued from the Yorke Peninsula Adult Education Centre Council on February 12, 1968, for four dressmaking tables, 20 chairs (No. 424), and two teachers' tables. A purchase order (No. 49408) was issued by the Education Department to the Public Buildings Department on February 28, 1968, for these items. A stores delay advice note regarding the chairs was forwarded to the Yorke Peninsula Adult Education Centre Council on April 16, 1968. A letter from the council written to the Education Department on June 3, 1968, expressed the concern of the council at the delay. A reply dated June 14 asked for requisition and purchase order numbers, which were forwarded on June 20. Verbal advice was received at the end of June to the effect that the furniture would be available within two weeks. However, to date no furniture has been received, and, until it is received, it is not possible for the centre to be used. Sewing machines are available from the Yorke Peninsula centre and inquiries have been received which would justify commencing at least two dressmaking classes. Will the Minister take steps to have this furniture made available to enable the centre to commence its classes for which there are ample enrolments?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will inquire into the matter for the honourable member.

#### BANKSIA PARK WATER SUPPLY

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question regarding the quality of the Banksia Park water supply?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: Since the Millbrook reservoir filled in mid-June, water in the Banksia Park area has been fed from that source and not from the Mannum main, as previously. Unfortunately, as a result of fairly rapid filling of the reservoir the water has been discoloured. In addition, during this period there have been several alterations to the distribution system in the Tea Tree Gully area to enable service tanks to be cleaned. This has in itself resulted in the flow in some mains being in the opposite direction to usual, and in these circumstances further discolouration of the water took place. Several householders were contacted during an inspection of the area on July 30, and the people interviewed stated that they had not made any complaint to the Kent Town office. There has been no record of any complaints from this area during this period. I suggest that the member advise those constituents

complaining to her in future regarding dirty water that they contact the Kent Town office (telephone No. 23 4622) to enable an immediate investigation to be made and, if necessary, local flushing of the mains carried out.

#### PENOLA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on June 26 concerning the expansion programme of the Electricity Trust in the Penola and Naracoorte districts?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: Since the Electricity Trust took over electricity supply in Penola on July 1, 1967, a transmission line has been built to Coonawarra and a substation constructed there. Residents in the areas around Penola and Coonawarra will shortly be offered a quotation for power supply and, if this is accepted, the work will be carried out in this financial year. This is in accordance with the promise made to the district council when trust supply at Penola was originally under consideration. Further groups of prospective consumers in the hundreds of Comaum, Penola, Monbulla and Kiilanoola will be offered an electricity supply in subsequent financial years, and the whole district is expected to be supplied by 1972. This also is in line with promises previously made. The work will be speeded up if at all possible, but priorities cannot be advanced without detriment to work elsewhere in the State. As the trust has existing depots at Mount Gambier, Millicent and Naracoorte, it would not be economical at this stage to establish a new depot at Penola. Electricity Trust service in Penola is provided from the Mount Gambier district depot, supplemented by a resident attendant in Penola. The trust has not received any complaints regarding its service to consumers in Penola.

#### MILLICENT HOUSING

Mr. CORCORAN: Can the Minister of Housing say whether any rent increase is likely for Housing Trust houses in Millicent as a result of their being connected to the sewerage system now being installed?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

#### ABORIGINAL RESERVES

Mr. EDWARDS: Can the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs say whether the Government will investigate the running expenses and management of Aboriginal reserves?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: This matter will become public at the time of the introduction of the Budget, which, I think, will give the honourable member sufficient information.

#### INSTITUTE COMMITTEES

Mr. HURST: Institute committees in my district have advised me of the difficulties they are encountering in maintaining a good service to the district. Increases in the cost of books and in the cost of maintenance and repair of buildings place institute committees at a considerable disadvantage in maintaining a standard equal to that of those libraries whose costs are met by the Government. Will the Minister of Education consider increasing the subsidy for books allotted to these committees and will she consider subsidizing amounts spent on the maintenance and repair of institute buildings?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: This matter will be considered, I hope sympathetically, and I will bring down a reply as soon as possible.

#### BOOLEROO CENTRE ROAD

Mr. VENNING: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads a reply to my recent question regarding the road from Murray Town to Booleroo Centre, particularly the section near Magnus Hill?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Minister of Roads reports that funds are available to continue construction of the Murray Town to Pekina Main Road No. 155 towards Booleroo Centre. It should be possible substantially to complete the project in the present financial year. A crushing contract is being arranged at Magnus Hill, and the excavation so created will form part of the ultimate road formation.

#### CONTAINERIZATION

Mr. RYAN: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Transport a reply to my question concerning the freight to be charged on imports and exports shipped in containers?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Minister of Transport reports:

Railways departments have been in discussions with the shipping industry only in connection with the movement of containers between the rail terminal at Port Adelaide and the rail terminal in Melbourne; they have not been consulted in connection with the overall freight rate on a door-to-door basis. This is a matter for the shipping industry, but it is understood that the door-to-door rate is not affected.

## ROAD TRAFFIC ACT

Mr. ARNOLD: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads a reply to the question I asked recently concerning the anomaly in the Road Traffic Act regarding the length of vehicles?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Minister of Roads reports that there is no anomaly in South Australian law relating to the length of vehicles. Despite the legal length of 66ft. prescribed in the Road Traffic Act, there are few vehicles or vehicle combinations in normal operation that approach this length. Such vehicles are largely unmanageable and cannot operate in other States in Australia where the legal length limits are considerably less than those of South Australia. In view of the infrequency of these very long vehicles, the "stockyard" enclosure on South Australian ferries has been fixed at 58ft. There is no legal limitation of 60ft. for ferry operation. There is, however, a provision in all council ferry leases that the gates of the ferry shall be securely closed and fastened with safety chains during the crossing of the river.

## BUILDING INDUSTRY

Mr. BROOMHILL: Yesterday I referred to the poor situation of the building industry in this State, and I offered a suggestion to the Minister of Housing. In reply, the Minister referred me to a recent publication by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics of figures concerning the building industry. Having taken the opportunity this morning to look at that publication, I noted under the heading of "Comment" the following remarks:

During the three months ended June, 1968, the number of houses and flats approved for private owners totalled 1,646 (119 less than the 1,765 approved during the three months ended June, 1967). The value of other new buildings approved (private and Government combined) was \$14,767,000 (\$4,459,000 less than for the three months ended June, 1967). The value of all buildings and alterations approved was \$35,556,000 (\$2,618,000 less than for the three months ended June, 1967).

I should think that when examining this situation we would properly compare the three months of this year with the corresponding three months of last year. As the Minister of Housing said yesterday in his reply that he agreed that there had not been a significant upward trend in the building industry, would he

now care to correct that statement or at least agree that there has been a significant downward trend?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: No, I would not agree with the honourable member. I referred him yesterday to the analysis of buildings approved under table No. 2 of the statement from which he has just quoted, and I said that there had been increases in certain categories into which approvals were bracketed. I was well aware, at that time, of the comment on the front page of the publication but, as the bureau always takes care to point out, the figures are tentative and not necessarily a conclusive analysis of trends. I took what I thought was the more reliable factor, and that was the six-month period for the first half of this calendar year. That is what I quoted (and quoted correctly, as I think the honourable member will agree). I do not suggest (nor did I suggest yesterday) that I am at all happy about the situation in the building industry: I agree that it is not as good as any of us would like it to be. If we can reach agreement on that point, I am quite happy. I accept the fact that what the honourable member has quoted is contained in the publication, and I was aware of it at the time. However, I preferred, for the purposes of a long-term review, to take the figures that I used.

Mr. HUDSON: In order to explain my question, I should like to refer to the Minister's previous answer.

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

Mr. HUDSON: Yes, Sir. I should like to refer to the Minister's previous answer, in which he said he regarded the six-month trend as more reliable. The figures of the Bureau of Census and Statistics show quite clearly that, although, for example, total approvals over the six-month period January to June, 1967, increased from \$55,720,000 to \$73,676,000 for January to June, 1968, for the three-month period April to June, 1967, compared with April to June, 1968, there was a decline in total approvals from \$34,301,000 to \$31,528,000. This decline over the three-month period included private houses, hotels, hostels, shops, office premises, and other buildings. I think we agree that the situation is disturbing. Will the Minister of Housing therefore say what action the Government intends to take in this matter and whether he has any policy in mind that he believes will quickly rectify the position?



The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The figures quoted by the honourable member are quoted from a statistical document, and I do not dispute them in any way. I repeat, however, that in all its publications the bureau is careful to say that its figures are tentative. Indeed, one can go through each publication, take figures from it, total them up, and perhaps prove any sort of case. The figures I quoted were correct in the context in which I quoted them. The main purport of the honourable member's question is whether the Government has a policy and what steps it proposes to take. The answer is, "Yes, we do have a policy." It is not a policy that is expected to have a short-term or immediate result. The only way we can overcome the problems of the building industry, particularly of the house-building industry, is to create a demand for housing which presently does not exist to the same extent in this State as it did five or six years ago. It is useless and, indeed, senseless just to start building houses for which there are not people with sufficient income to apply or demand. The policy of the Government is to start at the proper end of this problem and endeavour to recover some of the economic momentum we once had, and therefore to improve the employment situation and the migrant intake to this State so that we will have people with money in their pockets who want houses and who will be able to afford to have them.

Mr. HUDSON: I direct my question to the Minister of Housing and want to refer particularly to table No. 1 of the Bureau of Census and Statistics figures, where it is shown that the number of private houses and flats approved for the period January to June, 1968, was 3,165, an increase of 27 over the number for the six months January to June, 1967. However, if we take it a little further and look at the first three months and the last three months of that period, we find that for the period January to March, 1968, approvals for private houses and flats were 1,519, an increase of 146 on the comparable period of the previous year, while for the period April to June, 1968 (after the new Government came into power) private house and flat approvals declined by 119. It seems that the trend is reversed. In view of the disturbing figures which show that over the last three months there has been a reversal of the trend in private house and flat approvals, can the Minister say what specific steps he has taken, as Minister of Housing, in

this matter and what other specific steps he will consider in order to try to reverse the situation?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have already answered the honourable member on this question in the broadest sense and, if the honourable member or any person associated or not associated with industry can offer me any advice or assistance in this matter, I will gladly listen to that advice and accept such assistance; but I have told the honourable member what the Government is trying to do and have nothing further to add to that at the moment.

#### PICCADILLY WATER SUPPLY

Mr. GILES: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the Piccadilly water supply?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: As far as I am aware, no promises have been made that a water supply will be provided for the Piccadilly area. Late in 1967, a number of landholders, with properties spread over a large area in the vicinity of Piccadilly, petitioned for a water supply for their land. A plan has been prepared showing petitioners' properties, and a water supply scheme is being prepared and is nearing completion. When the water supply scheme is complete, estimates of cost and revenue estimates will be prepared. As most of the land is outside existing water districts, it will be necessary to make individual assessments of the properties that abut the routes of the proposed mains, and such assessments may take a considerable time to complete. A favourable recommendation for schemes of this nature usually depends upon the revenue that will accrue in relation to the cost of the work and the availability of funds to carry out the work.

#### TARCOOLA SCHOOL

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the supply of water to the Tarcoola school?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: It is intended to call tenders within two weeks for this water supply system. The work includes a pressure unit, a 450-gallon tank, and associated distribution pipework. The supply and installation of two evaporative coolers has also been included in the scheme. Following the closing of tenders, and subject to a satisfactory tender being

received, arrangements will be made to have the work carried out at the earliest possible date.

#### COUNTRY SEWERAGE

Mr. WARDLE: Can the Minister of Works say when sewerage installations will be completed in the township of Mannum? Further, can he say whether, following the completion of that work, the sewerage programme for the corporate town of Murray Bridge will proceed? If it will not, will he say when the installation of sewerage in Murray Bridge is likely to commence?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: Having discussed this matter earlier this week with the Engineer for Sewerage, I know that the work in the town of Mannum is well on the way, and it is expected that work will commence in Murray Bridge as soon as possible. However, I shall obtain precise information on the progress of this work and the expected date of commencement for the Murray Bridge scheme, and I will notify the honourable member next week.

#### WAYVILLE INTERSECTION

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Minister of Roads concerning the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Goodwood and Greenhill Roads?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: No, I do not seem to have a reply to that question, but I have the reply to another question which the honourable member asked me:

The SPEAKER: Order! If it is not related to the present question asked by the honourable member, it is out of order.

#### MODBURY INTERSECTION

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads a reply to a question I asked last week concerning a dangerous intersection at Modbury?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Minister of Roads advises that the Highways Department has no plans for work on the intersection of Kelly Road and Montague Road. Both roads are district roads under the care and control of the City of Tea Tree Gully, and the initiation of any work is the responsibility of that body. In view of the growing use of these roads, the Highways

Department has assisted and is assisting in stage development. The department is prepared to advise the corporation on the signing and treatment of the intersection.

#### SITTINGS

Mr. RYAN: In view of the likely private commitments of members next week, can the Premier indicate the likely sittings, particularly the evening sittings?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member is possibly referring to the reception to be given to delegates of the soils conference next Wednesday night. I think honourable members would desire to attend this important conference. Therefore, with the co-operation of the House, the Government intends not to sit on Wednesday night so as to allow members to attend this reception to delegates of what is possibly one of the most important conferences to be held in this State.

#### LANGHORNE CREEK WATER SUPPLY

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question concerning the Langhorne Creek water scheme?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: At present the investigation into a supply for Langhorne Creek is concentrated on whether there should be a supply to the town only from underground sources or whether the township should be supplied by an extension of the Milang-Strathalbyn scheme through an appreciable length of farm lands to the town. A report on this scheme should be available in three weeks' time.

#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. CORCORAN: In his reply to the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson), the Minister of Housing said that one of the steps the Government would take to boost the building industry would be to step up the intake of migrants to this State. Can the Minister of Immigration say what steps are being taken by his department to achieve this?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have had several discussions with immigration officers on this matter. Also, the Premier, before he left for overseas, discussed the problem again with them. He also had discussions on this subject while he was overseas. I could not outline any specific actions that are now being

taken. However, as the honourable member already knows, the capital requirements for migrants to this State were reduced recently, I think late last year. Apart from that, I have nothing specific to report. However, after I have discussed with the Premier the possible outcome of his talks in London, I will bring down a more detailed report for the honourable member.

#### RAIL SERVICES

Mr. FREEBAIRN: On July 23 I sought information from the Minister of Transport on the running costs of the Eudunda-Adelaide and the Kapunda-Adelaide passenger rail services and the annual revenue from those services. Has the Attorney-General yet received that report from his colleague?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Based on full costs, the expenditure in operating the Eudunda and Kapunda passenger services amounts to \$306,000 a year, and the revenue derived is \$32,000. The estimated savings that would be effected if these two services were converted to co-ordinated road-rail would be \$92,000.

#### WARNING LIGHTS

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Attorney-General a reply to the question I asked recently concerning flashing lights on motor vehicles?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Minister of Roads advises that the new regulations under the Road Traffic Act covering flashing light turning indicators were published in the *Government Gazette* on July 25. The regulations are to come into force on October 1.

#### ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding the proposed seminar for teachers of Aboriginal children?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Planning commenced some weeks ago in connection with a conference to be held at the Raywood Inservice Centre from September 8 to September 13 this year for teachers of Aboriginal children. Teachers from Aboriginal schools, as well as teachers who may be interested in work with the Aborigines, have been invited to attend. Twenty-one teachers from the South Australian Education Department have already been

accepted, and it is expected that applications will be received and approved from teachers in the Northern Territory, Victoria and Western Australia. Topics to be discussed include the Australian Aboriginal, new mathematics, the teaching of English in Aboriginal schools, art and craft, music, and social studies.

#### ORROROO WATER SUPPLY

Mr. VENNING: At present the Orroroo water supply is in the hands of the local council. Much discussion has taken place regarding the likely future water supply and the likely authority to handle the reticulation. I understand that the Engineering and Water Supply Department intends to take over the scheme from the Orroroo council at the end of the year. Can the Minister of Works say whether this is to be the case?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I will obtain the information requested by the honourable member and give it to him as soon as I can.

#### WILD DOGS

Mr. CASEY: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to the question I asked yesterday about an increase in the dog scalp bounty?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I discussed with the Chairman of the Pastoral Board this morning the possibility of increasing the dog scalp bounty. The member for Gawler will be interested in what I am about to say, because he sometimes says that I am not in favour of uniformity. However, this is one of those cases where uniformity between the States, if it is not essential, is golden because, without a uniform bounty, administrative arrangements would be considerably dislocated and, for obvious reasons, in some cases our people would probably be paying for dogs belonging to other people. That is one big problem that has to be solved before any increase is considered. A further point is that the rates levied on the lessees may have to be reviewed before the fee can be confidently increased. Again, there is a need for further thought to be given to the matter. In these circumstances, I will ask the Pastoral Board to investigate the matter completely; therefore, it may be some time before a final answer can be given. I will set in train some form of consideration to see whether an increase is wise or can be justified.

### COTTAGE FLATS

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Housing a reply to my question of July 24 concerning the erection of cottage flats in the Modbury and Tea Tree Gully area?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have discussed this matter with the General Manager of the Housing Trust and he has informed me that the trust, when preparing plans for subdivision, makes provision for the subsequent building of cottage flats for age pensioners, and has done so in the Holden Hill and Strathmont areas. Because of the heavy subsidy necessary to meet repayments on an economic basis, the trust's programme is limited, but consideration will be given during periodic programming to the localities to which I have referred. At the recent Housing Ministers' Conference in Brisbane the matter of Commonwealth Government assistance to State Government instrumentalities by way of subsidy was raised. Of course, subsidies are available to private institutions to provide houses for aged people. A request was made to the Commonwealth Minister that the same principle of subsidy should be extended to the State instrumentalities, as in various ways they do the same work as private institutions. The matter was pressed by one or two of the State Ministers. I believe the Commonwealth Government will examine it, although so far it has not agreed to make any concrete proposals. Of course, one of the main objections was that the funds provided under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement were already supplied at a rate of interest 1 per cent lower than the normal rate applied to Loan funds: this in itself is alleged to be a Commonwealth subsidy. In fact, that is not so because much of the money advanced to the States in Loans comes directly out of Commonwealth taxation, which does not attract interest to the Commonwealth. Obviously this is a matter for debate and argument. However, I indicate to the House that this matter was raised at the Housing Ministers' Conference.

### PHYLLOXERA BOARD

Mr. HURST: Last year an amendment was made to the Phylloxera Act to increase the number of representatives on the Phylloxera Board. We are interested in the work of the board and mindful of the benefit it affords to primary producers in South Australia. Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture to inform me of the number of

meetings held by the board since its membership was increased? Also, can regular reports be made available to the House so that members will be familiar with the workings of the board?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I well remember the thoughtful contribution made by the honourable member last session when this matter was being discussed; no doubt the Minister of Agriculture also remembers it. I will ask my colleague for a report on the operations of the board, and bring it down as soon as possible.

### BRIGHTON ROAD

Mr. HUDSON: I understand that the Attorney-General has a reply from the Minister of Roads to a question I asked on July 23 about the reconstruction of Brighton Road.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Minister states that it is expected that work on Brighton Road will begin again in July, 1969. Reconstruction is proposed progressively northwards from Arthur Street to Jetty Road, over a period of three years.

### ELECTORAL DISTRICTS (REDIVISION) BILL

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by message, recommended the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to provide for the appointment of a commission to make, and report upon, a division of the State into proposed electoral districts, and for purposes consequent thereon or incidental thereto. Read a first time.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

In introducing it, I refer briefly to the long history surrounding the attempts to achieve electoral reform in South Australia. Despite the differences that have existed between the Australian Labor Party and the Liberal and Country League on this matter, there are, I think, several points on which we agree. One of them is the need for such reform. The urgency for it has grown as the years have passed. During the passage of these years the L.C.L. has emphasized the need for

special consideration of country areas. The A.L.P. has not in the past agreed with this attitude. Both Parties approached the last State election with policies for electoral reform which were, I think it is fair to say, major planks in their election platforms. The A.L.P. recommended a 56-member House of Assembly, with some possible weighting for country areas. The L.C.L. recommended a 45-seat House, with 25 members for the city and 20 for the country.

The L.C.L. won government. Since that time the A.L.P. has shifted ground on a number of occasions. Its first change recommended that there be four Assembly seats for each Commonwealth seat. Then it produced a Bill (around which there exists some controversy regarding its publication) which was not tied to the Commonwealth system. However, since the Commonwealth redistribution has been published, the Leader of the Opposition has stated that its plan to relate South Australia's redistribution to it would not allow enough weighting for country areas, and he has another scheme which he wishes to discuss. In the meantime, the L.C.L. maintained its stand that its plan was a fair and a just one. This was formulated after considering the distribution schemes existing in the other States of Australia, which provide significant weightings for country areas. In New South Wales the number of electors represented in various seats ranges from 18,000 to 33,000; in Victoria similar figures apply; in Queensland, 7,000 to 18,000; and in Western Australia, 5,000 to 13,000 (with four additional seats of 3,000 or under in that State).

In the statement I made in the House last week I assured the public of South Australia that the claims of the Opposition that we were doing nothing in this matter and that we were delaying it were unfounded. In fact, the Bill I introduce here today is being introduced on the 107th day after our assumption of office, which is seven days sooner than the 114 days the A.L.P. took to introduce its Bill after gaining office in 1965. The Government maintains that the matter of electoral reform must now be settled. It is, therefore, my intention to initiate this debate without heat, to bring in a Bill which does not arouse the controversies in this House that were associated with previous schemes proposed by the L.C.L. or A.L.P.

It is a Bill designed as a short cut to agreement. It is based, perhaps it is unnecessary for me to say, on a single-member system for the House of Assembly. Such were the

controversies that have been raised about this matter in the past that I am adopting the same principle as was adopted by the A.L.P. in its last published Bill of dealing only with the House of Assembly. The Bill is, therefore, concerned with the constitution of the House of Assembly, the election of whose members decides the type of Government that will govern South Australia.

The main object of this Bill is to provide for the constitution of a commission for the purpose of dividing the State into 47 proposed Assembly districts and adjusting the existing five Council districts in terms of those proposed Assembly districts, and for purposes consequential thereon and incidental thereto. As members are aware, the Government recognizes the urgent need for electoral reform in this State and has had this Bill prepared in order to secure for the people of this State a fairer and more equitable representation in Parliament than the law permits at present. As I explain the Bill in some detail, members will get a clearer picture of how it will achieve its objects.

Clause 2 sets out the arrangement of the Bill. Clause 3 contains the definitions. Clause 4 provides for the appointment and constitution of the electoral commission, which will consist of three commissioners, as provided in subclause (3). Subclause (4) makes provision for replacing with a new commissioner a commissioner who dies and for appointing a deputy to act for a commissioner who is unable to perform his duties as such. Subclause (6) provides for the appointment of a secretary to the commission. Subclause (8) provides for the termination of the commission. Clause 5 deals with meetings of the commission.

Subclause (2) provides for the chairman (who will be a judge of the Supreme Court) and one other commissioner to be a quorum for the transaction of business. Subclause (3) provides that a decision of the commission must be concurred in by the chairman and at least one other commissioner. Clause 6 applies the Royal Commissions Act, 1917, to the commission. Clause 7 provides that the metropolitan area is to be determined by the commission, but is to consist of the metropolitan planning area except such portions thereof, if any, as in the commission's opinion lie adjacent to the boundaries of that area and are likely, at the end of seven years after the Bill becomes law, to be substantially or predominantly used for the business of primary production. Clause 8 (1) sets out the other functions and duties of the commission, namely—

(a) the division of the metropolitan area and the country area into proposed Assembly districts and, if the commission thinks fit, the division of each or any of the proposed Assembly districts into proposed subdivisions; (b) the adjustment and definition of the areas of the five existing council districts in terms of the proposed Assembly districts; and (c) the preparation of its report.

Subclause (2) provides for the manner of determining the State quota. This is ascertained by dividing the number of Assembly electors in the State whose names appear on the electoral rolls by 47, which is to be the number of seats to be provided for in the House of Assembly. Subclause (3) provides the formula for determining the metropolitan quota which is the State quota plus 15 per cent of the State quota. Subclause (4) provides the formula for determining the number of proposed Assembly districts in the metropolitan area. This is determined by dividing the number of Assembly electors within the metropolitan area by the metropolitan quota. Subclause (5) provides that the number of proposed Assembly districts in the country area is to be the difference between 47 and the number of proposed Assembly districts in the metropolitan area.

Subclause (6) provides the formula for determining the country quota. This is determined by dividing the number of Assembly electors in the country area by the number of proposed Assembly districts in the country area. Subclause (7) allows a proposed Assembly district in the metropolitan area to have up to 10 per cent above or below the metropolitan quota of Assembly electors and a proposed Assembly district in the country area to have up to 15 per cent above or below the country quota of Assembly electors. Subclause (8) provides that, in adjusting and redefining the existing Council districts, the commission shall, as far as practicable, retain the existing boundaries of Council districts; but (a) where, in the commission's opinion, a Council district falls wholly or substantially within the metropolitan area, the boundaries of that district must be adjusted and redefined so as to incorporate those proposed Assembly districts within the metropolitan area which, in the commission's opinion, fall wholly or substantially within that Council district; and (b) such consequential adjustments are to be made to other Council districts as the commission thinks necessary to ensure that each Council district consists of two or more whole proposed Assembly districts.

Clause 9 (1) provides that the commission— (a) shall have regard to the several matters set out in subparagraphs (i) to (iv) of paragraph (a) of the subclause; and (b) may have regard to the matters set out in subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of paragraph (b) of the subclause. Subclause (2) requires the commission to ensure as far as possible and expedient that the whole of any city, town or township is included in a proposed Assembly district in the country area. Clause 10 deals with representations to the commission and confers on the commission power to hear and consider evidence, information and arguments submitted to the commission in support of any representations. Clause 11 requires the commission to present its report to the Governor and to furnish a copy to the President of the Legislative Council and a copy to the Speaker of the House of Assembly, who are required to lay those copies on the tables of those respective Chambers. Clause 12 is a usual financial provision.

In concluding, I refer again to the proposed size of the Assembly—47 members. This is two more than in the previous L.C.L. proposal, and one fewer than in the A.L.P. proposal. The Government firmly believes there must be an uneven number of members in the House, to prevent deadlocks in the future. It is well known that neither Party has sufficient members in this House to obtain the absolute majority to amend the Constitution Act. In these circumstances, the Government is putting forward a proposal that it believes will solve this electoral problem.

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

#### HOMES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Homes Act, 1941-1962. Read a first time.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

The Homes Act was originally enacted in 1941. It empowers the Treasurer to give guarantees to certain approved institutions to enable loans to be made to a higher percentage of valuation than would normally be available. Normal procedures of lenders restrict loans to 70 per cent of valuation but institutions operating under the aegis of the

Homes Act may make loans up to 85 per cent and 95 per cent of valuation and the Treasurer guarantees that the lender will not make a loss on foreclosure and realization by so lending in excess of 70 per cent of valuation.

This legislation has been of very great importance to house purchasers over the years and since the commencement of the Act over 18,000 house purchasers have been assisted in obtaining housing loans totalling over \$78,000,000. At present the maximum loan that may be made for advances in excess of 85 per cent and up to 95 per cent of valuation is \$6,000, whilst the maximum amount of advance up to 85 per cent of valuation is \$7,000. Even these maxima were fixed last in 1958, and the trend in housing price levels has tended to restrict the value of this Act with the present maximum loan of \$7,000. For example, a house valued at \$10,000 will attract the present maximum loan at 70 per cent of valuation without the necessity for any guarantee.

In line with its recently announced decision to increase the maximum loans to be made by the State Bank to \$8,000, this Bill now increases the maximum loan on an 85 per cent valuation, which may be made subject to guarantee under the Homes Act, to \$8,000. It is not intended to vary the maximum of high-ratio loans from the present figure of \$6,000. Facilities for guaranteeing repayment of such high-ratio loans up to and beyond \$8,000 are available through the operations of the Housing Loans Insurance Corporation, and the Government has already indicated that its policy is to encourage as far as possible the insuring of high-ratio loans through the corporation. Clause 2 provides for the substitution of \$8,000 for \$7,000 as the maximum loan that may be made pursuant to the Act. Clause 3 makes a general amendment to the principal Act relating to decimal currency.

Mr. HUDSON secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADVANCES FOR HOMES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Advances for Homes Act, 1928-1958. Read a first time.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

It amends the Advances for Homes Act to increase the maximum loan that may be made to house purchasers by the State Bank from \$7,000 to \$8,000. As with the amendments to the Homes Act, the increase applies to loans that are not in excess of 85 per cent of valuation. Most moneys lent through the State Bank are moneys made available from the Home Builders' Account under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, and I have already announced that, by agreement with the Commonwealth Minister for Housing, the maximum loan from housing agreement funds has been increased to \$8,000. I am also arranging for the bank to advance high-ratio loans when insured with the Housing Loans Insurance Corporation.

It has been recent practice to vote about \$500,000 each year for lending under the Advances for Homes Act to meet requirements for loans that may not be made, for one reason or another, from Commonwealth-provided funds. These are almost entirely to purchasers of houses constructed by the Housing Trust. It is, of course, desirable and necessary that the conditions attaching to loans made under the Advances for Homes Act should be substantially the same as those applying to loans made from the Home Builders' Account, constituted under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. The necessary amendments to increase the maximum loan to \$8,000 are made by clauses 2, 3, 4 and 5. Clause 6 makes a general amendment to the principal Act relating to decimal currency.

Mr. HUDSON secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ADVANCES TO SETTLERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Advances to Settlers Act, 1930-1958. Read a first time.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

This Bill, like the Bills to amend the Homes Act and the Advances for Homes Act, raises the maximum amount that may be advanced for the erection of dwelling houses from \$7,000 to \$8,000. It is complementary to the other two Bills and is introduced for the same reasons. Clause 3 of the Bill makes the necessary amendment. In addition, clause 2

increases the maximum amount that may be advanced by the State Bank to a settler for improvements and other purposes concerning his holding from \$4,800 to \$6,000. The present figure was fixed in 1952. Clause 4 makes a general amendment to the principal Act relating to decimal currency.

Mr. HUDSON secured the adjournment of the debate.

**AGED AND INFIRM PERSONS' PROPERTY  
ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Aged and Infirm Persons' Property Act, 1940-1965. Read a first time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4.9 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 6, at 2 p.m.