

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, August 22, 1968

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

QUESTIONS

FESTIVAL HALL

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yesterday the Premier announced that he favoured a site other than those considered by Theatre Consulting Services for the performing arts centre to be established in Adelaide and that soon he would appoint a committee to investigate the viability of that site. Can the Premier say what kind of committee this is to be and whether a Select Committee of this House will be appointed to investigate the site, as it was previously investigated and reported upon by a Select Committee of this House?

Mr. Lawn: No, not the site. That wasn't in the terms of reference.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Will the Premier say whether it is to be a committee, appointed by the Premier and comprising some unspecified persons, to examine the possibility of using this site, when we may know what kind of committee this is to be and who are to be its members, and just what is to be done about this investigation? At present this is not clear, and I shall be grateful if the Premier will make this information available.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am happy to oblige the Leader. The committee that I shall ask to examine this situation will comprise the Lord Mayor, the Director of Planning, and the Director of the Public Buildings Department, if they will accept appointment. I will write to those gentlemen tomorrow, and I shall be grateful if they consider this request favourably.

Mr. CORCORAN: No doubt, in assessing the suitability of the proposed site, the Premier took into account the resiting of the immigration hostel and the Railways Institute. If his proposal is accepted, can he say where these two facilities will be resited?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: At this stage it is not possible to say where they will be resited. Financial considerations involved in the building of an alternative facility to the immigration hostel will depend, to some degree, on negotiations with the Commonwealth Government. As soon as this site for a festival hall is approved (if it is approved) by the investigating committee, the Government will do its

utmost to organize the resiting of these two facilities. However, for the honourable member's information, I should like to give him some figures about this hostel. It provides accommodation for 160 migrants and the buildings also house the State Immigration Office staff, apart from the Director. The buildings were originally erected by the Schools Patriotic Fund and the Cheer Up Society during the Second World War for use by servicemen on leave. In 1946 the buildings were purchased by the State Government for \$14,352, and the Commonwealth Government contributed half of the purchase price. The purchase money was paid—eleven-sixteenths to the Schools Patriotic Fund and five-sixteenths to the Cheer Up Society. Capital alterations have been made since purchase, bringing the total State expenditure on the buildings up to \$28,286. The Commonwealth Government has contributed half the cost of approved capital improvements, and the total expenditure by the Commonwealth Government amounts to \$19,775. It must also be realized that these buildings are not high-class structures because, apart from their being fire hazards, they are also infested by white ants, as the honourable member probably knows. Because of this, it is desirable to look for alternative premises in any case. However, as yet no new sites for these facilities have been chosen. Indeed, the search for these sites should not be undertaken until the site for the hall has been approved by the investigating committee.

Mr. LAWN: As I noted with interest the Premier's latest suggestion concerning the proposed site for the festival hall, can he say whether it has also been suggested that the festival hall be built with tin sheds instead of steel halls?

The SPEAKER: Does the Premier desire to reply?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will let that question pass, Mr. Speaker.

TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Mr. VIRGO: Yesterday the Premier indicated two major difficulties in connection with the proposed site for the festival hall: a sewer main and an underground railway. I am concerned with the underground railway, which has been recommended by the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study. I have been informed by qualified engineers that it would not be possible to construct a railway line with a 90 degree turn into King William Street without sufficient land being made available to the north to enable such a sweep to be taken.

Unlike a road, a railway line cannot take sharp right-angle turns. I am also informed that if an underground railway went through the site now occupied by the Government Printing Office, it would need to sweep well into Government House grounds, under buildings in North Terrace, and probably would not be able to line up with King William Street until it reached at least Grenfell Street or Pirie Street. In view of the information I have been given, will the Premier ensure that the committee he has announced this afternoon will obtain first-class and correct information from railway engineers concerning whether it is an engineering possibility to do what he (the Premier) has suggested? Secondly, as the scheme at present seems to be impracticable, am I correct in assuming that the Premier has now discarded the relevant recommendation made in the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study Report? Thirdly, will the Premier relieve the minds of people living in the Glandore area whose houses will be demolished if the M.A.T.S. Report is implemented, by indicating that the existing railway route from Goodwood to Emerson will be retained in its existing position?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member is trying to widen his questions considerably, especially questions about the M.A.T.S. Report. Although I wish to be as co-operative as possible, I think the honourable member will receive more satisfactory answers if he limits the scope of his questions. The preliminary inquiries that I made of engineers within the Railways Department (and such inquiries must of necessity be made in regard to deciding on a site for the festival hall) have certainly indicated that the railway to which the honourable member has referred can be so situated that it does not involve using any of the land on the site mentioned yesterday.

Mr. Virgo: What about the extent of the curve?

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member has already asked 10 questions in one.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: If information has been received by the honourable member from another engineer, that is all very well. However, before the Government decides to use the site in question, it will obtain a report from competent people, and I should think there would be no quarrel with the competence of the people appointed to the committee concerned. Regarding the other matter, which I

believe is extraneous to the main part of the honourable member's question, I will obtain a report.

Mr. CORCORAN: Has the Premier obtained from the Minister of Transport a reply to my recent question about financing the M.A.T.S. scheme?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: My colleague reports:

It is true that the majority of the Highways Department funds which are proposed to be spent in the metropolitan area will be devoted to the implementation of the M.A.T.S. scheme, if or when this is approved. However, the Highways Department will continue to make grants to metropolitan local government authorities for works that are not included in the M.A.T.S. plan.

Mr. VIRGO: Last week the Premier was reported in the press as saying that the M.A.T.S. Report was somewhat exciting and controversial and that the cost of implementing the scheme would be \$573,960,000. Can the Premier say whether this astronomical sum is based on present-day values of property and building costs, and, if this is so (and taking into account that the whole project will be spread over 18 years), can he say whether the real cost of this project has been ascertained or whether South Australians are to be faced with a project similar to the Sydney opera house?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Of course, we can expect that over 18 years there will be fairly substantial rises in construction costs. I will try to obtain a detailed reply from the Minister of Transport on the matter raised by the honourable member, who shows much interest in this matter. I infer from questions he has raised that he is against it.

Mr. Virgo: You don't have to infer: I have said that I am, in its present form.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Whilst I shall be happy to obtain replies, it is interesting to note that we have someone who is against forward planning for Adelaide's transport.

Mr. CORCORAN: Can the Premier say what consultation took place between Treasury officials and the team responsible for the report prior to the report's being released?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will get a reply for the honourable member.

Mr. HUDSON: Recently, I asked the Minister of Housing a question about freeway land that had now been released as a result of the M.A.T.S. Report. I asked whether he would consult the Housing Trust and the Highways

Department concerning the possibility of using this land for housing purposes. I understand that the Minister has a reply to that question but, in addition, will he ask the trust whether it could obtain (partly for its own use and partly for park area) the Railways Department land that was proposed initially to be used for a line to connect Mitchell Park with the Brighton line, as that land also has now been released by the recommendations of the M.A.T.S. Report?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I discussed this matter with the General Manager of the trust. The answer to the first part of the question is "Yes". The trust has considered this matter and has discussed it with the Highways and Local Government Department. As the matter now stands, I think the arrangement, or the expected arrangement, is that the Highways Department will hold the land pending the trust's decision whether or not it desires to use it. It probably will desire the use of it. The railway land is a new matter, but here again there is always a high degree of co-operation between the departments when land becomes surplus to one department and another department requires it. I am sure that in this case, if parcels of land become surplus because of the changed programmes of one department, they will become available for another purpose.

Mr. Hudson: But you will ask the trust about that?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. VIRGO: I regret sincerely that the Premier has taken umbrage at questions that I am asking on this matter, which I regard as being of the utmost importance since it affects the well-being of human beings. I also regret sincerely that the Premier has interpreted my seeking of information to mean that I am opposed to the M.A.T.S. Report and planned development.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member cannot debate the question.

Mr. VIRGO: Does the Premier consider that, as the member for Edwardstown, I have the right to seek information on behalf of my electors?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I did not take umbrage at the honourable member's question but I perhaps did not say clearly enough what I should say now: that it is obvious he is trying to make political capital out of the M.A.T.S. Report. This I regret. If it is inevitable, so be it, but I am sorry he is trying to make political capital out of a report that deals with long-term planning.

After all, it would be irresponsibility of the worst kind not to provide metropolitan Adelaide with a blueprint for its future road and public transport systems. Members in this House should not be in basic disagreement with that but it is inevitable that throughout the community there will be people who will disagree on detail. There are so many problems to be considered in this wide-ranging plan, and I have said this. I do not resent the honourable member's questions on behalf of his district or even on behalf of himself (indeed, I shall be happy to continue answering them) but, if he tries to gain political advantage every time he asks a question, that is not doing justice to the question.

Mr HUDSON: Residents in Ridgecrest Avenue, Darlington, have approached me in relation to the effect on their properties of the M.A.T.S. Report. One resident, who lives in the centre of the street (between the intersections at either end), informed me that, as a result of two approaches to the Highways and Local Government Department, she had been told, first, that her house would not be required and, subsequently, after a further approach was made on the advice of the Marion council, that her house would be required. The houses in this street that are involved lie in a "V" that is created by the Noarlunga Freeway and the South Road Expressway. What are the property requirements of the Highways and Local Government Department in this street and will access be provided from the freeway or expressway to this street? Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads for definitive information from the department whether all the houses in this street will be acquired?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will get a reply.

FESTIVAL HALL

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Premier has announced the personnel of a committee to investigate the viability of a proposed site for a performing arts centre and in reply to another question he has said that no-one could question the competency of the members of that committee. Although no-one would question the competence of the persons concerned in their various spheres, I point out that the Lord Mayor is not qualified as to the contents of a performing arts centre; the State Planner is not qualified as to the contents and needs of the work to be done in a

performing arts centre (although he is qualified in traffic and siting questions); and the Director of the Public Buildings Department is not qualified as to—

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: You are debating the matter.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am pointing these things out in order to explain my question, but obviously the honourable Minister does not want to hear.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Leader sought the permission of the House and of the Speaker to make a statement before asking his question.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The history of the provision of performing arts centres with theatre facilities in public buildings in the last 10 years in South Australia has been a most unsatisfactory one and one that could give anyone who has any knowledge of theatre the greatest cause for alarm. In seeking advice on a performing arts centre, at the request of the Adelaide City Council a fully qualified expert was brought to South Australia, because it was pointed out to the Lord Mayor's Cultural Committee that it was essential to have somebody fully qualified in this sphere. The committee the Premier has announced is not qualified in this sphere. Before this matter is concluded, will the Premier at least include on this committee Mr. Van Eysen who, as an officer of the Festival of Arts and as someone who has spent his whole working life in the performing arts, knows the things that need to be included in a performing arts centre?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The answer is "No". The Leader has had a go at this. He invited to South Australia an expert who said, "Grab three acres of the best park lands you have around the city." I do not agree, however, that we should grab three acres of park lands. There has been much expert information on this and much talking by people, including the Leader. I will use my good influence to settle this question properly, to settle on a site, and to stop the sort of argument the Leader is leading at the moment. This is a move to decide on a suitable site, not to design the building and what goes into it. If the Leader wants to go on and lead the argument for another six or 12 months, that is his business, but I do not. My move yesterday was designed to fix this matter and to still all the arguments and the recommendations of the so-called experts the Leader brought to the State to say, "Grab the park lands!" I want to bring some finality to this

matter, and I regret the Leader's attempt to confuse the issue further. My answer is "No".

The SPEAKER: Order! Regarding Question Time, Parliament is a place where both sides of a question can be discussed: that is what Parliament is for. The Opposition is entitled to express its views on matters of public interest and the Government is entitled to put its views. I think this is only fair comment on a rather important public undertaking such as this, but I do not think there is any need for heat to be engendered on this matter merely because we have the Government on one side and the Opposition on the other.

Mr. HUDSON: Regarding the Premier's statement that he would not appoint an additional person to the committee that he has set up, I point out that problems may arise regarding the use of this particular site because of the kind of building that we would need to erect on the site in order to establish either a festival hall or a performing arts centre. Will the Premier request the members of the committee to consult with local theatrical experts, or such people from other States who may be available, on any problems of a theatrical nature that may arise in relation to the type of building required, and would it be possible for him to reply to this question without a display of arrogance similar to that which we had on the previous question?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: We have seen the honourable member performing in this House, and I think we would know who displays arrogance. Of course the committee will be expected to consider all the aspects of environment that could affect theatrical performance in the building or buildings erected. I have mentioned publicly some of the problems associated with this site, one being that a large sewer traverses it. Another problem relates to the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study recommendation about the provision of an underground railway, and that must obviously be one of the major considerations of the investigating committee. Another matter for consideration is the type of soil and the foundations that may be needed, whether piling will be needed, and so on. I will ask the committee to consider all these matters and I am sure that the expert advice and knowledge that the Director of Planning and the Director of the Public Buildings Department bring to this matter will ensure that these things are considered. For this reason, I am

sure that the committee will be quite competent to deal with all the matters the honourable member has mentioned and other matters that members of the committee will think of. I am also sure that the committee will report quickly.

ABATTOIRS REPORT

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Agriculture, a reply to my recent question whether the statutory report on the operation of the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board is to be replaced by the report made by Mr. McCall on his recent investigation of the operation of the abattoir?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Minister of Agriculture reports:

Mr. McCall's report and recommendations have been furnished to me as Minister of Agriculture, and are not public property. Following an examination of the report and recommendations, I had discussions with the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board, which agreed to engage Mr. McCall to implement the recommendations in so far as they affected the operations of the Gepps Cross undertaking, with a view to restoring it to a sound operating basis. This report will in no way take the place of the statutory three-yearly report, which covers all aspects of the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs operations. The last statutory report was laid on the table of both Houses in 1966.

SHOW ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BROOMHILL: It has been the custom in the past for the House to adjourn during show week. To enable members to make arrangements for this week, can the Premier say whether such an adjournment is planned this year and whether there will be any days when the House will not sit before or after show week?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Government will be grateful if members agree to the House's adjourning on Thursday, September 5, and resuming on Tuesday, September 17. This will permit one full week's recess in Parliamentary business for the show and provide about 12 days for show purposes and for work connected with electoral districts.

CLOUD SEEDING

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: In the latter part of last year the then Minister of Agriculture said that aerial cloud seeding to induce rainfall might be carried out in South Australia in April of this year, and that two officers of his department were attending a special training course in New South Wales in con-

nection with this matter. Will the Minister of Lands ascertain from the Minister of Agriculture whether any aerial cloud seeding experiments have been conducted in this State and, if they have, where they were conducted and with what results?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will obtain a report from my colleague on this matter.

GLENELG SCHOOL

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question of last Thursday about the delay in constructing the new building at the Glenelg Primary School?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: The contract for the erection of the school was awarded on May 30, 1968. A completion time of 52 weeks was stipulated and accepted, and the work was scheduled accordingly. The work is proceeding according to schedule. However, owing to the nature of the work involved, progress may appear to be slow. This apparent slowness of progress could be attributed to the need to replace existing toilets on the new building site before work can commence on the new building. Present planning indicates that the school construction will be completed by May, 1969. The Education Department has confirmed that this completion time is acceptable.

POLITICAL TALKS

Mr. EVANS: A report in the *Salisbury, Elizabeth and Gawler News-Review* of Wednesday, August 7, states:

The first of a series of political talks planned by the Elizabeth High School Matriculation Society was given last Friday by Mr. J. Moss, Secretary of the State branch of the Communist Party. . . . Mr. Moss said recent events in Czechoslovakia were a sign of the coming liberalization in Socialist countries, which he expected to follow economic advances. . . . Attendance at the meeting is voluntary and no student is required to attend against his or her parent's wishes.

Will the Minister of Education inquire whether representatives from all political Parties have been invited to speak and whether such lectures are being used to arouse political interest and not to brainwash persons' thoughts in a particular way?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will call for a report on this matter.

PORT PIRIE EDUCATION

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the Institute of Technology at Port Pirie?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The Port Pirie branch is being closed by resolution of the Council of the South Australian Institute of Technology, not by the Education Department, which has no involvement. The activity has consisted essentially of one course (Associate Diploma in Metallurgy) with some certificate classes and, from 1967, the early years of the Accountancy Diploma. The decision has been reached after prolonged discussions with the management of Broken Hill Associated Smelters Proprietary Limited, which has provided most of the students at the branch. The main reason for the decision was educational. Since the institute took over responsibility for the Port Pirie activity in 1962, it has become increasingly evident that it is not possible to give a full tertiary education with a staff consisting of one lecturer only in each subject field, and with a total staff of only four or five. The difficulties were accentuated by the course changes resulting from the introduction of new Matriculation, which led to a general strengthening of the diploma courses, and so made the Port Pirie task even more difficult.

The B.H.A.S. management, following discussion, accepted the position that the best training available for the two categories of professional employees needed by them (in metallurgy and accountancy) was provided by the full-time courses, adequately staffed and equipped, at Adelaide. There may remain a need in Port Pirie for training at the sub-professional level. Discussions have been initiated between B.H.A.S. and the Education Department with a view to certificate training being provided at the Port Pirie Technical College, although it is understood that the real need may be for advanced trade training. Arrangements have been made to safeguard the interests of the students at present on course. Some will be sent by the B.H.A.S. to Adelaide and some to Whyalla, to complete their courses. For others, classes will continue to be provided on a reducing scale at Port Pirie to 1970, so that students will have at least one opportunity to proceed to the level previously available at Port Pirie.

FIREARMS

Mr. ALLEN: In the Address in Reply debate I suggested that restrictions should be placed on the use of firearms in South Australia. Can the Premier say whether the Government intends to consider placing restrictions on the purchase and use of firearms?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will get a report from the Chief Secretary on this matter.

ORROROO SCHOOL

Mr. VENNING: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked a few days ago about a water supply for the Orroroo school?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: Approval has been granted for the Orroroo Area School to connect water-piping to the Orroroo water supply, so the grassing of portion of its oval may now proceed. The headmaster of the school has been advised accordingly.

SEATON SCHOOLS

Mr. HURST: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question of August 14 about Seaton schools?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The proposal for the establishment of playing fields is complex in nature and estimated to cost about \$35,000 exclusive of a subsidy for grassing and water reticulation. The Education Department subsidy is to be paid for the grassing and reticulated watering system of the schools. It is customary for the school committees to advise the Public Buildings Department of the type of watering system they intend to install. The Public Buildings Department would then normally advise on the technical suitability of equipment when appraising tenders called by the committees. However, in this instance, because of the joint nature of the scheme, representatives of the school committees, the Education Department and the Public Buildings Department met to determine the most efficient watering system available and the Public Buildings Department agreed to prepare plans and specifications for tender call. The request to provide these plans and specifications was received in May, 1968. It has been fulfilled and the plans and specifications were recently forwarded to the Education Department to enable the school committees to call tenders.

EYRE PENINSULA POLICE STATIONS

Mr. EDWARDS: Has the Premier, representing the Chief Secretary, a reply to the question I asked on August 7 about the Elliston and Port Kenny police stations?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: It is not intended to undertake further improvements to the existing Elliston police station, as it is proposed to erect entirely new premises on land already purchased at Elliston. It is intended to erect a new residence, police office and cells, in conformity with the standard design of the Housing Trust. Estimates of costs for alternative types of construction have recently been

provided by the trust, and these are now being forwarded to the Commissioner of Police for his consideration. Dependent on the availability of funds, it is expected that work could commence on this project later this financial year. With regard to improvements to the Port Kenny police station, it is proposed to call public tenders next week for repairs to and painting of the premises. In addition, it is expected that public tenders will be called within three weeks for the renewal of fencing at this police station.

BERRI POLICE STATION

Mr. ARNOLD: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question regarding the rebuilding of the Berri police station?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: In consultation with the Commissioner of Police, a planning programme is being formulated for works of this nature in light of funds likely to become available during the next three financial years including 1968-69. The Berri project will be considered in this programme. In view of priorities already determined, it has not been possible to provide on the 1968-69 Loan Estimates for the Berri police station project.

CROP SPRAYING

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to my recent question regarding damage caused to market gardens by aerial crop spraying?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have discussed this matter with the Minister of Agriculture. A draft uniform Bill dealing with damage resulting from crop spraying was prepared in 1966 at a conference of State Attorneys-General. Its provisions are being examined, but it is not possible to say now whether a Bill will be introduced.

TAXI-CABS

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question concerning the comprehensive insurance premiums for taxi-cab operators, which are prohibitive compared with the premiums charged for insuring private motor vehicles?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am informed by the Fire and Accident Underwriters Association that premiums for comprehensive insurance for motor vehicles are reviewed from time to time in the light of claims experience. The premiums for such insurance for taxis must be considerably higher than for private vehicles because of the very much greater time a taxi

spends each day on the roads. Evidence of the adverse claims experience for taxis is also available in the premiums set for compulsory third party (bodily injury) insurance where the committee appointed pursuant to the Motor Vehicles Act has found it necessary to fix a premium rate for taxis in the metropolitan area which is five times the rate set for private vehicles. I am informed, however, that premiums charged for taxi comprehensive insurance compare favourably with similar premiums charged in other States.

COCKBURN DEPOT.

Mr. CASEY: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Transport a report on the Railways Department's maintaining the Cockburn depot in the future?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Minister of Transport reports that present plans contemplate through train working from Peterborough to Broken Hill, but the train-operating staff will all be stationed at Peterborough. Only one or two South Australian Railways employees will be located at Broken Hill. With the exception of the permanent way staff, other railway personnel at Cockburn will be transferred elsewhere.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about school libraries?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I assure the honourable member that new schools that are recipients of special grants from the Education Department under the existing scheme will not be placed at a disadvantage through the fact of the new Commonwealth assistance. I have been informed by the Commonwealth Minister for Education and Science (Hon. J. M. Fraser, M.H.R.) that the distribution of the funds to schools will be along the lines of the formula used when the secondary science facilities programme was introduced. The total provision for the three-year period is \$27,000,000. South Australia's annual proportion will be \$858,000 of which \$638,200 will be allocated to Government schools, \$109,900 to Roman Catholic schools, and \$110,700 to other non-Government schools. Mr. Fraser intends to appoint a committee to advise him on the conditions and standards necessary for the effective development of the Commonwealth programme. In particular, the committee will be asked: first, to recommend desirable standards for library buildings, furniture and equipment, and books and materials; secondly,

to recommend ways of determining existing deficiencies in library services in a particular school; and thirdly, in respect of the independent secondary schools (1) to visit individual schools and report to the Minister on their library needs, and (2) to assist schools in developing plans for building library facilities and in selecting materials and equipment.

In addition to this committee, he will be seeking to have advisory committees set up in each State so that they may recommend on priorities and amounts of assistance for the independent schools. As with the science facilities scheme, one committee in each State will service Roman Catholic schools and another will function for schools other than Roman Catholic schools. Regarding Government schools, the State Education Departments will determine priorities and allocations within a general programme which has been approved by him, for each State, as is the case with the science programme. I am informed that the Commonwealth Government will take steps to improve the standard of school libraries, in addition to the capital programme. First, it will encourage colleges of advanced education to conduct suitable courses of training for school librarians and will also make advanced education scholarships available for competition among persons wishing to take these courses, within the general programme of Commonwealth scholarships. Secondly, the Commonwealth Government is prepared to co-operate with the States and library authorities in sponsoring some short specialist courses in school librarianship for teachers, and a sum of \$50,000 has been included in the Commonwealth Estimates for this particular purpose.

MARBLE HILL

Mr. GILES: Can the Minister of Immigration and Tourism say whether the opening up, as a tourist attraction, of the grounds of the burn-out viceregal summer residence at Marble Hill has been considered?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: It has not been considered by me, at any rate, although I fancy I heard some suggestion about it previously. I understand that, following the fire, the ruins of the buildings were considered rather dangerous. I believe the Bushfire Research Committee did some clearing of, and experimental work in, the area and that stock were grazed there. However, as I shall have to consider whether it would be desirable and feasible to open up the area for tourists, I will give the honourable member a further reply.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Mr. BURDON: Will the Premier ask the Minister of Health whether any requests have been made by country centres for Government assistance in providing medical practitioners for those centres, and whether the Government considers that there are sufficient general medical practitioners in country towns to give adequate service to the country people?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will get a report from my colleague.

MEADOWS COUNCIL

Mr. EVANS: It has been brought to my notice that the Meadows council has, after many months of negotiation, finally decided to enforce the payment of moieties by a section of the council's ratepayers at Clarendon. When the council was asked to re-examine these charges, the District Clerk pointed out that no other course was possible under the present legislation. The council withheld action while it re-examined the position, but it could find no satisfactory solution. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Local Government to investigate the position in order to determine whether a formula can be devised to relieve the people concerned of the high charges and costs with which they are faced?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will ask my colleague whether this can be done.

LOAN EXPENDITURE

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked yesterday about the expenditure of Loan funds in my district?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: A scheme to bring water to Burra from the Hanson pumping station on the Morgan-Whyalla main was approved at a cost of \$140,000. To the end of 1967-68, the department has spent \$135,000 and the remaining amount of \$5,000 is to be used during the current financial year. It will be disbursed to cover the following:

- (a) a final payment to the contractor who supplied and installed the new pumping station plant at Hanson, \$2,000.
- (b) the laying of paving and an access road on the pumping station site at Hanson as well as the removal of the temporary pumping plant equipment at this station, \$3,000.

HOLDEN HILL INTERSECTION

Mrs. BYRNE: Yesterday I asked the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads, a question about the examination of certain aspects of a traffic island that was being incorporated at the intersection of the Main North-East Road and Grand Junction

Road, Holden Hill. I point out that a photograph of this intersection and a small report on the matter appeared in the *Leader*, a local newspaper circulating in my district, on August 14. That report is as follows:

The intersection of Grand Junction Road and the Main North-East Road becomes clogged with traffic at peak times. Traffic heading from Adelaide converges with traffic from the direction of Port Adelaide causing delay and confusion. As can be seen from the photograph the Main North-East Road becomes narrower nearer the roundabout. Motorists say that it is difficult to see traffic approaching from the right because of the white painted drums which have been in the same position for months now. As well as the drums there are traffic signs, median strips, roundabout, survey pegs, warning lights and other signs and directions which make it all confusing to drivers. Pedestrians, too, have trouble trying to cross at the intersection.

The SPEAKER: Order! I hope the honourable member is not attempting to read all the article. Can she summarize it?

Mrs. BYRNE: No, Mr. Speaker. I have come to the end of the portion I wish to quote. When I asked my question yesterday, the Attorney-General said it sounded as though I had left it rather late to ask my question. I point out that work on the kerbing on the roundabout at this intersection was commenced only last Friday, and it is only since that time that I have received any complaints. Last night I received another complaint from a motorist who said that he had been travelling from Hope Valley down Grand Junction Road to the intersection and wanting to turn left into Main North-East Road. He made this journey between 7.30 and 7.45 a.m., when the traffic was at its peak, and he was delayed for three minutes as he could not get his vehicle into the single lane of traffic travelling from Tea Tree Gully. He told me that he had been travelling by this route for 17 years and that this was the first time that he had had cause to complain. He also said that he had discussed this matter with other motorists who travelled along the same route and that they, too, had questioned whether the design of the intersection was workable and safe. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads to examine the aspects I have mentioned today and to consider them in conjunction with the question I asked yesterday?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

FISHING

Mr. EDWARDS: Has the Premier obtained from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my recent question regarding fishing in the Ceduna area?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The report from the Minister of Agriculture states:

At the present time regulations prevent use of all fish nets (other than hand crab nets) in the Denial Bay and Smoky Bay areas near Ceduna. However, I am examining a proposal (which I believe was agreed to at a meeting of professional fishermen in that area) that mesh nets having a mesh size greater than 5in. be permitted in these two bays.

KEITH DEPOT

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked yesterday regarding the siting of the new Engineering and Water Supply Department depot at Keith?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The proposed departmental depot at Keith will be situated at allotments 44, 45 and 46, Elm Avenue, Keith.

STUDENT TEACHERS

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Will the Minister of Education ascertain the total cost of allowances paid in 1966 and 1967 to students attending South Australian teachers colleges, and also the estimated cost for 1968?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I shall be happy to do that for the honourable member.

GAUGE STANDARDIZATION

Mr. VENNING: As rolling stock is accumulating at convenient places along the new standard gauge railway line, will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Transport how many hopper-bottom rail trucks have been manufactured up to the present, and what the proposed programme is in this regard?

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

LIQUOR PRICES

Mr. BROOMHILL: The Liquor Industry Council, established under the Licensing Act, was to consider the differential in respect of beer prices between the city and the country and the variations that apply for standard wines and spirits in restaurants and hotels. Has the council yet reported on this matter and, if it has, will the Premier provide the House with this report? If the council has not

reported, will he, in view of the great public interest in these prices, call for a report at an early date?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will obtain a reply as soon as possible for the honourable member.

PORT PIRIE HOSPITAL

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the proposed improvements at the Port Pirie Hospital?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: The proposed development scheme at the Port Pirie Hospital has not yet been referred to the Public Works Standing Committee and, at this stage, it is not possible to determine a firm planning and construction programme. I regret that this is the position. I will personally follow up this matter and inform the honourable member as soon as I have more definite information.

PETERBOROUGH WATER SUPPLY

Mr. CASEY: Has the Attorney-General received a reply from the Minister of Transport to my recent question about the advisability of the Railways Department at Peterborough using water from the reservoirs rather than using the Engineering and Water Supply Department's supply?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Since the provision of the Murray River supply to Peterborough, all Railways Department cottages have been supplied direct by the E. & W.S. Department, and the appropriate assessments and charges for excess are handled in the normal manner. It is understood that the E. & W.S. Department supplies a variable mixture of Murray and local bore water. To provide against emergency, a connection was made to allow the use of E. & W.S. Department supplies for station and locomotive requirements. This supply is intended for use only when departmental supplies are insufficient. At present station and locomotive requirements are being supplied from departmental sources.

RABBITS

Mr. NANKIVELL: Some time ago, when asking a question of the Minister of Lands about controlling the increase in rabbit population, I suggested that the European flea be used as a vector. Has the Minister a reply to that aspect of my question?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Senior Vermin Control Officer in the Lands Department (Mr. J. E. Bromell) has supplied the following report:

Use of the rabbit flea as a carrier of myxomatosis is still in the research stage. Investigations, which are an essential prerequisite to the general release of the flea, are being carried out by two divisions of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization. The Division of Animal Genetics is looking at the association of the flea and the virus, and the Division of Wildlife Research is investigating the breeding and the possible rate of spread of the flea in the field. It is not possible to obtain and use the fleas until these investigations have shown some promise. Close liaison between the C.S.I.R.O. and the State rabbit-control authorities in this matter means that if the flea is shown to be of use, we will be informed at the earliest opportunity. However, indications are that the preliminary investigations could take up to 18 months or two years. I must add a word of warning, however, that we must not be over-optimistic regarding the advantages of the rabbit flea as a new vector, as it is not expected to reduce the waning effects of myxomatosis although it is expected that it will slow down the rate of decline.

FREE RAIL PASSES

Mr. HUGHES: The retired railwaymen who live in the Wallaroo district are allowed several privilege passes on the railways from Moonta, Wallaroo, Kadina, Paskeville and Melton to other parts of the State. After the statement by the Minister of Transport that he intended to cancel the passenger rail services between Moonta and Adelaide, many of these people inquired of me whether the Minister intended that these privileges would be provided on the alternative service. As I was unable to answer their query, will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Transport to examine this aspect with a view to continuing these privileges to these retired railwaymen, who have rendered valuable service to the State?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will ask my colleague what he intends to do.

NON-WETTING SANDS

Mr. EDWARDS: As I understand that the Minister of Agriculture has some knowledge of non-wetting sands in the agricultural areas, will the Minister of Lands confer with him with a view to the Government's making a grant available for further research into this problem?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will put that question to my colleague.

ECHUNGA SCHOOL

Mr. EVANS: Some time ago members of the committee of the Echunga Primary School applied to the Education Department for a

headmaster's residence to be built on the school grounds. This application was refused but a suggestion was made that possibly the Housing Trust could build a house at the trust's subdivision in Echunga and make it available to the headmaster. This suggestion proved unsatisfactory for the following reasons:

1. The only water available for all purposes, including laundry, toilets and bathroom, is contained in two rain-water tanks—no reticulated or bore water. This would be inadequate in summer.

2. No sheds of any kind provided—no garage.

3. No footpaths or rubbled area provided around the house. If the tenant wished to have these he must purchase gravel etc. himself.

4. Rental of \$9.75 a week seems excessive.

5. The Education Department provides window blinds in its houses, also inlaid lino in the kitchen. The trust does not provide these things. A teacher going into a trust home would have to purchase blinds and lino. If he subsequently moved to a school where a departmental residence was provided, he would probably have difficulty in disposing of blinds and linos.

However, if a departmental house were built on the school property at Echunga, the head teacher could live in the town, and become a member of the community. A resident teacher would get to know the children and parents better, and he would also act in the capacity of a school caretaker—the school is fairly isolated and many picnic parties use the adjacent Echunga Oval. Also, travelling would be eliminated and teachers would more readily accept appointment to Echunga. A residence at the school could be connected with the school water supply. As Echunga is to have a schoolhouse eventually, but at present is well down on the list of priorities, will the Minister of Education further investigate the request made by the Echunga Primary School committee to have a head teacher's house built at the school so that when further changes in staff occur the people of Echunga may have the opportunity to have a resident headmaster?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Yes.

HOLDEN HILL SEWERAGE

Mrs. BYRNE: There is an area at Holden Hill, comprising Malcolm Avenue, Graham Avenue and the eastern extremities of the Parade and South Terrace, which is still unsewered. When I previously raised this matter in this House by question on October 5, 1967, I was informed:

Although the degree of development is less than that usually considered necessary and the return of revenue is poor, a favourable

recommendation would have been made by the Director and Engineer-in-Chief had the department been able to obtain access for the approach sewers through the Housing Trust subdivision immediately to the south. The department had, in fact, recently commenced laying sewers in this subdivision but was asked to discontinue the work, as the subdivision pattern will be altered because of a modification of the future freeway boundaries.

As suggested in this reply, freeway modifications as contained in the M.A.T.S. Report, if adopted, will affect part of this area. Concern has now been expressed to me by some of the owners of those houses that this essential service may now be further delayed, or in fact not proceeded with at all. This, of course, will depend upon when the freeway, if constructed, is likely to be finished, as it could be regarded as money not wisely spent. Can the Minister of Works assure me that this work will still be carried out, and has he anything further to report on sewerage for this area?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I will look into those aspects raised by the honourable member in this context and bring down for her further advice as soon as possible.

BORDERTOWN SCHOOL

Mr. NANKIVELL: Recently, on a visit to Bordertown, the Minister of Education was shown the library, which, of necessity, was being used as a classroom. Also, I believe she was shown the overcrowding that occurs in other classrooms. An application was made for a dual classroom for this school and I am informed that it has been placed on the Estimates and awaits Ministerial consent. Will the Minister give that consent as soon as possible?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Yes.

GOVERNMENT LAND

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Lands a definite policy in regard to the sale of land owned by the Government to charitable organizations? Is such land always sold to charitable organizations at the upset price or are any special provisions laid down as a definite policy?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Since I have been in this office there has not been a case that I can recall where this has arisen, but I shall be happy to consider the question. Also, I should like to know whether there is a particular case that the honourable member has in mind that I can examine for him.

MINISTERS' REPLIES

Mr. CASEY: I am not too sure to whom I should direct this question—the Speaker, the Premier or every member on the front bench. Perhaps, in the circumstances, I should direct it to the Premier. I understand that in some cases it is the policy of Ministers to hand to members who have asked questions a typed reply to a question on the day on which they give an answer. A few moments ago I asked the Attorney-General whether he would be kind enough to give me a copy of the reply he gave me, and he said he did not have one. I asked whether I could borrow his copy of the reply he gave me, and he said, “No”. Members, and particularly country members, who are unable to take down the reply to a question and possibly are returning to the country this evening after the House rises will not get a reply probably until next Tuesday. In all fairness, I ask all Ministers (and I know that many of them do give copies of replies to members) in future to give members copies of replies to their questions.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member did not direct his question to me but I point out that it has been the practice for Ministers to supply answers to questions by members. However, if an answer is not available from a Minister, I have adopted this practice over many years since I have been a member here: if a Minister has not a copy of a reply available, I immediately call a messenger to get a copy of the question and of the answer from *Hansard*. I have found *Hansard* most co-operative in this, and I suggest the honourable member follow this procedure.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I should like to reply to the honourable member, as apparently the first part of the question arose out of a conversation I had with him a moment ago.

Mr. Casey: Your conversation was just “Yes” or “No”.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes; this is the whole problem. The honourable member came over to me and asked whether he could have a copy of an answer to a question which I had given and which he had asked of a Minister in another place through me. I said, “No”, and he immediately walked away.

Mr. Casey: That is not right. I asked you if I could have a loan of your copy.

The SPEAKER: Order! This is not a debate over the dinner table.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The member for Frome came across and asked for the answer, but walked away before I could tell him that the only copy I had had gone to *Hansard*.

Mr. CASEY: On a point of order, Sir, I take exception to this.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I have it now, if the honourable member wants it.

Mr. CASEY: On a point of order, I approached the Attorney-General and asked him whether I could have a copy of the reply.

The SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

Mr. CASEY: What the Attorney-General is saying is absolutely untrue, and I resent it.

The SPEAKER: Do you ask the Attorney to withdraw his statement?

Mr. CASEY: Yes, Sir, I ask him to withdraw it.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member for Frome has asked the Attorney-General to withdraw what he said.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I do not know what I have to withdraw. I have simply stated the facts: that the honourable member came and asked me if he could have a copy of the reply. I said, “No”, and he said, “Could I borrow your copy?” I said “No”, and the honourable member walked away before I could explain that the only copy of the answer with which I had been supplied had gone to *Hansard* in the normal course of events. Had the honourable member not been so impatient and if he had waited for a second, I would have told him (as I tell him now) that the reply has come back from *Hansard* and he can now come and borrow it.

Mr. McANANEY: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The honourable member for Frome should withdraw his statement that the Attorney's was an untrue statement.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Stirling has asked the honourable member for Frome to withdraw his statement that what the Attorney-General said was untrue. Does the honourable member for Frome desire to withdraw what he said?

Mr. CASEY: I have nothing to withdraw, because when the Attorney-General was asked by me to withdraw his statement, what he said in the second place was true but what he said in the first place was false.

The Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe: That is completely wrong.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order! It is now 3.22 p.m. and there are still several questions to be asked. I think, therefore, that we had better restore the decorum and dignity of the House.

Mr. VIRGO: Late in June, I received correspondence from one of my electors and, as the House was not sitting at the time, I wrote to the Minister of Health on July 1, pointing out the difficulties of my elector. Some time later (I cannot say when exactly because it is not dated) I received an acknowledgement of my letter, but since then I have heard nothing further. Will the Premier inquire of the Minister of Health whether the Minister's staff is so depleted that it takes almost two months to obtain a reply (that reply is still not forthcoming) to a legitimate query of an elector?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: If the honourable member will furnish me with the particulars of the inquiry, I shall try to obtain a reply.

CONCESSION FARES

Mr. HUGHES: During the Playford Administration, country pensioners were allowed two return concession fares between the part of the country in which they lived and the city. During the Walsh Administration that policy was extended to include all pensioners, who could have as many trips at concession rates in any one year as they liked, with the exception of the Christmas and Easter periods. As there are a number of pensioners in the Wallaroo District who will be denied this privilege with the cancellation of the rail service between Moonta and Adelaide, will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Transport whether new provisions for country pensioners can be made? I speak particularly on behalf of my own constituents, because the railway services in my district will be cancelled in the future. Will the same concession fares for pensioners therefore be made available for travel by road transport?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will ask about this matter for the honourable member.

CLARE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding the Clare High School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: A recommendation has been made to the Public Buildings Department that the existing preliminary

sketch and estimate for Clare High School should be revised to provide an efficient school for the enlarged enrolment. It is expected that the extent of the alterations will make it necessary for the project to be referred again to the Public Works Committee.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT LAND

Mr. VIRGO: I understand that the Education Department owns vacant land at Marion, and I refer particularly to a triangular block bounded by the Sturt Creek, the railway line, Minchinbury Terrace and Alison Avenue which, I understand, it has owned for some years. Each year the Marion council ploughs a fire break around the perimeter of this block, but that is all that is done. Will the Minister of Education therefore take up this matter with the Education Department to ascertain the practicability of having this block cleared of weeds, either by physical clearance or by poisoning, to prevent an eyesore and, more important, to eliminate the health hazard, as I understand that the type of weed growing there at the moment contributes towards a certain type of hay fever?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I shall be happy to inquire into this matter for the honourable member.

WEED CONTROL

Mr. EDWARDS: Owing to the wet season and the excessive growth of weeds along the railway permanent way on Eyre Peninsula, will the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Transport, make inquiries to see whether a better job of spraying the weeds along the permanent way can be carried out, say to a width of at least 12ft. or 14ft.?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I shall draw this matter to my colleague's attention.

SCHOOL WINDOWS

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Normally the Attorney-General is a very voluble gentleman, and I feel we must attribute his deep and most impressive silence for many months on the subject of cleaning school windows to a special kind of speech handicap. In view of that, will the Attorney-General consider consulting his colleague, the Minister of Education, to see which school for the handicapped would be the most suitable for him to attend to enable him to overcome this handicap?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The honourable member for Whyalla is at his sarcastic best, today. I have already said in reply to other questions of the same nature

he has asked me that I am entirely happy to leave these matters to the present Minister of Education. I am quite confident that she will be able to solve them, even though her predecessor could not.

CHARITABLE COLLECTIONS

Mr. HUDSON: My question is directed to the Premier, representing the Chief Secretary, and so that he will be able to find the answer, I refer to a question I asked two weeks ago relating to the Collections for Charitable Purposes Act and its provisions for the supervision of charitable collections, when I asked what the Government intended to do to bring this Act up to date. Has the Premier a reply to that question?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Chief Secretary's Department is not aware that fund raising has been more "professionalized" in recent years. Use of newspapers, radio and visual media may make it appear this way. The result of a particular appeal is invariably lost in the annual financial statements of the fund-raising body, as fund raising in most cases is a continuous process. If any specific instances can be cited by the honourable member, an effort will be made to obtain information. It is expected that the audit of statements will ensure their correctness. Any evidence of fraud or mismanagement of funds brought to the notice of the Chief Secretary would be the subject of an inquiry by the police or the advisory committee under the Act. Investigations as to the effectiveness of the Act are under way.

TAXATION POLICY

Mr. CASEY: I was rather surprised several nights ago to learn of a reference made on the West Coast to the ton-mile tax. On reading the *West Coast Sentinel*, I noticed that a Liberal and Country League meeting recently held at Minnipa and attended by the Minister of Agriculture passed a resolution demanding the abolition of the ton-mile tax. I noticed also later on, incidentally, that it was resolved that certain resolutions be "cleaned up", as they had been repeated year after year. Will the Premier (and I notice the Treasurer is prompting him; I suppose he needs it occasionally) say whether his Government intends to abolish the ton-mile tax, as the resolution passed at the recent L.C.L. meeting in Minnipa seems to indicate that it does?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am sorry that the member for Frome is no longer qualified to attend L.C.L. meetings. He would know from his previous membership that it is indeed a lively organization within which much discussion takes place. The Government does not adopt an extreme attitude on the matter to which the honourable member has referred: contrary to the honourable member's advocating in the past that this tax be levied much more severely than it is today (by applying it to vehicles down to four tons), we are maintaining the present situation and applying the tax to vehicles of eight tons or over, and we will not alter that policy to coincide with what the honourable member has said in this House in previous debates, namely, that more vehicles should be subject to the tax.

Mr. CASEY: I sincerely hope the Premier gives me a more definite answer to this question than to the one just asked. Apparently, his Government is not prepared to accept resolutions moved by members of the Government Party. I draw the Premier's attention to the fact that at this particular meeting the Minister of Agriculture was quoted as saying that his Government was attempting to convince Canberra to take over the ton-mile tax. Will the Premier say whether the Government has made any representations to Canberra along those lines?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be happy to examine the article from which the honourable member is quoting and, consequent on that, to obtain a report for him.

Mr. CASEY: During the course of the discussion that took place at the meeting—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is not allowed to ask repetitious questions.

Mr. CASEY: This is not repetitious; I assure you of that.

Mr. Nankivell: Question!

Mr. CASEY: I will certainly ask the question. The Minister of Agriculture also said at the meeting that the Government was trying to reduce succession and probate duties. Will the Premier say whether that is the Government's intention? If it is, will the reduction be implemented during this session?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am sure that the honourable member is eagerly awaiting the Budget to be introduced into the Chamber, and I know that he will receive an answer then.

HIGHBURY SHOPPING CENTRE

Mrs. BYRNE: There is a shopping centre facing Elliston Avenue, Highbury, in front of which is a green strip that is situated between the Lower North-East Road and this district road. Inquiries have revealed that that strip of land is under the control of the Highways Department and is presumably being retained for road widening purposes. Owners and shopkeepers at this particular shopping centre seek access to Elliston Avenue on the western side, because the centre's geographical situation is such that without such an entrance business is being lost as a result. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads to inquire whether the Highways Department will assist the people concerned by providing an entrance through the green strip on the western side of the shopping centre?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes, with pleasure.

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Social Welfare a reply to the question I asked last week about the standard of accommodation currently being provided in the Rundle Street building for the officers of the Social Welfare Department and about the importance, if that building is to continue to be used, of removing difficulties that are now experienced as a result of noise, over-crowding and, in the summer months, over-heating and lack of ventilation?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: As the honourable member knows, I could have given him the reply yesterday if he had asked for it. The head office staff of the Social Welfare Department is divided between the Government offices in Rundle Street and Hindmarsh Building in Grenfell Street. Following vacation of the Rundle Street building by three other departments earlier this year, detailed proposals were prepared by the Social Welfare Department to consolidate its head office in the Rundle Street offices using the whole of the second floor, the eastern half of the first floor and portion of the basement. Cost estimates for these proposals are in the course of preparation by the Public Buildings Department.

Mr. HUDSON: In my original question to the Minister, I raised the matters of the provision of adequate ventilation and of adequate floor coverings to reduce the noise problem in the Rundle Street building. Can the Minister say whether the plans submitted to the Public Buildings Department make adequate provision for the elimination of noise and for proper

ventilation, as noise and inadequate ventilation are serious problems which affect considerably the overall efficiency of the department? Also, do the long-range plans of the Government envisage the siting of this department permanently in this building or is it hoped that the Rundle Street building will ultimately be demolished and replaced by some better form of accommodation?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The replies to the honourable member's questions are "I hope so" and "No".

Mr. HUDSON: Will the Minister obtain for me a report whether adequate measures have been taken in relation to the suppression of noise and for improved ventilation in this department?

The Hon. R. S. Hall: That is the same question.

Mr. HUDSON: No, it is not: I am asking for a detailed report on the matter so that the Minister can answer fully in this House and need not rely on pious hopes.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will see what information I can obtain for the honourable member.

SEAVIEW DOWNS SCHOOL

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked last Thursday about the progress on work at the Seaview Downs Primary School?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: This school is of the Samcon type of construction and is being erected by departmental labour. Samcon erection teams commenced work on the site on May 17, 1968, and the buildings are programmed to be ready for occupation at the beginning of the 1969 school year.

BERRI HOSPITAL

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Premier obtained from the Chief Secretary a reply to my recent question about an item on last year's Loan Estimates for the Berri Hospital and about whether the hospital laboratory has been completed?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: This building has been completed.

FOSTER PARENTS

Mr. HURST: Can the Minister of Social Welfare say how much a week is paid to people who foster children whom they obtain from the Social Welfare Department and when that sum was last revised?

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: POLITICAL TALKS

Mr CLARK (Gawler): I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr. CLARK: I understand that this afternoon, when I was called to the telephone, the Minister of Education was asked by the member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Evans) a question about the Elizabeth High School, which is in my district. As I know the details of this particular matter, I should like to point out for the benefit of the honourable member and the House that the gentleman to whom the honourable member referred and who had visited the school was, I understand, the first speaker in a series of speakers comprising various prominent political personalities who will be invited to address the school on their political philosophies. My colleague from Glenelg (Mr. Hugh Hudson, M.P.) will be addressing the school at the lunch-hour meeting tomorrow, and I understand that various gentlemen from the Liberal Party and the Democratic Labor Party will also be invited to address the school. I assure the House that the speakers are invited to attend these gatherings at the school not necessarily in their order of importance.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:
ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS**

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE (Minister of Aboriginal Affairs): I ask leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and honourable members for allowing me to make this Ministerial statement. On July 12 in Melbourne I attended a conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers concerned with Aboriginal affairs. At this conference the Prime Minister indicated that the Commonwealth intended to make available to the States funds to augment the States' expenditure on Aboriginal welfare, particularly in the fields of housing, health and education. In February last a five-year programme prepared by South Australia was submitted to the Commonwealth.

This programme was aimed at providing necessary Aboriginal housing and hostel accommodation, and it also stressed the need for pre-school education. The Commonwealth Minister in charge of Aboriginal

Affairs (Hon. W. C. Wentworth) visited Adelaide late last Friday and discussed with me the allocation of finance to South Australia. I have now been advised by Mr. Wentworth that he is announcing to the Commonwealth Parliament today details of the allocation of Commonwealth funds to the States. The Commonwealth proposed to allocate \$10,000,000 for Aboriginal purposes for the whole of Australia. Of this, \$5,000,000 is to be allocated to a Capital Development Fund. From this, moneys will be made available by the Commonwealth Government to the States, after considering applications to the Commonwealth Office of Aboriginal Affairs, for Aboriginal ventures (either corporate or individual) which appear to be economically viable. This fund will be a revolving fund so that moneys spent from it will be repayable upon agreed terms in respect of each individual project. The remaining \$5,000,000 will be for non-repayable grants. It is proposed to divide it between the States and Northern Territory approximately on a population basis. Our share is \$350,000.

This, of course, is over and above moneys allocated by the State. Of the \$350,000 allocated to this State, the Commonwealth has suggested that \$225,000 be spent on housing, \$50,000 on health, and \$75,000 on education. However, Mr. Wentworth told me that the division between these three functions may be varied, following discussion between us. As a result of this advice I have instructed the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to examine as a matter of urgency how we can best use these funds.

I point out that part of this year has already passed, and we are anxious to spend all this money before June 30 next. Discussions are being held between the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, the Public Service Board, the Treasury, the Education Department, the Department of Public Health, and the Housing Trust to ensure that all moneys at our disposal are utilized to the maximum extent for the benefit of the Aborigines of this State.

SUPPLY BILL (No. 2)

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Treasurer) moved:

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply.

Mr. HUDSON (Glenelg): I wish to raise a matter which relates to the attitude of the Government and the Minister of Education

regarding Professor Richardson. As members will be aware, a long series of questions was asked in this House following the action of a member of Parliament (not of this House) in referring, first, to the Council for Civil Liberties and implying that it was a Communist front organization and then, on the following day, in asking a series of questions in relation to Professor Richardson which clearly implied that he had Communist associations. The member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney) was known to be a member of the Council for Civil Liberties and I believe that members generally were pleased when, in this Chamber, he dissociated himself completely from the attack made on Professor Richardson and said specifically that he hoped that the attitude of Mr. Kemp was not that of his Party in general.

On July 25, I requested the Minister of Education to take up the matter, asking her whether she agreed with the statement of the member for Stirling and whether she would dissociate herself and the Government completely from the unfair and scurrilous attack that had been made on Professor Richardson. She replied as follows:

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

During the following week, on July 30, in replying to the other matters about which I had asked her, the Minister said:

I do not intend to comment on the statements made by other members in Parliament, because those members have simply exercised their privilege.

The Minister was challenged further in a subsequent question, when I again asked her whether or not she had the fullest confidence in Professor Richardson as Principal of the Bedford Park Teachers College and whether she would make it clear whether she or the Government regarded him as a subversive element in the community. The Minister replied as follows:

I thought I made the position clear yesterday, and I have nothing further to add.

I then asked a further question of the Minister to try to get her to dissociate herself from the attack that had been made, and I was asked to place the question on notice. This I did, and in reply I was told that the Minister was satisfied with the performance by Professor Richardson of his duties as Principal of the Bedford Park Teachers College, but again

she refused to dissociate herself from the attacks made on Professor Richardson by saying that in making statements in Parliament members were simply exercising their privilege.

Finally, I asked the Premier whether or not the line taken by the Minister of Education represented the attitude of the Government and whether or not, when attacks were made on officers of the Public Service, members of the Government would regard these attacks as examples of members simply exercising their privilege and would refuse to dissociate themselves from them and to defend their officers effectively. This matter has further come to a head because the original series of questions asked by the Hon. Mr. Kemp was not effectively answered, and when a vague reply, which completely ducked the questions asked by Mr. Kemp, was given to him to see, he refused to ask for that reply. The Hon. Mr. Shard then asked for the reply. The reply of the Minister of Education to the detailed set of questions about Professor Richardson's proposed trip was simply that the Flinders University was an autonomous body and that she had every confidence in its council, two of whose members were members of the Legislative Council, and that the application made by Professor Richardson to the University Council was considered in accordance with the rules of the study leave scheme. The series of replies required was not given.

I regard this as a serious matter. True, Professor Richardson is Professor of Education at the Flinders University but he is also an officer of the Education Department through his position as Principal of the Bedford Park Teachers College. Members who have had any experience in this House are well aware that when an attack of the kind made on Professor Richardson is made in this Chamber, the Minister concerned has invariably dissociated himself or herself from that attack and the member concerned has usually been taken to task in a determined fashion for reflecting on officers of the Public Service. That tradition, which in my understanding has been established over long years in this Chamber, should be adhered to. Public servants in general do not have freedom to reply to attacks made on them: they are placed in a limited position. As the Minister has indicated already in reply to questions that Cabinet has approved Professor Richardson's oversea trip, and in reply to a further question that she has confidence in the performance of Professor Richardson's duties as Principal of

the Bedford Park Teachers College, she should clearly take the further step of dissociating herself and the Government from the attacks made. This is only fair. It is not good enough to hide behind the reply given. A member's privilege is not a licence to spread smears around indiscriminately on people throughout South Australia. It is something that must be protected, but it can be effectively protected only if members use their privileges with care and if Ministers ensure that, when unjustified and unwarranted attacks are made on officers of the Public Service, the members who have made these attacks are disowned and it is made clear to the public that the statements had no foundation and no basis in fact.

This has not happened in this case. I point out to the Minister that, because statements made in Parliament are privileged, members of the public do not have recourse to ordinary courts of law should their character be smeared in any way. If a member makes a statement outside the House, he can be sued in the ordinary courts of law for defamation or slander, but statements can be made inside the House about people outside and these statements are privileged and no recourse can be had by the member of the public whose character has been assassinated. This privilege exists in Parliament for an important reason: that it should be possible for members to bring to the attention of the public any wrong or anything which has happened and which deserves public scrutiny, and so that members should have the greatest freedom in drawing the attention of the community generally to such matters. However, like any special privilege, if it is not exercised with care, or in such a way that people in the community are not unjustly smeared or criticized, then there could be an abuse of privilege. If this continues the very privileges on which the statements are based and by which they are protected may be called into question.

The exercise of such privileges, therefore, can effectively continue and be effectively justified in Parliament only if it is used wisely and carefully by members and not used to permit unjustifiable statements which, if made outside the House, would lead to a substantial action for damages. I raise this matter again because of what has happened, not through the fault of the member for Stirling, because what he has done has, I believe, protected Professor Richardson's good name. I congratulate the honourable member on the stand he has taken.

I think he comes out of this matter with the greatest of credit and I admire him for the stand he has taken.

Mr. Clark: We all do.

Mr. HUDSON: My concern is that members of Cabinet (and this matter must surely have been considered by Cabinet) have not followed the member for Stirling. The issue has been ducked.

Mr. Lawn: Was there a disagreement in Cabinet on it?

Mr. HUDSON: Well, presumably there was. Some people think that the attack on Professor Richardson was justified, and I have heard stories of congratulatory letters being written by people outside to the Hon. Mr. Kemp indicating that the people outside thought the attack was justified. The very fact that people in the community think that the attack was justified makes it all the more important that the Minister of Education dissociate herself and the Government completely from the smear that has been made.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: The L.C.L. members in the Streaky Bay area did that.

Mr. HUDSON: Yes. These matters are important. The freedom of the individual and his liberty to engage freely in public association without any fear of unjustified smears being made on him or her are involved, and, unless these freedoms are protected from unjustified attacks made under privilege in Parliament, the basic standards of freedom and democracy in the community must suffer.

I rise on this motion to go into Committee of Supply today because I consider (and I understand that I am supported by other members of the Opposition on this) that the Government's attitude on this matter is not satisfactory, that it should not be allowed to get away with it, and that those members of the Government Party who believe that what I say is fully justified should bring the necessary pressure to bear on Cabinet Ministers so that a full withdrawal will be made.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: The Government shouldn't be allowed to get away with what?

Mr. HUDSON: With refusing to dissociate itself from a smear on an officer of a Government department, and the very fact that the Minister has refused to back up the member for Stirling means that the whole issue is left in such a manner that the public will be thinking about it and saying, "Mr. Kemp must have been on to something. His criticism and his attack were justified. Professor

Richardson probably has communistic associations." Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, what would happen if any honourable member attacked an officer of the Lands Department in the way that the Hon. Mr. Kemp attacked Professor Richardson? Can you imagine the high indignation that would come from the present Minister of Lands?

Mr. Lawn: Rightly so, too.

Mr. HUDSON: Quite. I repeat that Professor Richardson is personally known to me and that the charges and attacks made on him are completely unjustified. The Hon. Mr. Kemp, when the reply was provided by the Minister, would not ask for it, because he considered it unsatisfactory. The replies that the Minister of Education has given so far show clearly, by implication, that she is satisfied with Professor Richardson, that she approves of his trip overseas, and that Mr. Kemp's attack was completely and utterly unjustified. If that is the case, why not say so? Why not do the decent thing?

If she is prepared to do this, and if her colleagues will do it, we will be satisfied, but we will not be satisfied by the reply, "Mr. Kemp spoke under privilege and could say what he liked. We will neither associate ourselves with nor dissociate ourselves from his remarks. He can do and say what he likes about any officer of the service." This attitude, which we have had so far from the Minister and from the Premier, is simply not good enough, and we on this side will not rest until we have had a satisfactory reply.

Motion carried.

In Committee of Supply.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Treasurer) moved:

That towards defraying the expenses of the establishments and public services of the State for the year ending June 30, 1969, a further sum of \$30,000,000 be granted: provided that no payments for any establishment or service shall be made out of the said sum in excess of the rates voted for similar establishments or services on the Estimates for the financial year ended June 30, 1968, except increases of salaries or wages fixed or prescribed by any return under any Act relating to the Public Service, or by any regulation, or by any award, order, or determination of any court or other body empowered to fix or prescribe wages or salaries.

Motion carried.

Resolution adopted by the House. Bill founded in Committee of Ways and Means, introduced by the Hon. G. G. Pearson, and read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.
I thank members for their courtesy in enabling Standing Orders to be suspended so that this Bill can be dealt with. For some years it has been customary for Parliament to approve two Supply Bills so that the current financial commitments of the Government may be met during the period between July 1 and the assent to the Appropriation Bill following the Budget debate. The Supply Act (No. 1) of 1968 approved by the House last June provides authority in respect of \$40,000,000. As the current requirement to meet ordinary expenditures from Revenue Account is about \$18,000,000 a month it may be seen that the present provision will suffice until about the first week of September.

It is desirable, therefore, for Parliament to deal with a second Supply Bill now to give authority that may be expected to suffice until the Appropriation Bill becomes effective—probably late in October. This Bill is for \$30,000,000, the same amount as that in the second Supply Bill last year. Together with the \$40,000,000 of Supply Act (No. 1), it will give a total of \$70,000,000, and this should ensure that a third Supply Bill will not be necessary before the end of the Budget debate. Clause 2 provides for the issue and application of \$30,000,000. Clause 3 provides for the payment of any increase in salaries or wages that may be authorized by any court or other body empowered to fix or prescribe salaries or wages. The clauses all follow the usual form for Supply Bills.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): This Bill is in the usual form and, consequently, I support it.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

LOAN ESTIMATES

In Committee.

(Continued from August 21. Page 785.)

Grand total, \$91,640,000.

Mr. BURDON (Mount Gambier): Last evening I was dealing with matters relating to the South Australian Housing Trust. This year's allocation to the trust has been reduced by \$1,500,000. Having looked through the Loan Estimates, I find that there is an allocation of \$24,250,000 from all sources for the trust's programme. This represents a reduction of \$3,370,000 on the 1967-68 allocation, which was \$27,620,000. This clearly indicates that

the Government is not placing very great emphasis on the Housing Trust as a means of rehabilitating this State's building industry during the coming financial year. The Treasurer said that one of the reasons why fewer houses were built by the trust last year was that immigration had declined. I point out, however, that when the Premier returned from his oversea trip he said that businessmen and industrialists would have to go out and recruit their labour. His statement indicates that the Government expects a further drop in immigration in the coming financial year.

In reply to recent questions about timber supplied by the Woods and Forests Department, the Treasurer said that the department's policy in respect of softwood flooring was to be modified and that in future Housing Trust subcontractors would not be required to specify radiata pine from Woods and Forests Department channels. I cannot entirely disagree with this policy (although I hope that radiata pine will continue to be specified for Housing Trust houses), because there are other sources of supply from private units.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Exactly.

Mr. BURDON: We must realize that others produce the same material, and that private sawmills in the Mount Gambier area are doing an excellent job. However, I understand that the Woods and Forests Department is holding large quantities of unsold flooring timber, which has accumulated in the last 12 months or so, and if this is not disposed of some embarrassment could be caused to the department and, also, the stock could deteriorate.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Have private mills surplus stocks at this time?

Mr BURDON: I should think they would have some, but I am not aware of the total quantities. It would be fair to say that all sawmilling interests in the South-East have been affected by recent events in their efforts to dispose of surplus stocks.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: There was no significance in my question: I asked it for information only.

Mr. BURDON: When I asked my question I was seeking information, too. I realize that the Woods and Forests Department has to stand up to competition from private producers and, if it cannot do so, there must be something wrong with its organization. In the early days, and since then, the department gave a lead to sawmilling in this State.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: It certainly established a standard for quality.

Mr. BURDON: Of course. In the future the department must give a lead, and the Government is responsible to ensure that the high standard is maintained, not only for the benefit of sawmilling interests generally but also for the benefit of the State. I cannot quarrel on this issue. I believe that co-operation between private enterprise and the Government has been harmonious. I hope that it will continue to be so, and that from our interests in the South-East will come an ever-increasing flow of first-class products provided by both private enterprise and the Government. However, I am concerned about the accumulation of stocks by the Woods and Forests Department because, having been in the sawmilling industry for many years, I realize what deterioration can occur if the material is not disposed of.

I welcomed the Treasurer's statement about providing for the purchase of additional land for afforestation. These purchases are extremely important for the continuing growth of the sawmilling industry in the South-East, and this provision will receive my full support, irrespective of the party in Government and who is Treasurer. Last year \$685,000 was provided for this purpose and spent: \$415,000 is provided this year, and I hope that if sufficient land is available the Government will be able to purchase it at a reasonable price.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: We made a special provision of \$250,000 for that just before the end of the last financial year.

Mr. BURDON: This land must be purchased immediately it becomes available, in order to protect the future of the industry. In turning to another aspect, I emphasize that I am not criticizing officers of the Woods and Forests Department. Every time I have spoken I have praised them and I will continue to do so. However, I believe that the department must follow an extremely vigorous policy, because it has a most important part to play not only in sawmilling but also in the manufacture of particle board or other aspects of this type of timber, which is provided from small timber. I believe large quantities of small timber are becoming available from forests in the South-East. We know that there has been a considerable reduction in the quantity of timber being used to manufacture cases because their use is declining.

The Woods and Forests Department was one of the largest suppliers of cases in Australia, but the Nangwarry sawmill output has been

reduced from 70 per cent of the cases used to only 30 per cent, and the Mount Gambier State sawmill has lost 50 per cent of its case trade in the last four or five years. These reductions have resulted from the introduction of fibre container boxes, and I believe that the department can and must seriously consider this problem. It may still have a prominent part to play in this State. In bygone years it took the lead, and I do not want to see it drop out of the picture completely. It has the know-how and capacity to move into other fields of sawmilling, which other producers of timber are doing: they are producing other types of sawmill timber, and the Woods and Forests Department could well move into that field and fill a vacuum being created in the department at present.

I turn now to the South-East rail service accommodation, because it is about 14 years since the broad gauge was introduced on the South-Eastern system. Many advantages have been gained from that. It is sometimes said that people do not use the railways as much as they should. Perhaps they would if a first-class service was provided similar to that on interstate lines. While we do not often travel by rail to other States, we travel frequently within the State a distance of 300 miles, at which distance from Adelaide we reach one of the best areas in South Australia.

Mr. Rodda: Hear, hear!

Mr. BURDON: I knew the member for Victoria would agree with me wholeheartedly. Last Tuesday, in answer to a question I asked about the South-East rail service, I was told:

Layout plans for air-conditioned sleeping-car and sitting-up accommodation on the Mount Gambier night train service have been prepared.

I believe they have been prepared for a considerable time. I hope they will not lie in the archives of the Railways Department for many more years, because I and other members would like to see them brought out of the mothballs and implemented.

I come now to the general matter of fishing havens; I do not have any in my district. We have not been able to catch any fish in the Blue Lake and they do not seem to do well in the Valley Lake, although we are hoping that a suitable species will be introduced soon into the Valley Lake to provide some angling sport. My constituents at Mount Gambier would be happy to have that as a fishing area. The previous Government was subjected to much criticism by the then Opposition (the present Government) about the provision of money

for fishing havens. Members on this side thought that \$500,000 would be provided in these Loan Estimates for the fishing industry not only around the South-East coast but also along the whole South Australian coast, because we have to view this from the point of view of the whole State and not just a particular area. Although, on paper, the sum provided seems good (\$210,000, an improvement of \$92,000 on 1967-68), the sum of \$117,000 is provided for the Glenelg jetty.

Mr. Rodda: The Government should be spending it at Mount Gambier.

Mr. BURDON: If another \$117,000 can be provided for Mount Gambier, I shall accept it with pleasure because we could do much with it. For instance, we could do something about the tourist industry. It amazes me, following the criticism to which the previous Government was subjected about the fishing industry, to find there is virtually no greater provision this year than there was last year. I should have thought the member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney) would do something about this because he took part in previous debates and asked some questions about fishing last year. I trust he will use his influence with the Government in the coming few months so that there will be a more substantial hand-out to the fishing industry.

I note from the Treasurer's Statement on the Loan Estimates that money is allocated for the continuation of certain projects in Mount Gambier. I am happy with this because it means that work on the two schools that has been started there, and particularly on the Mount Gambier High School, will be continued. While I do not think the work will be completed this financial year, the money allocated is substantial and I hope that before the end of 1969 the new school will become a reality. The Loan Estimates provide a total of \$1,284,000 for Mount Gambier, made up of \$91,000 for improvements and extensions to the Mount Gambier water supply, \$140,000 for the building of a regional forestry office, \$820,000 for the Mount Gambier High School, and \$233,000 for completing the McDonald Park Primary School.

I have for the past five or six years raised the question of Government buildings at Mount Gambier, and I understand that moves are now being made for the provision of a building. Although a site has been tentatively chosen for such a building, other sites will be inspected to see which is the more suitable.

I hope that this will not delay the construction of public buildings in Mount Gambier, because enough has been said to indicate that the provision of such buildings in Mount Gambier is long overdue. Indeed, although I raised this matter when I first spoke in this House in 1963, progress has been slow.

I hope that the Government will make money available so that plans prepared by the Labor Party two years ago can be implemented. I have the support of the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. D. A. Dunstan) in hoping for the provision of an office for the Registrar of Motor Vehicles in the new building at Mount Gambier. Indeed, I hope that the Public Buildings Department and other departments will be accommodated in this building when it becomes a reality, because the decentralization of such departments is most necessary for country people. In saying this, I point out that such offices could be provided elsewhere in the State, so that the services of these departments could be made available to country people, as well as to city dwellers. The Leader of the Opposition said before the last election that everything would be done to facilitate the establishment of such an office in Mount Gambier and, although I realize that he is not the Leader of the Government now, I hope that we will eventually see such an office established in the Lower South-East.

Mr. Jennings: And opened by Mr. Dunstan, as Premier.

Mr. BURDON: This will probably be one of his first jobs when he becomes Premier of this State again soon. I now place before the Government a matter that has been pursued by the Chamber of Commerce and the Corporation of the City of Mount Gambier: the provision of adequate funds for the promotion of tourism. Tourism is one of the State's (indeed, Australia's) largest potential industries, and ultimately we must find more money to provide tourist facilities, particularly in country areas so that people can enjoy similar amenities to those enjoyed in the metropolitan area. There should be an awareness on the part of the Government to give country tourist centres a greater allocation for this purpose.

I know that allocations are made to certain country tourist centres in other States by way of grants through the respective Highways Departments in order to provide amenities and to undertake tourist projects. I realize that, if such were the case here, it would necessitate a re-assessment of Highways Department grants. However, adequate provision must be

made for tourism in country areas, and these areas must receive more recognition than they have received in the past.

Mr. Jennings: I think we should display our wombats.

Mr. BURDON: Let us hope that we can provide adequate areas in years to come for all our native animals.

Mr. McANANEY (Stirling): I rise with great pleasure to support the first line. The Treasurer has for many years proved to be a marvellous administrator, as Minister of Works and as the holder of other portfolios in the Government, and I am sure that under his direction we will see a period of sound financing in the State. As a result, South Australia will slowly but surely bring itself out of the mire into which it has fallen over the past three years. Although there may be certain things in his explanation with which I do not agree, I have confidence in the Treasurer, and I know that when the Budget is introduced he will explain the reasons for certain action he has taken. I know that it will be a sound Budget and a successful combination of the two statements concerned.

Mr. Hudson: You'll have to say so, whether it is or not.

Mr. McANANEY: If, when introducing the Budget, the Treasurer says something with which I disagree, I will say what I think. It was said that the *Advertiser* did not publish the speeches made by the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Glenelg, but I am sure that that was done to save those two gentlemen any embarrassment because the Leader said one thing and the member for Glenelg said another.

Mr. Corcoran: What were the two different stories?

Mr. McANANEY: I will analyse what the Leader said, including the undesirable adjectives that we often hear him and his Party use. The Leader said:

Close examination of these Loan Estimates immediately reveals just how shabby and base the politicking of the Liberal Party was when in Opposition, because time after time while the Labor Party was in Government we saw pamphlets, public statements and attacks in this House that the Labor Government was improperly using Loan funds.

Mr. Rodda: Wasn't it?

Mr. McANANEY: Yes. The Labor Government, which took office when the State's finances were sound, did not continue to administer them sensibly. The Leader also said:

Further, he has charged to Loan Account new classes of work not previously so charged. Indeed, he has done more than that. He has done what this State has not done within the memory of practically any member present: he has borrowed money against a revenue deficit.

Up to a point, that is correct. However, I can still recall when Labor got over \$9,000,000 behind in revenue.

Mr. Hudson: When?

Mr. McANANEY: When the Labor Government was in office on a previous occasion.

Mr. Hudson: When was it \$9,000,000 behind?

Mr. McANANEY: There is an item in the 1967 Auditor-General's Report.

Mr. Hudson: Show us the figure! You can't; you've made it up!

Mr. McANANEY: It is in the 1967 Auditor-General's Report at page 352 and relates to "General Revenue Deficiencies, 1926-34". The balance on June 30, 1966, was \$9,811,636, and the Budget was debited by \$343,978. The sum of \$9,467,658 was still owing.

Mr. Hudson: When was this?

Mr. McANANEY: It is on page 352.

Mr. Lawn: You said 1926 to 1934!

Mr. McANANEY: This sum is still on the books now, never having been repaid. It costs the people of South Australia 5 per cent interest, which represents \$450,000 each year, plus \$343,000 that has been written off. This is crazy finance which was commenced by the Labor Government when in office. Yet yesterday members opposite objected because we had increased water charges. If we did not have the liabilities around our necks that were left for us, perhaps we could provide the type of progress which the member for Glenelg said we must provide in the next three years but which his Party was unable to provide during its term of office. The Leader said:

That is completely baseless, because they knew we had to expand the revenue expenditure in this State to bring services up to the level of those in the other States.

I will not repeat the figures I gave earlier in the session in relation to social services: they are in *Hansard*. However, on a population basis South Australia, although it provides less on some items, provides the same overall in this regard as other States provide. Therefore, the Opposition cannot claim to have maintained other than the normal rate of progress in the previous three years. I will not repeat these figures, but they appear on page 22 of the Auditor-General's Report. The Leader continued:

More serious than that, the Treasurer's Loan Estimates statement would lead us to believe that we are now getting a considerable increase (he says it is 16 per cent) in works expenditure this year.

It can be seen that money is available for a 16 per cent increase in Loan works this year.

Mr. Corcoran: You have to admit that is a fiddle.

Mr. McANANEY: The member for Yorke Peninsula referred to the juggling of accounts but, when one has had as many years' experience in accountancy as I have had, one realizes that one must deal with the facts of life and not rely on figures in a book. When members opposite were elected as the Government three years ago, they tried to prove that the finances of the State were in a poor condition. I do not like going back into the past but, when I hear statements such as those made by the Leader in this debate, I believe I must deal with the past to prove how theoretical are his statements.

Mr. Jennings: How far back?

Mr. McANANEY: I have gone back as far as 1934 to demonstrate the difficulties that my Party inherited from the Labor Government then. The previous Liberal Government commenced its last year in office with surpluses in the Revenue, Loan and Uranium Accounts totalling \$8,600,000. These surpluses were made because of the buoyancy of the economy, and the pressure on resources, particularly in the building and allied industries, made it impossible for contractors to maintain their schedules.

Mr. Hudson: Where did you get what you're reading?

Mr. McANANEY: I wrote it myself, so it will be accurate. However, the Government had to face a basic wage increase of \$2 a week at an estimated cost of \$4,500,000 and a decrease of \$1,000,000 in the amount it was to receive from the Commonwealth in tax reimbursements and grants compared with the previous year. It was decided to use these reserves, and to slightly increase taxation. The economy remained buoyant, employment increased by 17,300 and State revenues increased. A buoyant economy means more income and thus more taxation for the Government. The Labor Government commenced its first financial year in office in a comparatively good position with a credit balance of \$1,200,000, an additional \$8,300,000 in tax reimbursements from the Commonwealth, plus a full year's receipt of

the increased taxes, and no increase in the basic wage to finance. When the Labor Government took office, everything was in perfect order. The buoyant economy should have been preserved so that the people of South Australia could prosper, and then the Labor Party could have carried out its promise: "Live better with Labor." However, it had to back down on that. When the Labor Government took office every citizen in South Australia who wanted to work was able to find a job.

Mr. Langley: It is a bit different now.

Mr. McANANEY: That is what I have been saying. It took the Labor Government three years to put the State into this disastrous situation: surely the honourable member will give us a few months to return the position to what it was before the Labor Government took office.

Mr. LAWN: On a point of order, Mr. Acting Chairman. I have been a member of this place during the terms of the Playford Government, the Labor Government and the Hall Government, and during that time a Minister has always been present during a debate. However, there is only one at present, the Attorney-General, who has just entered the Chamber while I have been speaking.

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: I have been here all the time.

Mr. LAWN: When the Minister of Education left the Chamber, no Minister was present.

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: Yes, there was. I walked past you.

Mr. LAWN: The Minister walked in as I was speaking.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: No, I came from the direction of the public gallery. I think the record had better be put straight. I walked out of the gallery on the Opposition side. I walked over to the Minister of Education, who was sitting in her seat. She said she wanted to go out. I then—

Mr. Corcoran: The Attorney-General is out of order. The member for Adelaide is making a point of order.

Mr. LAWN: The Attorney-General went into the public gallery when the Minister of Education walked out of the Chamber.

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: I spoke to her in her seat.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nankivell): There are no grounds for the point of order of the honourable member for Adelaide. The honourable member for Stirling.

Mr. McANANEY: It is refreshing that the member for Adelaide is taking an interest in the number of members in the Chamber, because during most of the session only about three Labor members have been present during debates.

Mr. Langley: That isn't correct.

Mr. Clark: You realize why, don't you—the quality of speeches on the other side.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Will the member for Stirling please resume his seat. I have counted the Committee and, there being present a quorum, I call on the honourable member for Stirling to continue.

Mr. Clark: He never could count—his accountancy is rotten.

Mr. McANANEY: I think I have been misinterpreted. I was saying that the member for Adelaide had spoken about a Minister's not being present, and I pointed out that, repeatedly this session, only three Labor members have been present during debates. The Labor Party is not maintaining the high reputation of the Opposition that was set over the past three years.

Mr. Corcoran: There is no need to say that at all. You'll get your pay-out later on.

Mr. McANANEY: On the subject of Government finance, the Labor Government should have employed or used accountants when it took office as it had no-one with business training or experience in its ranks. Instead it employed public relations officers.

Mr. Corcoran: That's a nice slur on the Public Service of the State. Would you repeat what you said a moment ago about employing accountants?

Mr. McANANEY: It will be in *Hansard* in the morning. The Government increased taxation and service charges and by January it had a considerable surplus. This sapping of business confidence, combined with the withdrawal of purchasing power from the community into the coffers of the Government (it did not spend it until some time later), converted a surplus of registered vacancies over persons unemployed of 945 in September, 1965, to a surplus of unemployed over vacancies of 4,040 by March, 1966, or a decline of 4,985. In theory, this proves what the Leader of the Opposition said yesterday: that the correct use of Government funds can help alleviate unemployment. However, the reverse can also happen: if purchasing power is taken away from the people by means of taxation and the money is not put back into circulation, this increases unemployment.

This is where the Labor Government first got itself and the State in trouble. By the end of the year it started to spend this money, but by then unemployment problems were being encountered in South Australia, some of the State's workmen went to other States, and stories were spread in England about the lack of employment opportunities for British people migrating to Australia. That position was caused through the very thing the Leader of the Opposition said he believed in. He also said that this was the right way to do it, but I say that, on his own reasoning, it was the wrong way to do it.

There was an increase in employment in the last three years of the Playford Government of 45,000, compared with 12,000 to 13,000 in Labor's term of office. Yet the Labor Government in its three years of office received \$54,000,000 more in tax reimbursements than the L.C.L. Government did in its last three years. Recently, the Leader of the Opposition quoted from a book by Lord Keynes, but his handling of the State's finances, when he was Treasurer, was not in keeping with the book. Apparently, if he read the book he did not understand what was in it. The member for Glenelg said that almost \$9,000,000 was over-spent in the first year the last Labor Government was in office and at the end of two years this amount had been reduced to \$2,000,000, so over \$6,000,000 was taken out of public spending during that period. This reduced the people's spending power at a time when the unemployment rate was high.

Mr. Jennings: What about 1962?

Mr. McANANEY: The Labor Government built up its Loan funds in February of this year and wiped out the Budget deficit that had accumulated over two years. Two days before election day the Leader of the Opposition appeared on television and said, "I could draw a cheque on the trust funds and it would be honoured." Surely, if he had accumulated those Loan funds with the then great state of unemployment, according to what he told us on Tuesday, he would have been spending this Loan money in an attempt to create a demand, to ensure that young people would have money to spend when they started work, to create more employment, and to get us on the way out of trouble. The present Treasurer has explained his financial plan, and I do not think we should be building up the suggested reserve at this particular stage.

Mr. Corcoran: Do you think he is building up to fund the revenue deficit?

Mr. McANANEY: He has to do something with the revenue deficit. Some other States have funded their deficits. By funding, repayment is made in 17 years instead of in 53 years under normal Loan repayment terms and the only cost to the State is the loss of the 50c redemption fee each year. I have heard that an increased interest rate penalty applies but, after examining all the financial statements, I find that the 50c fee is the only penalty. However, when an amount of \$12,000,000 is transferred, as Labor transferred it, repayment over 53 years costs \$31,500,000.

Mr. Langley: You're doing the same thing.

Mr. McANANEY: We have had to take over the debt that the Labor Government created, and I am confident that the Treasurer will get us out of the difficulty.

Mr. Corcoran: You have a big responsibility, as the financial adviser of the Government.

Mr. McANANEY: Only the member for Light (Mr. Freebairn) gave me that credit. Now he calls me a left-wing Liberal. It has been said that the provision of \$500,000 for 1969 for the festival hall may as well not be considered, because there is no chance that that money will be spent this year. However, our energetic Premier is a glamour reform leader of South Australia and has been given credit by both newspapers, including the *News*, which usually gives all the kudos to the Labor Party. That newspaper is not quite as one-eyed as the *Bulletin*. The *News*, unlike the *Bulletin*, shows quite a knowledge of South Australia.

It is high time that the festival hall project was proceeded with. The Select Committee appointed three or four years ago inspected the Railways Institute site and, in my opinion (as well as in the opinion of others), that site was one of the best that we saw. It has a wonderful view over the Torrens River and is in a beautiful setting. I give credit to the Adelaide City Council for the wonderful job it has done in beautifying the park lands. It is now up to the Adelaide City Council to go ahead with its festival hall plans. When the council gave evidence before the Select Committee four years ago it was very vague about what it wanted and about the cost. If this site is suitable, the council should have the plans speedily drawn up.

Mr. Langley: It is a question of selecting the site.

Mr. McANANEY: We have already had a Select Committee which was told that the City Baths had to stay in its present position. Since then, however, a new swimming pool has been built in the north park lands and the present City Baths may be replaced, so a lovely site is now available and it is up to everyone to get behind the Government on this project. Everyone should show his support at this time, when something constructive is planned in the interests of South Australia.

Mr. Langley: Did you do that when you were in Opposition?

Mr. McANANEY: If the honourable member reads *Hansard* he will see that I supported a number of the previous Government's measures, because some of them were very good. I always give credit where credit is due. When, however, it comes to accountancy—

Mr. Langley: That is where you shine.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! There is too much audible conversation. The honourable member for Stirling.

Mr. McANANEY: Since I have been a member of Parliament I have come to hold the Public Service in much more respect than I did previously. I have found public servants to be courteous and efficient. The function of members of Parliament is to act as intermediaries between the Public Service and the people. I shall now say something that may seem inconsistent: there can be rigidity in the minds of some public servants. When the present Leader of the Opposition was Premier he was very keen on obtaining information from experts, but never in relation to accountancy.

Mr. Corcoran: The South Australian Under Treasurer would be one of the best Treasury officials in Australia.

Mr. McANANEY: I have heard Sir Thomas Playford say that, and I do not doubt it. All I can say is that it is the job of a member of Parliament to be a link between the people and departmental officers. The Premier is to be congratulated on the drive he has shown in selecting a site for a festival hall, and I hope the project will now proceed. Architectural services will be needed and expenditure must be incurred. I am sure our sound and practical Treasurer will wisely use any excess funds that become available as the result of the change in the site.

Much has been said about the reduced housing programme. It seems from the Loan Estimates that less will be spent on housing

but, as Opposition members know and have admitted, there have been empty houses in certain areas. However, there has not been the same increase in population that was experienced in the past, nor the same demand for housing. In 1963 the rate of increase of population was 2.41 per cent; in 1964, it was 2.88 per cent; in 1965 it was 2.94 per cent; in 1966 it was 1.99 per cent; and in 1967 it was a calamitous figure of 1.26 per cent. That is the problem that we have to solve with respect to our housing. The Government has to attract people so that they will return to South Australia; it has to attract migrants to this State, and has to create conditions that will cause a demand for more employment. In 1961 the excess of arrivals over departures was 2,843; in 1962 it was 1,565; in 1963 it was 2,814; in 1964 it was 5,490; in 1965 it was 1,163; but in the tragedy of 1966, we lost 1,076.

Mr. Corcoran: What about 1964?

Mr. McANANEY: There was an excess of 5,490 there. If that figure could be obtained again the building industry would be given a fillip, and people would return from other States and obtain employment. The present situation cannot be cured in weeks; it will take concerted action by many people, who will have to get back to a sensible approach. The Government has been criticized because it increased the allocation to co-operative building societies. Since I have been a member I have advocated this policy, because in other States much more use is made of these societies, consequently more people are employed in the building and housing industries. There seems to be a changing pattern of financing house building. In 1963 the Commonwealth Government, through the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, provided \$100,000,000; for war service homes it provided \$75,000,000; and for homes savings grants it provided nil. Savings banks provided \$217,000,000, trading banks provided \$132,000,000, and life offices provided \$44,000,000, a total of \$632,000,000. In 1967 the Commonwealth Government, through the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, provided \$120,000,000, an increase of \$20,000,000; for war service homes the allocation was reduced to \$59,000,000; and for home savings grants it provided \$12,000,000, which was one of the best things that happened in Australia, and was introduced by a Liberal Government. Young people, who are prepared to save money, receive a supplementary grant from the Commonwealth Government, and this practice should be encouraged.

Although I am a great supporter of the modern generation I think they should be encouraged to save.

Mr. Langley: Who can save on \$10 a week?

Mr. McANANEY: My youngest daughter started work in Adelaide this week, and I am sure that she can save that much from what she receives. She is earning nearly the adult basic wage as a single girl, and she can save for a house. I have known young nurses who have saved enough in their three years' training to take a trip abroad, whereas others were waiting to receive their salaries every Friday to spend them. That is perhaps good for the community because they put money into circulation and goods are purchased. However, for the stability of the State it is necessary for people to save, to create permanent assets. It is not by some action of Parliament that we build up the real wealth of the State: it is built up by people saving, and they should be rewarded and not penalized, as suggested by members of the Opposition, who say that those who accumulate a little money should be penalized in order to assist those who are not prepared to save.

I return to the figures I was giving: trading banks, \$186,000,000 for 1967; permanent building societies, \$115,000,000. Australia-wide, they nearly match the amount of money lent under the Commonwealth-States Housing Agreement, and they have more than trebled the annual sum they are spending in this period of four years from 1963 to 1967. The building societies encourage saving. Those people who are willing to deposit money with building societies have more opportunity to buy their houses as their deposits increase. If this is the way out (and it has been proved successful

in other States) rather than large sums being allocated from our Loan funds for the purpose of house purchase, that money can from time to time (the position has to be examined on its merits at any given time) be either increased or reduced. For instance, next year, if the indications are favourable and people are clamouring for houses, it may be wise to use more money in that direction; more money can be allocated under the housing agreement than for this year. If this trend continues, it will build up the building society funds so that they can expand and attract more deposits, so that in turn more houses can be built. This is one way of dealing with claims on Loan funds and reducing money allocated for housing purposes so that it can be used on departmental works in order to increase the wealth of South Australia. With that development, more goods are purchased and everybody shares in the wealth.

For 1968 there is an increase of \$3,000,000 in funds under the Commonwealth-States Housing Agreement—from \$120,000,000 to \$123,000,000; war service homes decreases from \$59,000,000 to \$46,000,000; home savings grant increases from \$12,000,000 to \$13,000,000; savings bank lending goes from \$364,000,000 to \$415,000,000, trading banks from \$186,000,000 to \$195,000,000, and permanent building societies from \$115,000,000 to \$200,000,000. This seems to be the present trend, and it is a good trend. Life office lending increases from \$57,000,000 to \$60,000,000.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.31 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 27, at 2 p.m.