

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, August 27, 1968

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

QUESTIONS

ELIZABETH HOUSING

Mr. CLARK: A group of my constituents owning houses in Halsey Road, Elizabeth East, is greatly concerned at the extremely strong rumours that the area between Halsey Road and Adams Road is to be subdivided. When the residents of Halsey Road originally purchased their houses they understood that there would be no buildings erected behind them, but it seems that buildings are to be erected and that a valuable green belt will be lost. On raising this matter with the Housing Trust some time ago they were told that the trust had not finalized its plans. To allay the concern of the house-owners in this area, will the Minister of Housing obtain from the trust the following information: is it intended that this area be subdivided; if so, how much will be subdivided and will the plantation behind Halsey Road be cut down; is the development to be handled by the trust or a private developer; and, if it is to be done by a private developer, what is the name of the developer?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will get that information for the honourable member.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Last week a motion was passed unanimously in the Commonwealth Parliament expressing abhorrence and disapproval of the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the armed forces of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Has the Premier communicated to the Commonwealth Government the sentiments of the South Australian Government and people regarding that motion?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Government and, I am sure, all members of Parliament and the people of this State deplore the attack on the freedom of the Czechoslovakian people. We deplore not only this attack but also the tragic events that followed from the interference with the freedom of the Czechoslovakian people. Accordingly, the Government, as representative of the people of this State, supports the Commonwealth resolution, which is as follows:

The House expresses its distress at and its abhorrence of the armed intervention in Czechoslovakia by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the East German regime, Poland,

Hungary, and Bulgaria; condemns this action as a breach of the United Nations Charter and of accepted international conduct, calls for the immediate withdrawal of the forces unlawfully on Czechoslovakian territory and expresses the sympathy of the House for the people of Czechoslovakia in their ordeal.

In supporting that resolution, we are aware that many people in South Australia have come from Czechoslovakia and other countries in Central Europe that are still being subjugated in this way. We only hope that the bravery and the resistance that the Czechoslovakian people are putting up against their aggressors on their homeland will result in their continuing to progress to free government. Accordingly, I will write to the Prime Minister on behalf of the South Australian people, expressing our support of the resolution.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Opposition in South Australia has already publicly expressed its dismay and horror at the events in Czechoslovakia, and we wish to join with all people in South Australia who have protested at those events. Indeed, I was contacted by the Czechoslovakian community in South Australia and asked to join in a demonstration that it staged in this city on Saturday last with the permission of the Adelaide City Council. I did so on behalf of the Labor Party in this State, and I expressed to those present, as I do publicly now, the view of the Labor Party: that we hope that a satisfactory conclusion will be reached in Czechoslovakia and that the people of that country will make significant moves towards obtaining opportunities to express themselves in freedom and to determine their own government and way of life without foreign intervention.

ROBE BOAT HAVEN

Mr. CORCORAN: In reply to a question I asked last week, the Minister of Marine was good enough to point out that the declared depth of the channel entering Lake Butler from the sea at Robe was 6ft. and that, although dredging had taken place to a depth of 10ft., this was to allow for the silting up that occurred. Will the Minister obtain from the Marine and Harbors Department a report on the feasibility of lowering this declared depth (to 10ft. if possible)?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: Although I think I indicated to the honourable member in my previous reply that, in any case, dredging

was to continue, I will certainly take up with the department the aspect that the honourable member has now raised.

TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Mr. VIRGO: As a result of the spontaneous action of citizens in the Mitchell Park area, a rather large meeting was held last Sunday morning to discuss the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study Report. At the conclusion of the meeting (which I had the opportunity to address), many questions were directed to me, a large proportion of which dealt with matters about which I had addressed questions to the Premier in the House last week. Accordingly, and as I asked the Premier to treat these questions as urgent, has he replies to them as yet and, if he has not, can he tell me when they will be available so that the information in them can be forwarded to the residents concerned?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I have a reply to the honourable member's question about larger maps. He has asked several questions about the M.A.T.S. Report, but this is the only answer I have so far. If he wishes, I will give it to him. The detail shown in the maps included in the appendix of the M.A.T.S. Report is all that is available at this time. These plans do allow land holdings to be readily identified and a tentative line showing the possible extent of the land acquisition has been shown on the plans whenever practicable. However, the exact extent of the acquisitions cannot be resolved until detailed designs of each section of the transportation facility have been completed. Additionally, the proposed extent of the acquisition has not at this stage been reconciled with actual land title boundaries, and hence the number of actual properties involved cannot be determined.

Mr. VIRGO: I draw the Premier's attention to the following resolution passed by the Marion council at a meeting last night:

That this council view with alarm the hardships that appear to be caused by the proposed route of the freeway through Marion under the M.A.T.S. Report, and advise the Minister that it desires the opportunity to make formal submissions, objections and suggestions by way of a deputation at a later date, and that the points in the Town Clerk's report be adopted and proceeded with and that the council receive from residents such objections as they may have and forward them to the Highways Department on their behalf.

As the views of councils, with the possible exception of the Adelaide City Council, were not sought before the recommendations in the M.A.T.S. Report were decided on, can the

Premier give an assurance that the Government will not only receive but also give due and proper consideration to any views that councils may care to put forward?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The resolution to which the honourable member refers is a proper one, and I remind him that the method of publicizing the M.A.T.S. Report was by making it available through local government. The Government envisaged that representations would be made from local government as well as from private citizens. Therefore, I commend the honourable member for bringing this matter to the notice of the Government, and I expect that many other local government bodies will wish to make representations, as the honourable member has indicated. The honourable member has demonstrated his interest in this matter many times in the House and I assure him that, if he cares to submit any proposals regarding the survey, they will be considered by the Minister and his staff and by the Government.

Mr. Virgo: I've brought them forward, but I can't get a reply.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I consider that this survey is important, and any representations that the honourable member would like to have considered in detail should be submitted in writing. I do not think that is an undue demand. Any submission that the honourable member makes will be considered and a reply given.

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on August 20 regarding the eligibility of people for second loans if houses are demolished as a result of the recommendations of the M.A.T.S. Report?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Regarding housing loans that come within the responsibility or oversight of the Treasurer, the Government proposes as follows:

1. Where there is a State Bank loan upon a house to be demolished, favourable consideration would be given to granting, whenever necessary, a replacement loan at least to the extent of the outstanding amount of the former loan and for the unexpired period of the former loan. Exemption would be granted from the rules against granting second loans to the same borrower and there would be no disqualification on an age basis.

2. Where there is a Homes Act guarantee operating for an institutional loan upon a house to be demolished, the rules against giving a guarantee upon a subsequent loan will not be applied in respect at least of loans up to the outstanding amount upon the former loan and for the unexpired period of the former loan.

3. A comparable attitude would be taken with loans by building societies out of Governmental moneys supplied through the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement.

The Treasurer, moreover, would be prepared to use his good offices with the Savings Bank of South Australia, the Commonwealth Savings Bank, and private lending institutions to secure from them a comparable attitude with that proposed for the State Bank.

Mr. VIRGO: Last Thursday, the member for Glenelg asked the Minister of Housing a question regarding the disposal of land currently owned by the Highways Department and suggested that this land be transferred to the Housing Trust. The Minister advised that this matter had been considered and that the land would probably be transferred to the trust. As my earlier questions regarding the M.A.T.S. Report have apparently embarrassed the Premier, will the Attorney-General refer to the Minister of Roads and Transport the request that none of the land currently held by the Highways Department be disposed of to any authority until the Government decides whether it will adopt the M.A.T.S. Report recommendations?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: If the only premise on which the honourable member asks me to discuss this matter with the Minister is that the Premier is embarrassed by his earlier questions, then my unhesitating answer is "No", but I suspect that he has other reasons for asking the question. Therefore, I will give him the benefit of the doubt, and I shall be happy to take up this matter with the Minister.

Mrs. BYRNE: The Premier said that a house owner would not be disqualified from obtaining a replacement loan in the event of a house being demolished under the M.A.T.S. Report, if adopted. Government policy on this matter in respect of the State Bank was amplified, and the Premier stated that the Treasurer would be prepared to use his good offices with the Savings Bank of South Australia, the Commonwealth Savings Bank and private lending institutions to secure from them an attitude comparable with that proposed for the State Bank. However, no reference was made to loans from the War Service Homes Division. Will the Premier consider including this division as well to secure a comparable attitude in respect of this matter?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Yes.

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Housing a reply to my recent question regarding railway land that has been released as a result

of the M.A.T.S. Report and regarding the possible use of this land by the Housing Trust?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: There appears to be a curious difference of opinion on this matter between the member for Glenelg and the member for Edwardstown (Mr. Virgo). The member for Edwardstown has been assuming that the M.A.T.S. plan will not go ahead. The question he asked the Attorney-General just now suggests that he wishes the subject land, which is the same land as that referred to in the question of the member for Glenelg, to be kept vacant in case the route of the western freeway is altered. The member for Glenelg assumes that the M.A.T.S. plan will go ahead and he wants to do something about the land not required for railway purposes and the land on the alignment of the previously suggested freeway. The two honourable members, however, must resolve this matter between themselves. The member for Glenelg asked me whether, because of the difficulty in finding land suitable for certain types of housing in the south-western suburbs, land not required for the proposed railway and land on the alignment of the previously suggested freeway should be made available to the Housing Trust as sites for houses or flats. The General Manager of the Housing Trust reports that the Housing Trust would be interested in buying suitable housing land found to be surplus to the requirements of the Highways and Local Government Department, and appropriate inquiries have already been made with a view to establishing what land could be made available for this purpose. No doubt the department will have to retain any such land until it is known whether the proposed report and recommendations will be accepted.

STURT HIGHWAY

Mr. ARNOLD: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about Accommodation Hill?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Highways Department is aware that the section of Sturt Highway at Accommodation Hill is carrying a considerable volume of traffic, including a high percentage of commercial vehicles. However, an examination of the existing delays and accident statistics shows that the slow moving commercial vehicles are not causing such undue hazard or inconvenience as to justify the expenditure of constructing a hill-climbing lane. The position will be kept under review.

WALLAROO HOUSING

Mr. HUGHES: On three occasions, an advertisement authorized by the Liberal and Country League appeared in the local newspaper in my district stating that houses at low rentals were needed for senior citizens at Wallaroo. It appeared to people in my district that a survey concerning these houses had apparently been carried out by members of the then Opposition. Can the Minister of Housing say whether this survey has been carried out and, if it has, how many houses the Government intends to build in the Wallaroo District and when it is expected to begin construction of these houses?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: As the honourable member knows, the activities of the trust in country districts last year were an all-time record, and the activities intended for this year will sustain that effort. I cannot give the honourable member a specific and detailed reply to his question: I was not personally involved in the particular matter he has raised. Of course, I, as Minister of Housing, am now involved in the housing programme in the Wallaroo District as well as in other places, and I will inquire and bring down the information for the honourable member as soon as I can.

VICTOR HARBOUR RAIL SERVICE

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a reply to my question about rail services?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: My colleague states that the Transport Control Board is waiting on statistics from the South Australian Railways before commencing its investigation whether the line between Mount Barker Junction and Victor Harbour should be closed. It is understood the Railways Department will be able to supply the information later this year and the board should complete its inquiry early in the new year. However, section 10 of the Road and Railway Transport Act does not require the board to furnish a report of its investigation into the closing or reopening of a railway line. If the board's finding is that the line should be closed, it will request the Minister to transmit its decision to the Public Works Committee. The right of action of the committee is limited to within 28 days after receiving notice from the Transport Control Board.

MURRAY BRIDGE WEIGHBRIDGE

Mr. WARDLE: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a reply to my question about the manning and annual cost of the Murray Bridge weighbridge?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Accurate records of the operation of weighbridges are not kept but it is estimated that traffic inspectorial staff of the Highways Department would man the Murray Bridge weighbridge for 20 to 25 hours a week. The actual cost involved is virtually wages only, as the operation of the weighbridge is integrated with other duties of traffic inspectors, including patrolling roads for detection of road damage, weighing by use of portable loadometers, "spotting" for purposes of the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act, and attending court proceedings. Occasionally, the Police Department also mans the weighbridge, but police attendance time is not recorded in a readily accessible form.

THEBARTON SCHOOL

Mr. LAWN: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question of August 14 about the rebuilding of the Thebarton Primary School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The means whereby the problems of the Thebarton Primary School can be best overcome have been thoroughly investigated and on February 2, 1965, the Superintendent of Primary Schools recommended that planning should proceed on the erection, in a quiet quarter of the yard, of a new two-storey primary building of 16 classrooms, plus ancillary accommodation. This new building would replace all unsatisfactory accommodation and would increase considerably the playground space. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to proceed with this work, owing to the demand for finance to provide new schools in rapidly developing areas. It has, however, been included on a list of schools that, it is considered, should be replaced, but it is not possible at this stage to say when the new building will be erected. Priorities at this time can be only tentative, as Thebarton's claims must be considered in relation to the demands for new schools in rapidly developing areas.

INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I desire to inform the House of changes in administration aimed at greater and more effective promotion of South Australia's advantages for expanding industry. Industrial promotion in Australia is not only highly competitive between the States but it is also highly specialized work. Experience has proved that for promotion to be successful it must be supported by industrial and economic research, and this approach has been recommended by the consultants appointed last year to advise the Government on these matters. I am pleased to announce that the Government has therefore appointed Mr. A. M. Ramsay (General Manager of the Housing Trust) to act as Director of Industrial Promotion. Mr. Ramsay, who will retain his position as manager of the trust, has had much experience and success in industrial promotion, as the activities of the Housing Trust have always been interwoven with industrial promotion.

At present, Mr. Ramsay is engaged in a number of voluntary tasks associated with service to the Government and the community. In view of the importance of his new appointment, Mr. Ramsay will be relinquishing some of these voluntary tasks in order to devote as much of his time as possible to the promotion of industrial development in South Australia. Mr. D. R. Currie (formerly Director of Industrial Development) will engage on research in support of the promotional activities. He will devote his attention particularly to research on special projects. This new approach, together with the support of the Industrial Development Advisory Council, will enable me, as Minister of Industrial Development, to ensure that South Australia engages adequately in the task of attracting new industries to the State, and provides expert assistance to established industries contemplating expansion within the State. The co-ordinated effort of all concerned will ensure that the best case possible in South Australia's interests is presented to industrialists contemplating an Australian investment.

Mr. HUDSON: I refer to the statement the Premier has just made in which he announced what I took to be the removal of Mr. Currie as Director of Industrial Development and a change in his status so that he will engage only in economic research. I gather also from the Premier's statement that the appointment of Mr. Ramsay, now being appointed Director of Industrial Promotion and staying on as General Manager of the Housing Trust, implies that there will be no full-time Director of Industrial Development. Can the Premier say

whether it is correct that there will be no full-time Director of Industrial Development, and what changes in Mr. Currie's position with respect to salary or other conditions have taken place as a result of his demotion?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: First, there are no changes in the conditions pertaining to Mr. Currie's contract of employment, although it may well be that there will be a change, in relation to his title of Director of Industrial Research to be substituted for Director of Industrial Development. Mr. Currie will pursue research and use his talents in that field. As Mr. Ramsay will be available when required apart, of course, from Housing Trust Board meetings, he will, therefore, act in the sense of a full-time Director. He will attend every day to his duties as Director of Industrial Promotion and, except for board meetings and prior important arrangements of the trust, he will be instantly available for this promotional work.

Mr. HUDSON: He will cease to be the General Manager of the trust?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: No, as I have said in my release. I point out that the Government's activities in industrial promotion have been greatly accelerated since we came to office.

Mr. JENNINGS: You haven't done much, have you?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Government now has some of the best talent in the State (and, I believe, some of the best talent Australia can produce) focused on industrial promotion and development in South Australia. As a result of this re-organization we will have an extremely useful and talented research team and also one of the very best salesmen in South Australia as Director of Industrial Promotion. Of course, I may add modestly that I will be the Minister administering the department.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have examined with interest the statement the Premier has made on the changes in the Industrial Development Branch and the reply he has given to the member for Glenelg. As certain things are not clear to me from the Premier's statement, I wish to have made clear to members of the House and to the public just what has occurred. Do I understand from the Premier that now the head of the Industrial Development Branch is Mr. Ramsay, and that he will be the head of the branch in addition to being General Manager of the

Housing Trust, Chairman of the Municipal Tramways Trust, and member of the Australian Broadcasting Commission?

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: No, he has resigned from that.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If he has, I am interested to hear it. Can the Premier say whether Mr. Ramsay intends to retain the other posts to which I have referred? If that is the case, am I to understand that Mr. Currie is now to be in a subordinate position in the department, having been brought to it from industry on the undertaking that he was heading the department and would be the full-time Director of Industrial Development in South Australia?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Leader will be pleased to know that Mr. Currie has agreed to accept the position of Director of Industrial Research. Mr. Ramsay will be Director of Industrial Promotion. As was not the case when I came into office, there is now a portfolio of industrial development, and I am the Minister administering it.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: A great change! That is neither here nor there.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The great change the Leader refers to is that today we have, to bring their talents to industrial promotion in South Australia, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. Barker (Chairman of the Industrial Development Advisory Council and one of the most experienced industrialists in Australia), and Mr. Currie conducting the research. This is a particularly strong team to bring to industrial promotion. The inference from the Leader's question that Mr. Ramsay will not have time to carry out his duties is unfounded, because he has already begun those duties. Today, with me, he took part in bringing the facts about South Australia in relation to an industry to the notice of the principal of that industry. This afternoon he is continuing to do this, as is Mr. Currie. I greatly appreciate the addition of talents to the team, and I appreciate Mr. Ramsay's consent and agreement about taking on this extra responsibility. He will be giving up some of his other public duties and obviously provision will have to be made within the organization of the Housing Trust to delegate more of the authority that he has exercised in the past.

Mr. BROOMHILL: Can the Premier say whether Mr. Ramsay will now be the head of the Industrial Development Department?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I, as Minister of Industrial Development, am the head of the department, and both officers are responsible to me. In the past we have met frequently, and that will continue. Mr. Currie will be responsible for research and Mr. Ramsay for all promotional activities. We will continue to confer frequently.

Mr. HUDSON: The Premier indicated that, consequent upon re-arrangements within the Department of Industrial Development, Mr. Ramsay would continue to act as the General Manager of the Housing Trust but that his activities in housing matters would be confined to attending board meetings.

The Hon. R. S. Hall: I did not say that.

Mr. HUDSON: There was something additional, but the main functions of the General Manager were to be delegated. It is clear that the main functions of the General Manager, as distinct from the Chairman of the trust, are concerned with the day-to-day running of the organization and the preparation of submissions to the trust regarding policy matters, and that his activity with respect to meetings of the trust is only a relatively small part of his functions. Can the Premier indicate which officer in the trust will be taking over the bulk of Mr. Ramsay's activities? Will this officer, as a result of the increased responsibilities he will have, receive a change in his appointment and a commensurate improvement in his salary and other conditions?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I do not intend to answer the member's final points, as this is a matter for the administration of the trust. I did not say, as the member tried to put into my mouth, that Mr. Ramsay would only attend board meetings: I said he would obviously delegate some of his authority and present work in the trust because of his added responsibilities. I did not say what he would delegate: I just made a general reference in this regard. How Mr. Ramsay does this administratively is his affair, and I believe this can be best left to him.

Mr. LAWN: As each Government department has its Director as head, who under the Premier will be the head of the Industrial Development Department?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Mr. Speaker, I have already answered that question.

Mr. LAWN: Can the Premier say whether Mr. Ramsay intends to continue as Chairman of the Municipal Tramways Trust?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I do not know whether Mr. Ramsay has fully considered his position with the M.T.T., although he may have. As far as I am concerned, that is up to him.

Mr. HUDSON: The statement makes it clear, I think, by implication that there is now no Director of Industrial Development in South Australia and, therefore, no public servant who is head of the Industrial Development Department. Will the Premier take up with the Chairman of the Public Service Board the question of this administrative arrangement and, if throughout the Public Service there is no other department without a permanent public servant as Director, will the Premier bring forward further recommendations on what he proposes to do either in splitting the current department into an Industrial Research Department and an Industrial Promotion Department or in appointing either Mr. Ramsay or Mr. Currie as Director of the Industrial Development Department?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I know the honourable member is interested in this question, so I will go through his questions *in toto* and see whether I can bring him some further information to satisfy his curiosity. It is my aim that this department should act and operate as efficiently as possible, and all efforts are directed to that end.

Mr. HUDSON: My question relates to the Industrial Development Department's being the only department in the Public Service without a permanent public servant as Director. As a result of the new arrangement that the Premier has announced today, Mr. Ramsay, as Director of Industrial Promotion, will be responsible to the Premier, and Mr. Ramsay, as General Manager of the Housing Trust, will continue to be responsible to the Minister of Housing. It is clear that the Industrial Development Department no longer has a director, and that Mr. Ramsay will be the only Government officer responsible to two Ministers. Being a servant of two masters is not likely to be a satisfactory arrangement. Will the Premier discuss this arrangement with the Chairman of the Public Service Board in order to obtain his views on the appropriateness of this administrative arrangement? If the Premier receives an adverse report, in order to ensure that Mr. Ramsay is the servant of only one master will he transfer the activities of the Industrial Development Department to the Ministry of Housing so that a more satisfactory administrative arrangement may be achieved?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member is getting involved in hypothetical questions, which I do not intend to explore for his benefit at this moment. I will obtain a report after considering the questions he has asked.

TRAIN ACCIDENTS

Mr. EDWARDS: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, an answer to my question of July 30 regarding the prevention of rail accidents?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: My colleague states that the honourable member's suggestion to place a white fluorescent strip along the sides of rolling stock has been considered. However, for many reasons, including current experience with the luminescent stripes on the front of suburban railcars that have to be removed and cleaned at frequent intervals, and also because a reflectorized strip could possibly be obscured by tarpaulins, the Railways Commissioner does not think that this suggestion would be practicable. The department is not unresponsive to the initiation of experiments that might lessen the level crossing hazard, and as an initial step certain freight vehicles have been painted yellow. Present indications suggest that a satisfactory durable paint is available, but only time will prove whether this is so. In addition, departmental officers have given consideration to the possibility of mounting reflectorized indicators on the inside surfaces of level crossing wing fences, with the objective of providing the motorist proceeding from the opposite side of the crossing with a spasmodically interrupted reflection when a train is passing over the crossing. It is hoped that it will be possible to undertake experiments in this connection.

FROGMORE ROAD BRIDGE

Mr. BROOMHILL: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Minister of Roads and Transport to my recent request that urgent attention be given to providing a new bridge on Frogmore Road, Kidman Park?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The provision of a new bridge over the Torrens River at Frogmore Road, Kidman Park, is primarily a matter for the Corporations of West Torrens and Woodville, whose areas are separated by the Torrens River at this point. Through roads between Henley Beach Road and Grange Road are available now west and east of Frogmore Road in Tapley Hill Road

and Findon Road respectively, and the Highways Department has recently completed a new bridge over the Torrens River on Findon Road. Assistance for the construction of a new bridge on Frogmore Road would not, therefore, receive a high priority at this time.

LAURA POLICE

Mr. VENNING: Has the Premier received a reply from the Chief Secretary to my question of last week about a news report that there was only one police station manned between Clare and Wilmington on the night of August 3?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: My colleague reports that, if the honourable member is referring to police stations situated on the Main North Road directly between Clare and Wilmington, there are only two—Gladstone and Wirrabara. However, there are at least 12 other police stations in this area closer to Laura than Clare or Wilmington, and all of these except two were manned on the night of August 3. On that date, the officer on duty at Gladstone did, in fact, visit the dance at Laura and detected an offence, in addition to attending the scene of an accident.

LIBRARIES

Mr. RICHES: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the supply of books to public libraries throughout the State?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The State Librarian has requested the provision of additional funds for the purchase of books in his submission for the 1968-69 Estimates. These matters are being considered and the result will be known when the Budget is introduced.

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Mr. NANKIVELL: The Finance Committee's report to the last meeting of the Council of the Institute of Technology states:

In response to a request by the institute for an assurance as to the minimum amount likely to be available in 1969, the Minister had suggested that we plan on an increase over the 1968 figure of 7½ per cent. After allowance for all unavoidable expense, the sum remaining for staff expansion from such budget would not enable the institute to take in any new students in 1969, nor would it be able to meet its commitments to students already enrolled. It was calculated that an additional \$50,000 would be needed to honour commitments to existing students, and a further \$250,000 if the institute were to operate with quotas approximating those applied last year.

Is the Minister of Education aware of this situation, and can she say what action is being taken by the Government to correct the position that has developed at the Institute of Technology?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I am extremely cognizant of the situation to which the honourable member has drawn my attention. I have discussed this matter with Dr. Evans and my attention has been drawn to certain matters. I have further discussed it with the Under Treasurer and officers of the Treasury who, in turn, have discussed it with the Director of the Institute of Technology. These matters are being considered and the result will be known when the Budget is introduced. In the meantime, I will inquire whether further information can be obtained for the honourable member.

TRAIN ACCIDENT

Mrs. BYRNE: Yesterday, after a train had left Freeling railway station an accident occurred at 7.25 a.m. near Roseworthy between the train and a truck loaded with wool bales. Three railcars were derailed in the collision, the impact ripping the leading car from the other two and spinning it off the tracks, and the tray of the semi-trailer was buckled by the force of the crash. Fortunately, the 30 passengers escaped injury, although some were badly shaken, and the truck driver and the railcar driver, except for a minor injury, were unhurt. As I understand that an accident occurred at this crossing six weeks ago, although I have not had this statement confirmed, will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport how many accidents have occurred at this crossing, and what measures, if any, are contemplated by the Railways Department to make this crossing safer?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

WHEAT STABILIZATION

Mr. FREEBAIRN: A few days ago the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry announced a new wheat stabilization plan which involved a radical departure from the present cost-of-production index system. Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he intends to introduce complementary legislation to give effect to the Commonwealth plan?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will ask my colleague for a report.

GAUGE STANDARDIZATION

Mr. McKEE: I notice that about \$9,400,000 has been allocated in the Loan Estimates for work on gauge standardization for the financial year 1968-69. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport whether provision for the cost of work on the Solomontown over-pass is included in this sum?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I seem to remember an earlier question on the Solomontown over-pass, but I shall be glad again, on this occasion, to get the information required by the honourable member.

Mr. RICHES: Has the Premier a further reply to my recent question regarding the standardizing of the gauge of the railway from Port Pirie to Adelaide, in which I referred to the importance of carrying out this work so that South Australian manufacturers would not miss out on the development that is taking place in Western Australia?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Minister of Roads and Transport reports that South Australia's proposals envisage the completion over a five-year period of the conversion of most of the remainder of the Peterborough Division, Port Pirie to Adelaide and some other broad gauge lines north of Adelaide. In order to undertake this work in a logical sequence and at the same time to permit the necessarily very detailed planning of the works in and around Adelaide, it is intended that the Adelaide-Port Pirie section be converted in the latter stages. The alterations to the Adelaide station following upon the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study proposals must also be integrated with those for standard gauge. South Australia is pressing for an early decision on these works.

HOUSE DAMAGE

Mr. HURST: I understand that when excavations for drainage were being done in Sansom Road, Semaphore Park, a house owned by Mrs. Loughhead of 21 Sansom Road was badly cracked. Although about 12 months has elapsed, nothing tangible has been done by the department in instituting effective maintenance and repairs to this lady's residence. As Mrs. Loughhead was unfortunately widowed at about the same time as the house was cracked, will the Minister of Works request his officers to expedite the repairs to this house?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I am not aware of details of this case which, according to the honourable member, occurred about 12 months ago, but I will try to obtain a reply.

STATIONMASTER'S RESIDENCE

Mr. EVANS: Has the Attorney-General received a reply from the Minister of Roads and Transport to my question of August 14 about the stationmaster's residence at Mt. Lofty?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Minister of Roads and Transport has assured me that the rights of individuals were not ignored by the Railways Department in constructing the new stationmaster's house at Mount Lofty and that, taking all things into consideration, the site chosen was the most suitable one.

KANGAROOS

Mr. GILES: As I believe that a strong demand for live kangaroos exists in dollar countries, will the Minister of Lands ascertain whether the Agriculture Department has any objection to live kangaroos being exported?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Although I will refer that question to the Minister of Agriculture, I point out that, quite apart from his department's view on the matter, the export of Australian fauna is under the control of the Commonwealth Minister for Customs and Excise.

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

Mr. CORCORAN: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to the question I recently asked about the number of applications made for carry-on finance under the Primary Producers Emergency Assistance Act and about the sum involved?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The number of applications received from primary producers for carry-on finance is 190. Of these, 152 have been approved, 23 rejected, and 15 deferred for further information. Funds involved in the approved applications total \$542,000. In addition, 42 producers have been assisted to purchase hay, involving advances of \$58,000.

Mr. NANKIVELL: On August 20 I asked the Premier whether he would request the Commonwealth Treasurer to extend the operation of the drought relief provisions until the end of November, in view of the circumstances. Has he a reply?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Upon receipt of advice from the Commonwealth that it proposed not to continue to reimburse the State for expenditure on drought relief measures involving employment grants beyond September 30, 1968, I made a further approach to

the Prime Minister for the "cut-off" date to be postponed for six months. The Commonwealth, however, has indicated that it will not extend assistance for employment of farmers beyond September 30, 1968. Each council that has undertaken this work has received grants for employment extending up to September 30, 1968. All have assured the Government that their programmes will be completed in that time. In some instances councils have asked for additional grants beyond those approved earlier, as their rate of expenditure has increased. Further funds have been made available to ensure that their work will be maintained up to the end of September, 1968.

WARREN RESERVOIR

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked last week about market gardeners in the Barossa Valley proceeding to sow vegetable seeds on the assumption that there would be no water restrictions in the Barossa Valley this summer?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I am happy to say that, with the Warren reservoir full at the end of the winter, there is expected to be no need for any restrictions this financial year on the use of water in the Barossa Valley area or any other area supplied from the Warren reservoir.

PORT AUGUSTA HOUSING

Mr. RICHES: Has the Minister of Housing a reply to my recent question about the waiting list for trust rental houses at Port Augusta and the fact that the list was longer than had hitherto been the case?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have obtained a report from the General Manager of the Housing Trust. As a result of discussions with the Commonwealth Railways, the trust agreed to build a number of houses at Port Augusta to accommodate families of skilled tradesmen to be recruited from Britain. It was hoped that the first houses would be completed in June, 1968, but there has been a delay of about two months, part of which was caused by an unusually wet winter. As it is not possible to hold up migration movement at short notice, the trust was obliged to make accommodation available to the first arrivals, and this has delayed the housing of applicants resident in the town. No applicants would have been promised that their applications

could be considered after the expiration of nine months, as the waiting time fluctuates according to the number of vacancies received. The trust is currently housing families who made application 11 and 12 months ago. Should vacancies occur at the average rate, it is expected that the waiting time will continue to be within, say, nine to 12 months. Tenders have recently been called for a further group of rental houses to deal with the existing situation.

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Agriculture, a reply to the recent question I asked about artificial insemination?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Director of the Artificial Breeding Board reports as follows:

The board purchases semen from approved artificial breeding centres only. It has approved the centres at Bacchus Marsh (Victoria), Berry and Aberdeen (N.S.W.), and Wacol (Queensland). It has not given approval for purchase of semen from centres at Tongala and Lilydale in Victoria. At all approved centres, bulls are kept under desired supervision and all are tested for freedom from specific diseases before coming into use. Thus, all semen used by the board's inseminators is known to be free from disease.

The centres at Lilydale and Tongala may send semen from tested bulls into South Australia for use by private individuals, and the board will store and permit the insemination of such semen by its employees. The board decided not to purchase semen from either of these centres, as untested bulls were thought to be on adjacent property. In fact, the Tongala centre runs a service for private breeders in which bulls from these breeders' herds can be kept at Tongala for the purpose of collection and freezing of semen for private use. As these bulls are not disease tested, it was felt that some risk of disease transmission was possible, and none of this semen can be handled by the board's centres, sub-centres or employees. The same ruling applies to the collection and processing of similar semen in South Australia. The Chief Inspector of Stock has ruled that the board shall not be allowed to perform such a service unless completely separate facilities can be provided.

ELIZABETH TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Mr. CLARK: When I read in this morning's paper an announcement by the Minister of Education of a regional technical college at Woodford Road, Elizabeth, I was delighted if rather surprised. I was delighted because this is something I have been strongly advocating for some years. Indeed, the Minister may recall that about a year ago, during the debate

on the Apprentices Act Amendment Bill, I spoke at some length in support of this college, because young people in Elizabeth were at a grave disadvantage in having to travel excessive distances to take apprenticeship courses. I was rather surprised, however, because I had not realized that provision for this college was included in the Loan Estimates. On checking, I found that it is included in Appendix I of the Treasurer's explanation of the Loan Estimates under "Major Works for which Planning and Design is Proposed During 1968-69", and I take it that it makes up part of the \$300,000 referred to in the actual Loan Estimates for "Preliminary Investigations and Design". I should think that this project would have to be investigated by the Public Works Committee (indeed, I should be disappointed if this were not the case because, if the project did not have to go before the committee, it would be a very cheap project). Can the Minister say (or can she find out) when the project is likely to be submitted to the Public Works Committee? Also, can she say when the building, which will be a great blessing in this area, is expected to be ready for occupation?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: As the honourable member said, this project has been referred for design and planning. It is the first of a series of regional technical colleges that it is hoped to establish. At this moment I cannot tell the honourable member when this college is expected to be built. I imagine the project will be referred to the Public Works Committee, and I undertake to obtain a further report for the honourable member as soon as possible.

FIREARMS

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Premier, representing the Chief Secretary, a reply to the question I asked last week about controls on the purchase and use of firearms?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Cabinet is at present considering legislation to control the manufacture and sale of silencers for firearms.

SCRAP METAL

Mr. CASEY: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked some time ago in which I recommended the establishment of a scrap metal plant at Peterborough?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Industrial Development Branch of the Premier's Department and the Railways Department have together looked into the possibility of treating the scrap steel which is accumulating at Peterborough as a result of standardization of the

rail gauge. It is estimated that the total tonnage of scrap locomotives and other rolling stock will be only 8,000 tons. Of this, however, more than half would be to the credit of the Rail Standardization Fund and the Commonwealth Government could possibly direct that it be disposed of in some specific manner. Whether the tonnage available to the State Government should be 4,000 tons or 8,000 tons, it is still far too small to warrant setting up a melting-down works even on a temporary basis. Regarding rails, it would not be an economic proposition to cut them up, as direct sale and further use by the department will absorb them. I am afraid, therefore, that, although I appreciate the efforts of the honourable member to suggest a new industry for Peterborough, the advice of my officers is that the suggestion of a treatment plant for scrap metal at Peterborough is not feasible.

HALL HIRING

Mr. LANGLEY: Since the Licensing Act was proclaimed nearly a year ago, it seems to have been well received by the public. Before it was proclaimed, several Returned Servicemen's League sub-branches and social clubs raised funds by hiring their halls to various organizations which used them for socials after receiving a permit for the consumption of liquor. At present, under the law, these licensed clubs are unable to let their halls, which has meant a loss of revenue, which previously helped them to maintain and finance their facilities. It was not expected, when it came into force, that the Act would be perfect, even though it was the envy of other States. As few amendments have been made to it, can the Premier, representing the Chief Secretary, say whether the Government intends to amend this Act and to consider the present situation relating to the hiring of premises by licensed clubs?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Act has not been amended as yet, but the Government is considering amendments which it will probably bring before the House.

LAND VALUES LITIGATION

Mr. NANKIVELL: The presiding Judge of the Licensing Court (Judge Johnston) is at present appointed to preside over matters of litigation affecting local government. Will the Attorney-General consider appointing a magistrate or judge who has some specialized knowledge of land usage and valuation to preside over litigation relating to these matters when they arise?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I appreciate the thought behind the honourable member's question which is (if I understand it correctly) that those who have had some experience in the particular sphere under consideration are better able to give a judgment than are those who have had no such experience. This may well be so in many cases, but I point out to the honourable member that a judge or a magistrate is trained to evaluate facts, whatever those facts may relate to—

Mr. Nankivell: Provided he understands them.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: —provided he understands them. He is trained to understand facts and, as I say, to draw conclusions from them. His Honour Judge Johnston has had much experience in local government work, but it is merely a matter of administrative convenience that he has been requested to make a number of these inquiries. He is not, by any means, the only judge or magistrate who may be invited to undertake such inquiries. However, I will consider the honourable member's suggestion (as he asked me to do) and let him know if it is practicable.

WOMBATS

Mr. EDWARDS: Has the Minister of Lands obtained from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my question about wombats?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have obtained from the Director of Fisheries and Fauna Conservation a report that comprises a page and a half of closely-typed matter. I think it is too long for me to read in this House, so I suggest that the honourable member examine it. The Director points out that wombats are protected but the provision exists for their destruction by permit holders. He will consider issuing permits to landholders to destroy pest wombats, and suggests that any landholder adversely affected by the damage done by pest wombats write to the Director, applying for a permit. Some such permits have already been issued. The Director would consider recommending an open season on wombats for a mile on each side of the dog fence, provision being made in the permits for the filling in of burrows. The last point that the director makes is that hairy-nose wombats are extremely rare animals, despite their prevalence in the locality to which the honourable member has referred.

SUPERPHOSPHATE REBATE

Mr. VENNING: Because of the expectation of record grain production in this State this year, will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture to discuss with the superphosphate companies the extension from on or before the end of December until into the new year of the period in which a rebate is granted to primary producers taking delivery of superphosphate? Such an extension would make available rail trucks for grain transport at the busy harvest period.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will take up this matter with the Minister of Agriculture.

AUBURN CROSSING

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Minister of Roads and Transport about plans for the reconstruction of the Auburn crossing, on the Main North Road, which crossing the Attorney, being a most efficient Minister, said he knew well?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will give the reply, with the greatest of pleasure. The planning section of the Highways Department is currently examining various proposals for the improvement or possible elimination of the rail crossing north of Auburn. These investigations have reached an advanced stage and it is expected that the scheme favoured by the department will be forwarded to the local authority (the District Council of Upper Wakefield) for its concurrence or comments within two months.

MURRAY BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. WARDLE: Over a period of several years land set apart for a new high school at Murray Bridge has been added to and on another two occasions land has been taken from the area so set apart. Can the Minister of Education say just how much land now exists for the proposed high school?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will call for a report and let the honourable member have the information as soon as possible.

MARBLE HILL

Mr. GILES: Has the Minister of Immigration and Tourism a reply to my recent question regarding the possible use of Marble Hill as a tourist attraction?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: On March 23 last year the Marble Hill property was dedicated as a reserve for the purposes of the National Trust of South Australia. A check was made today with the secretary of the trust,

who said that because of lack of finance the trust had no immediate plans for developing the reserve as a tourist attraction. If the honourable member has some suggestions regarding the use of this property, I have no doubt that the National Trust would be most receptive to his ideas.

COONAWARRA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Mr. RODDA: My question concerns the extension of electricity to Coonawarra, which district I visited last weekend. The main power line has been constructed from Mount Gambier to Coonawarra. I am particularly concerned about the wine industry there, for the grapes are subjected to severe frosts. The vignerons in that area have an adequate water supply to set up frost control measures, and there is some urgency to have the necessary installation working soon. Can the Minister of Works obtain a report on when this installation can become effective in the immediate surroundings of Coonawarra?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: As I am perfectly aware of the excellence of the product from this district, I will do everything I can to expedite the report.

BAGGED WHEAT

Mr. HUGHES: Twice within the last week it has been brought to my notice that, even though millions of bushels of grain flows into Wallaroo in a normal year, anyone wishing to purchase a bag of wheat for fowl feed cannot do so. Also, the firm of William Charlick Limited, which runs a bagging plant at Wallaroo, and which has pick-ups from time to time, is forced to send bagged wheat back to the metropolitan area because it is unable to sell it at Wallaroo. Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture to discuss with the Australian Wheat Board whether it would be possible to sell this type of wheat at Wallaroo in preference to sending it back to the metropolitan area?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will study the question and ask the Minister of Agriculture to give me a report. I am a little confused about the terms of the question, but I will examine it tomorrow and if there is any doubt I will ask the honourable member to clarify it.

WATER COSTS

Mr. ALLEN: Last week, the Minister of Works gave details of the cost of supplying water to various water districts. Can he tell me the cost of supplying water to the Burra, Clare and Jamestown districts?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I do not know offhand, but I will obtain this information.

POLICE FORCE

Mr. HURST: In view of recent press statements regarding the requirements and the desirability of increasing the Police Force in this State, can the Premier, representing the Chief Secretary, provide the House with a copy of the Police Commissioner's submissions regarding the Loan Estimates?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will refer the question to my colleague and see what reply he can give.

RAILWAY SERVICES

Mr. CASEY: Early this year, the Minister of Roads and Transport announced that certain country rail passenger services would be terminated. The one in which I am interested is the Peterborough-Orroroo-Quorn service. Will the Attorney-General ask his colleague whether this rail service is to be terminated and, if it is, when it is to be terminated and what arrangements will be made to replace it with a road passenger service?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I shall be happy to try to get the replies to those specific and precise questions, and I will supply the honourable member with a written copy.

WINE PROMOTION

Mr. FREEBAIN: My question concerns the activities of South Australia House in London and results from an article in today's *Advertiser* which is headed "Export Wine Booming" and which states:

Australian wine exports had more than doubled in value and had risen 50 per cent in volume in the past 12 years, the general manager of the Australian Wine Board (Mr. H. F. M. Palmer) said last night. Although subject to inevitable sharp yearly fluctuations, this was the trend since the wine export trade had lifted itself out of the doldrums into which it fell 12 years ago.

I understand that South Australia produces over 70 per cent of Australia's total wine production, and I mention with pride that the District of Light produces most of the high-quality wines produced in this State. Can the Premier say whether direct wine promotion is undertaken by South Australia House in London?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Undoubtedly our Agent-General in London promotes whatever South Australian products he can in his movement around the United Kingdom, but trade promotion is primarily a Commonwealth Government responsibility. A large and

efficient staff is stationed at Australia House to promote Australian and South Australian products. The staff is headed by Mr. Cristofani, who is extremely able and keen to assist in the promotion of any products he can.

The Hon. B. H. Teusner: The Australian Wine Board does this.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Mr. Cristofani welcomes approaches by representatives of the trade. As the member for Angas has said by interjection, the Australian Wine Board assists in this promotion: a sales centre in London sells and promotes Australian and, of course, South Australian wines. The Agent-General, in co-operation with the Trade Commissioners at Australia House, does his best to promote South Australian products, particularly wine.

PORT AUGUSTA ROAD

Mr. RICHES: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question about the effect of transporting steel from Whyalla to Port Augusta on the Port Augusta to El Alamein road and the Yorkey Crossing road around the gulf and the effect this will have on the Port Augusta bridge?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Minister of Roads and Transport reports that the Highways Department is aware of the surface condition of the Port Augusta to Whyalla road. Complete reconstruction commencing in the 1969-70 financial year is planned. The necessary preconstructional investigations have been started. The existing load limits on the bridge at Port Augusta will apply to the haulage of steel from Whyalla. It is not envisaged that any major upgrading of the condition of the Yorkey Crossing road will be necessary as a result of steel haulage. Maintenance will be arranged as required, with consideration of pavement strengthening and other treatment if and where necessary.

MEAT

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to my recent question regarding the inspection fee of 1c a pound charged on Port Lincoln meat?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Minister of Agriculture reports that, following discussions he has had with the Chairman of the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board, this matter has been satisfactorily resolved.

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Lands obtained from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my question of August 8 about the number of abattoir inspectors and the cost of maintaining the service?

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

The Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board reports that the board's inspection service consists of one senior inspector and six travelling inspectors, who are based at the city inspection depot, 98 Gilbert Street, Adelaide. The costs of maintaining the inspection service for the last three years have been: 1965, \$40,313; 1966, \$46,482; and 1967, \$46,283. These costs are stated to comprise direct and overhead expenses, and to include considerable overtime worked by the inspectors at weekends and public holidays and after normal hours to meet the requirements of consignors of meat.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Mr. CLARK: On August 20, I quoted from a letter from a constituent regarding cruelty to animals and, in particular, regarding possible grants to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Animal Welfare League. Has the Premier a reply?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Government does make an annual grant to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The first significant grant was \$200 in 1907. The grant continued in varying amounts until raised to \$600 in 1958, and this figure has continued to date. An application was made by the society in November, 1965, for an increase in the grant but an investigation by the Auditor-General disclosed a sound financial position generally arising out of legacies received.

MILE POSTS

Mr. EDWARDS: Has the Attorney-General a reply to a question I asked on August 20 about mile posts?

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

A concrete mile post costs about \$10 erected. If mile posts were spaced at five-mile or 10-mile intervals, their value to the motorist would be lessened. A driver would tend to miss the posts or have his attention taken off the road for long periods in watching for a post. There are also several not so well known advantages in having mile posts at one-mile intervals. They can be useful to motorists when seeking aid after breakdowns and assist the police in definition of accident location, and are used by both the Highways Department and councils in reporting, defining work and producing road inventories. It is considered that mile posts at one-mile intervals on important routes are well worth the cost involved.

HEART MACHINES

Mr. BROOMHILL: Has the Premier a reply to my question of August 15, when I asked him whether he would attempt to expedite the provision of some heart-monitoring machines for the Royal Adelaide Hospital?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Chief Secretary reports:

In a minute of August 21, 1968, the Acting Administrator, Royal Adelaide Hospital, has stated that the additional machines were requisitioned by the Royal Adelaide Hospital on June 17, 1968. Tenders were subsequently called by the Supply and Tender Board and these are currently under consideration by the appropriate hospital officers.

GAS

Mr. VIRGO: I have been informed that a contract has recently been let to supply welding electrodes for the welding of the Gidgealpa pipeline. Can the Premier tell me, first, on what date tenders were called and when they closed; and, secondly, when the contract was awarded, and to whom?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will get a reply.

DERNANCOURT ROADS

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Housing a reply to my question of August 20 about road moiety charges in a Housing Trust area at Dernancourt?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The General Manager of the Housing Trust reports that the area in question was portion of an old subdivision. The construction of the roads was the responsibility of the council and, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, the trust included the sum of \$1 a foot of allotment frontage for road moieties in the purchase price of the houses.

PORT AUGUSTA GAOL

Mr. RICHES: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question of August 15 about Government policy concerning the Port Augusta Gaol?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The Public Buildings Department has completed tender documents and is ready to call tenders for the proposed new gaol. With the commitment of Loan funds on other projects, however, it has not yet been possible to allocate funds for construction. Until funds can be made available for the new gaol at Port Augusta, routine

and essential repairs and maintenance will be continued to enable the gaol to operate in the existing buildings.

BUILDERS LICENSING ACT

Mr. VIRGO: On November 16 last year the Builders Licensing Bill was assented to by the Governor, and on April 11 this year regulations under that Act were gazetted on page 1196 and other pages of the *Government Gazette*. Among the matters contained in the regulations is the constitution of the Builders Licensing Advisory Committee, the personnel of which is set out on page 1196. On page 1194 of the same *Gazette* is an intimation of the appointment of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, who is a person with extensive experience in local government, and four other persons who, I understand, are representatives of the building trade unions. I understand that the appointment of one representative from the Employers Federation, one from the Chamber of Manufactures, one from the Master Builders Association and one from the Housing Industry Association has not been made and that, until these persons are appointed, no committee exists and consequently the Act has no great benefit. Can the Minister of Housing say whether this statement that these four persons have not been appointed is correct? If they have not, can he say what steps have been taken for them to be appointed to enable this committee to operate at the earliest opportunity?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I accept that the information given by the honourable member is correct, although, from memory, I do not know the precise dates. The previous Government did appoint members to this committee a few days before relinquishing office. At that time the names to be submitted by other representative organizations had not been received, and it was some time later when eventually I received the names of the nominees. In the meantime, I had discussions with the Chairman of the board and with various interested parties. As I had received recommendations that amendments, some of them substantial, be made to the Act, the Government appointed a small subcommittee of Cabinet to examine these matters and bring down recommendations as to what, if any, amendments were desirable. In view of those problems it has not been possible to make much progress in regard to the declaration of the appointed day, which is the date

on which the Act will operate. The Act provides that the appointed day shall be not before June 30, 1968, which has already passed. However, long before that day the Chairman of the board informed me that it would not be possible to appoint a day near that time, because, with the proposed amendments to be considered, the appointed day would probably be three or four months after the date provided in the Act. The Government is considering representations made by various sections of the industry about how the Act should operate. I have interviewed several people, at their request, about amendments to the Act and, having been fully occupied with several matters, I have not been able to finalize with Cabinet what amendments, if any, should be inserted in the Act.

MOUNT GUNSON MINING

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Will the Premier obtain from the Minister of Mines a report about the extent of prospecting and mining operations for copper at Mount Gunson, including the future prospects?

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

TEA TREE GULLY SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the Tea Tree Gully School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I have been informed by the Public Buildings Department that, prior to undertaking design work for the development of this land, it has been necessary to obtain survey details of the area. This has now been undertaken and a survey details plan prepared. Arrangements are in hand to prepare design documents to enable tenders to be called for the land development. This action will be taken as early as possible.

WHARMINDA RAILWAY COTTAGES

Mr. EDWARDS: Will the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, ascertain whether the fencing around the railway cottages at Wharminda can be either renewed or removed, as it is at present in a poor condition?

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

MARION TRAFFIC

Mr. HUDSON: On August 6 I raised the matter of the control of traffic on Saturday mornings at the intersection of Diagonal Road and Sturt Road and at the Oaklands railway crossing, and I quoted part of a letter from the Marion council to the Chief Secretary in which the council requested the Chief Secretary to consider making available such traffic police as were necessary for the direction of traffic on Saturday mornings in the locality referred to. The council also asked the Minister for help in receiving an apology from the Commissioner of Police. I asked whether the Premier would take up the matter with the Chief Secretary to see that everything was done to comply with the requests of the Marion council. Has the Premier a reply to that question?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I have received a rather long minute from the Commissioner of Police to the Chief Secretary which, I take it, is the reply the honourable member wants. The Commissioner of Police reports:

I have always regarded the Marion council as a responsible body and fully appreciate the action taken by the council as set out in its letter of August 2. To be quite fair, however, I must quote the facts which led to the statement I made in replying to Mr. Hudson. On April 8, 1968, Mr. Hudson wrote, as the Minister of Housing and Social Welfare, to the then Chief Secretary and said, *inter alia*, regarding the intersection of Sturt and Diagonal Roads, "since Arndale has opened the traffic at this intersection has reached alarming proportions". On June 4, 1968, Mr. Hudson, as the member for Glenelg, wrote to me direct and stated ". . . the opening of Arndale has created serious traffic difficulties". This prompted my remarks, as the provision of traffic control devices is a matter for the council. If the traffic generated by the shopping centre at this intersection is far greater than could possibly be anticipated and planned for by the council when it approved of Arndale, I hasten to withdraw the comments regarding lack of foresight and planning.

I am still of the opinion that the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Sturt and Diagonal Roads, together with the attendant road works, should rate a high priority. Referring to my letter to him of June 12, Mr. Hudson stated in Parliament on August 6, 1968, "After some thought I passed this letter on to the Marion council . . .". Mr. Hudson did not pass on my letter; he selected two paragraphs from it. The first paragraph, in which I stated "I have given careful consideration to the request contained in your letter of June 4, and regret that I am unable to make police officers available to control traffic on Saturday mornings at the intersection of Diagonal and Sturt Roads and at the Oaklands railway crossing", was not

conveyed to the council in Mr. Hudson's letter of July 17. However, that statement still stands.

HOUSE FOUNDATIONS

Mrs. BYRNE: The Minister of Housing will be aware of correspondence I have received from the former Minister of Housing dated February 26, 1968, a part of which states:

The trust has agreed, in cases where houses in the Holden Hill area have cracked substantially due to abnormal soil movement, to make good the faults for a period of five years after the purchase by the original owner. In some instances it may be necessary to defer the repairs until such time as, in the opinion of the trust's inspector, more satisfactory results may be achieved.

Alternatively, the trust is prepared either to repurchase the properties and permit the occupants to remain in occupation as tenants of the trust, or to repurchase the properties and arrange the sale of a trust property to them in another area. It will be appreciated that these alternatives apply only where damage to the house cannot be effectively repaired.

I point out that concern has been expressed by occupants of some of these houses who do not wish to leave their properties but would prefer to wait longer, to see whether their houses will crack further or whether they can be satisfactorily repaired, before making a decision to approach the trust to repurchase the properties. In the event of these people not accepting the trust's offer now, this may prejudice their chances of accepting this offer in the future. Will the Minister of Housing therefore say how long this offer by the Trust will remain open?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The arrangement with the people in this area was correctly stated by the honourable member. The trust has at all times tried to meet the wishes of occupants and, as the honourable member has stated, it is prepared either to buy back the house and allow the present occupant to remain as a lessee, or to repair it if the repair work could be expected to be more or less permanent. I cannot say for how long the General Manager of the trust intends to hold open this offer, but I presume that, if an occupant raises with the trust the question of repairs or of the sale of the house back to the trust, the length of time for which the offer would remain open could be mutually arranged between the parties. I point out, however, that difficulties may arise where an occupant desires that repairs should be effected now if several years should elapse during which time

he might exercise his option. However, the trust is trying to deal fairly and generously with all the people involved in this problem. I will, therefore, take up this question with the trust and see whether there is any way the matter can be expressed in more definite terms. I point out also that the trust is concerned that, before any finality between it and the owner is reached, at least a reasonable time should elapse to see whether or not a more normal seasonal condition will have a lesser effect on the house than has been occasioned this year, when we have had a very dry summer and a very wet winter. I think it would be certainly in the interests of the occupants and of the trust if this matter was treated not in terms of a definite ending to a period of time or of a definite contractual obligation on the part of either party but on the understanding that the trust and the owner should be reasonably free to negotiate the matter at any particular time subject, of course, to a reasonable determination of the period. The relationship between the trust and the tenants has not changed since I became Minister of Housing. I shall, however, discuss the matter and see whether anything further should be added to my reply.

CROSS ROAD JUNCTION

Mr. VIRGO: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about the junction of Cross Road and Wattle Terrace?

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

The exit only from Wattle Terrace to Cross Road at the Marion Road intersection has been closed. This control, with others, was imposed because the intersection with its diagonal tramline crossing and other joining roads was very dangerous. The decision was reached without consideration of facilitating the flow of Morphettville racecourse traffic. The residents of Wattle Terrace have now a little further to travel to reach Cross Road, but may conveniently do so via Marion Road from Peckham Road or South Terrace. Six side streets from Wattle Terrace connect to these.

PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT

Mr. Corcoran, for the Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (on notice):

1. What officers are employed in the Premier's Department as press or publicity officers?

2. What are their names, qualifications and emoluments, respectively?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The replies are as follows:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title of Office</i>	<i>Qualifications</i>	<i>Emolument</i>
P. R. Middleton . . .	Press Secretary	A grade journalist, fully accredited Member of Australian Journalists' Association.	Weekly-paid employee (\$115 a week).
D. L. Warren	Press Secretary	B grade journalist, fully accredited Member of Australian Journalists' Association.	Weekly-paid employee (\$95 a week).
R. B. Malin	Temporary Publicity Officer	Fellow, Advertising Institute of Australia; Member, Public Relations Institute.	\$4,470 a year.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. Corcoran, for the Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (on notice):

1. What positions in each department of the Public Service were vacant at December 31, 1967?

2. What positions in each of these departments are vacant now?

3. Has an instruction been given that vacant positions in the Public Service are not to be filled?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The replies are as follows:

1. and 2. Will the honourable Leader of the Opposition please ask these questions again on Tuesday next, September 3?

3. No.

LOAN ESTIMATES

In Committee.

(Continued from August 22. Page 812.)

Grand total, \$91,640,000.

Mr. McANANEY (Stirling): When I was speaking last Thursday the Opposition suggested that I, in criticizing the Labor Government's policy, was criticizing the Under Treasurer. This suggestion is completely erroneous because I was definitely criticizing the Labor Government's policy, not any departmental officer. It has become clear from the replies to questions today that the Premier is directing a great deal of energy to the Industrial Development Branch. I think this will be a very good set-up, because the Premier will be assisted by an expert administrator who is skilled in public relations and by an expert in the manufacturing field who is an expert in research work. This set-up will now be much more efficient than it was previously, when it was under the control of a Minister who had so many portfolios that it was impossible for him to cope with them. So, this very good set-up is a promising omen for the future.

The Opposition repeatedly suggested that the under-spending during the last financial year was entirely the result of the new Government's clamping down on projects. I shall quote the Treasurer's figures, because I suppose the Opposition is prepared to accept them. In the last financial year, during the eight months in which the Labor Government was in office, \$47,964,000 was received from the Commonwealth Government, and during the four months in which the present Government was in office \$24,036,000 was received, so we see that these two amounts are almost proportionate. In the first eight months of the last financial year only \$43,861,000 was spent and in the last four months \$33,470,000 was spent. Much of the work to which I have referred was possibly authorized by the previous Government, but the new Government has continued with it and has accomplished far more than was accomplished previously. Indeed, we hope that this progress will continue. This Government received the legacy of a run-down economy, including an accumulated deficit of \$8,700,000. If he had any sense of fair play, the Leader of the Opposition, instead of being critical, would try to tell us how to liquidate that deficit.

The Opposition says that the deficit is the result of the refusal on the part of another place to increase succession duties. However, the deficit is the result of other factors, including the previous Government's decision to award an additional week's leave to railway employees, something which no other comparable section of the community receives. Money was wasted on frivolous things for which South Australia has no asset at the moment.

Mr. Broomhill: What are some of these frivolous things?

Mr. McANANEY: The honourable member knows what they are. I recently proved that social services provided by the previous Government amounted to no more than had

been provided previously. However, there is no need for me to enumerate the various ways in which the previous Government was frivolous. We have this deficit, and the Opposition has made no attempt to explain how it should be removed, other than that we should spend the Loan money that was not spent previously. Are we going to increase taxation so that this deficit may be removed? In addition to the deficit that has been created, fewer goods will now be produced, because an extra week's leave has been granted to certain employees, and that will provide no asset to the State. Actually, less will now be produced with the Loan moneys being spent than would otherwise be the case. Contrary to the view of the Opposition, people have indicated in a Gallup poll that they prefer better educational facilities, etc., to additional holidays. Increased taxation must be applied, or the deficit has to be funded, which is what other States have done. Although Victoria was recently cited as having accumulated a deficit over the years, it was pointed out that most of that deficit had been written off by funding the amount. However, I am not recommending that here. Having checked the position, I am aware that a small deficit may have existed in 1956, and that was written off under the operations of the national debt sinking fund. Whether that can be done here, I do not know. Section 27 of the Public Finance Act provides:

(5) The balance of the face value of the securities cancelled by the National Debt Commission as mentioned in subsection (3) of this section, after deducting the amounts credited to Government departments as mentioned in subsection (3) of this section, shall be credited by the Treasurer to Loan accounts, in reduction of such debits as the Treasurer thinks fit.

We must boost our economy. The Leader of the Opposition has blamed the present position on the fact that we export 85 per cent of our production. However, I do not know how that figure has been worked out. In 1966-67 the value of factory production in South Australia was as follows: treatment of non-metal mine products, \$17,747,000 (all of which production would probably have been used in South Australia); bricks, pottery and glass, \$11,000,000 (all of it used in South Australia); chemicals, dyes, paints, etc., \$40,000,000 (probably all used in South Australia); and metals, machines and conveyances, \$306,000,000 (considerable export is probably involved in this category).

With the housing industry booming in the other States, there has been a bigger demand for household appliances, such as refrigerators,

and production in the motor industry is up 10 per cent. The expected rate of increase in the motor industry for this financial year is only 5 per cent but most of this production, if it is marketed in another State, is up to normal requirements. The value of factory production in precious metals and jewellery in 1966-67 was nearly \$2,000,000; textiles, \$11,000,000; skins and leather, \$4,000,000; clothing, \$15,000,000; food, drink and tobacco, \$65,000,000; sawmills, joinery, etc., \$23,000,000; furniture of wood, bedding, etc., \$8,000,000; paper, stationery, etc., \$28,000,000; rubber, \$9,000,000; miscellaneous products, \$10,000,000; and heat, light and power, \$14,000,000.

Clearly, South Australia does not export anywhere near the proportion of production that we are told it exports. The rest of Australia has been able to keep unemployment down, although no-one has yet been able to get it below .8 per cent.

Mr. McKee: Tell us how you intend to overcome unemployment in this State?

Mr. McANANEY: We were waiting for the Opposition to explain how it could be done. After all, members opposite having created unemployment, it was up to them to solve the problem. However, perhaps we can explain how this can possibly be done. The present Government has indicated by the proposed increased expenditure of Loan funds that, to get South Australia moving again, to attract migrants, and to attract back those who left the State, somehow or other industry and the economy generally must be given a boost. Possibly this could be achieved by one of two methods. The Premier travelled overseas in an attempt to attract new industries. This shows how we are concentrating on development after the neglect of the previous three years. Out of this will come new industries and money that will provide the required boost. Once the economy is on the upgrade, a snowballing effect follows.

On Thursday I said that I possibly, to some extent, disagreed with what the Treasurer advocated in his explanation of the Loan Estimates. To give South Australia a boost, it is necessary to spend as quickly as possible as much Loan money as is available to create more jobs. From this, even more jobs will be created. That is another way to get South Australia moving. The Leader of the Opposition referred to what Keynes had said, and suggested what should be done. However, Keynes did not recommend the course followed by the Labor Government in its last two years

of office. In that two years it took out of circulation \$6,000,000, and the running down of South Australia's economy proves that Keynes's theory is correct.

Mr. Langley: Have you any suggestions on that?

Mr. McANANEY: Instead of going to the football on Saturday, the honourable member should have read *Hansard* and seen what I said on Thursday; then he would not have asked that question.

Mr. Clark: It is unintelligible.

Mr. McANANEY: Unintelligible only to the unintelligent. I think I will withdraw that remark, because I think the honourable member is a nice chap. However, I believe that what I said is true. If one of the two methods to which I have referred is adopted, possibly we can get South Australia moving again. With the good season and with a rapid increase in population, such as we had three or four years ago, we would see the difference between a thriving economy and a stagnant one. As the co-operative building societies have been so successful in other States, I cannot understand why the Leader of the Opposition was so opposed to what is laid out in the Loan Estimates in relation to them. The member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) said that it would not be within the administrative powers of the societies in South Australia to handle the additional money provided. However, as only 30 or 40 houses a year are involved (these would be built by private contractors), it would be within the capacity of the societies to handle it. It will be a good thing if we can make the societies more active and if more money can be attracted to them.

The member for Glenelg said that, in view of the new amendment to the Trustee Act relating to the lending of money by trustee companies to co-operatives, the building of houses in South Australia would be reduced. That is not correct. If money is given to one source, it means simply that houses will be built by that organization, and house building will not be reduced at all. We have been criticized because Housing Trust funds have been reduced, but that reduction will be more than counter-balanced by the additional funds to be spent on hospitals, schools and public buildings during the financial year. What we must examine is the total sum of Loan money spent, and it has been demonstrated that the total has been increased by 16 per cent, despite the Opposition's attempt to prove that the total has been increased by

only 1 per cent. We hope the Treasurer and the Government will continue to do what they have been doing in the last three or four months: that they will continue to spend Loan money as quickly as possible so that South Australia will gradually get out of the rut into which it has fallen in the last three years and that the conditions that applied in the good old days before the Labor Government took office will apply again. Therefore, I believe that things are on the up and up in South Australia. Both the *News* and the *Advertiser* appreciate the fact that South Australia is on the threshold of a period of progress. If we can re-establish confidence in the community, we will be able to return the State to the condition in which it was three years ago.

The member for Glenelg said that if the trustee companies were to lend money, as a form of trustee funds, to co-operative building societies, this would mean a big drain on the funds of the Savings Bank of South Australia, because 75 per cent of the total deposits were controlled by 15 per cent of the depositors. However, the Savings Bank limits the sum on which it will pay interest and large sums will certainly not be lost in this way. The Returned Servicemen's League is pressing for a maximum loan of \$10,000 for the purchase of houses under the war service homes scheme, as it believes the increase from \$7,000 to \$8,000 is insufficient. The need for large loans is a result of the increasing price of building blocks around Adelaide. In some cases, blocks of land cost as much as a house. In considering the Town Planning Act, we stated that, if the number of blocks to be subdivided was reduced, blocks would become scarce and therefore dearer. I believe that is what is happening. If subdividing is allowed to take place farther out from the city blocks become cheaper. People looking ahead to the time when they will retire or people looking ahead a few years would be able to buy cheaper blocks. The increase in the price of blocks is one of the problems of the modern age and I do not know the solution. The price of blocks makes it difficult for young people to buy them.

In relation to town planning, it is amazing that the Labor Party, one of the strongest proponents of town planning, is now criticizing the actions of the Director of Planning. If planning is to take place, some people must suffer in the interests of the majority. That principle was understood when town planning was introduced. At meetings of the Town

and Country Planning Association, I have often smiled when people said that with town planning, they will still live in their own little houses, with areas of greenery around, and not be disturbed for the rest of their lives. No matter how necessary planning and control may be, we have to face the fact that some people have to suffer for the benefit of the majority. I think the member for Edwardstown (Mr. Virgo) is playing politics and that he is criticizing his own Leader, who is the strongest advocate of town planning.

Mr. McKee: This debate isn't on town planning. You're confused.

Mr. McANANEY: We cannot have a city unless we plan free freeways.

Mr. Langley: They're not free freeways: they're costly.

Mr. McANANEY: We cannot plan a city unless we have planned exits and entrances. That is a part of planning. I support the first line. The Treasurer will do a splendid job, and I ask him to spend as much money as he can while we are in this semi-depressed state and until we get things going as they were in the good old days. We were told to live better with Labor, but the people found that under the Labor Government their average weekly wage decreased considerably compared with the Australian average wage. Further, unemployment increased in South Australia more than in any other State. I hope that we will get things going again as soon as possible and that South Australia will again be the envy of the other States as the leader in population growth and development.

Mr. JENNINGS (Enfield): Mr. Acting Chairman, I shall be blissfully brief. After all, everything that should have been said has been said already by the honourable member who has just resumed his seat. I consider him a most modest gentleman. Of course, it could probably be said by interjection that he had plenty to be modest about. However, I refute that: I think he is the rightful Treasurer of this State, as he would probably admit. He is, after all, an accountant, an auditor—

Mr. Langley: And an author.

Mr. JENNINGS: Yes, he is also an author. Further, he is undoubtedly a great builder. After all, how many people could have built a circular tankstand, getting the angles right and, after leaving it standing for 20 years, get a bulldozer in to knock it down, only to find that it was still there! We have

the honourable member's admission that he has all these qualifications. When he talked about unemployment, he criticized the Government, of which I was pleased to be a supporter, for its record.

Mr. Broomhill: He may be unemployed himself soon!

Mr. JENNINGS: I think that that is highly likely. However, when one looks at the competition that he will have at the preselection ballot, one would not be at all surprised if the honourable member managed to scrape through, and this statement is surely a horrible reflection on the other candidates. The honourable member talked about his Government's getting South Australia moving again. Let me remind him that the unemployment figures in this State today are the worst, and have been consistently the worst for two quarters, of any State in Australia.

Mr. McAnaney: How many quarters?

Mr. JENNINGS: Two quarters, and that makes one half. Surely an accountant and auditor would know that.

Mr. McAnaney: If you were fair, you would go back four quarters, and take a whole year.

Mr. JENNINGS: I see. We will wait another six months! We will not get involved in anything like a period of nine months, because that gets very dangerous. As Andrew Jones said when his caravan was allegedly defaced, "Nine months' work has gone up the spout."

Mr. Clark: It is suggested that this was all propaganda.

Mr. JENNINGS: I would not mind betting, knowing the honourable gentleman, that he did it himself in order to get publicity. I tried to appreciate what the member for Stirling was talking about when I listened to him last Thursday. Thinking that perhaps the fault was with me, I have read his speech in *Hansard*. I subjected myself to that indignity.

Mr. Clark: They say the *Hansard* staff sat up all night, trying to straighten out the speech.

Mr. JENNINGS: I still find it completely unintelligible and, if the honourable member wants to repeat his retort that everything is unintelligible to the unintelligent, I point out that, if that is the case, I am highly unintelligent. I would agree with the honourable member in that but, after all, who are we to be against so many who have different views on that matter?

Mr. McAnaney: How about explaining what to do with your deficit? How would you get rid of it?

Mr. JENNINGS: I have always had great difficulty with my deficit. However, in addressing myself to the first line—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nankivell): That would be proper.

Mr. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Acting Chairman, and perhaps it would save time. I offer my sympathy to the Treasurer. In fact, I always offer my sympathy to any Treasurer other than the Commonwealth Treasurer. I think the State Treasurer would agree with me on that, although perhaps he would not say so publicly. I sympathize with the Treasurer, because I know that he has only a limited amount of money to spend and, regardless of how he disburses it, he will not be able to please everybody. I think the Treasurer would say that I have underestimated the situation somewhat by saying that, and that he finds it difficult to please anyone. Therefore, my criticism of the Estimates will be not on how the money is to be disbursed but on the horrible hypocrisy of the present Government in criticizing the previous Government on its Loan Estimates, which for the three years my Party was in Government were severely attacked even to the extent of our being accused of raiding the Treasury. The publicity arising from this was almost sufficient to incline the public to believe that we were using public funds for Party purposes, or that the then Treasurer was taking millions from the public funds for his own private purposes.

Mr. McAnaney: Show me where we said you were using it for Party funds.

Mr. JENNINGS: If the honourable gentleman will read tomorrow, or whenever he gets around to it, what I have said—

Mr. McAnaney: What you said is a reflection on us. Tell us who said it.

Mr. JENNINGS: I said that the controversy arising from this was sufficient to incline people to believe something. The principal objection, of course, was when we transferred from the Revenue Account to the Loan Account certain moneys to stimulate employment, which action was in accordance with what had been done by anti-Labor Governments in other States for many years. In

leading the attack on the Loan Estimates last year the then Leader of the Opposition (the present Premier) said:

The present occupant of the Treasury bench is not apologizing for this; in no way has he said it is undesirable. His predecessor, who managed to spend more in his first year than the present Treasurer has been able to, has said that it is clearly desirable that these matters be met from Revenue Account, if possible. If we have loaded the Loan Account with almost an extra \$9,000,000 last year and a planned \$7,000,000 this year, someone somewhere has to go short. Some developmental projects in South Australia will not receive the money they require to provide a future basis for South Australian development and employment. Some of these cases have been revealed in figures shown in the last three Loan Estimates produced by Labor Treasurers. It is interesting to note then, in 1965-66, the Government provided for loans to producers \$1,200,000, or 1.6 per cent of the total Loan programme. Last year, \$828,671 (or 1.1 per cent) was provided, and this year \$750,000 (or .9 per cent) is provided. This shows a steady, progressive decline. The variation in advances to settlers is not altogether unfavourable to the Government, as some progress has been made in this regard.

The present Treasurer, in the debate on the Supplementary Estimates only about two months ago, said:

Receipts in total are likely to be a little below estimate. Because of the increased severity of the drought and its effect on rural production, railway receipts from the carriage of grains and the transport of merchandise for the farming community have been adversely affected, and now seem likely to be about \$1,800,000 less than the original forecast. Harbours receipts are also feeling the same effects and are expected to fall short of estimate.

This was the first time we had had from members opposite an acknowledgment that there was a drought in South Australia and that it was affecting our economy. Before this, they completely ignored the drought and, in fact, criticized our campaign for the saving of water. In attacking the Loan Estimates last year, the present Premier went on to say:

I point out, too, that at the very time the Government is attacking the Commonwealth Government for its non-co-operation it is asking the Commonwealth to grant moneys for drought assistance. That is a peculiar approach.

Well, it was exactly the approach being made by Sir Henry Bolte and Mr. Askin, and they were not getting very far with the Commonwealth Government in regard to any further assistance to their States. However, the electorate was encouraged to believe (and was inclined to believe) that if there was a Liberal Government in South Australia there would

be a much greater affinity between the State Government and the Liberal and Country Party Commonwealth Government.

Mr. Clark: We were told that.

Mr. JENNINGS: Yes, we were told it repeatedly, and there were big advertisements about it in the newspapers before the election. What do the Premier and the Treasurer say about it now that they have been to a Loan Council meeting and a Premiers' Conference? They know very well, as Sir Henry Bolte and Mr. Askin could have told them a long time ago, that it does not matter what their political complexion might be because the whole thing is worked out beforehand according to a schedule, and they get what the Commonwealth Government is prepared to give, and no more. The Premier then went on to say something that is almost ludicrous. He said, "We know that employment figures in South Australia are not favourable." Today, under his Government, they are the lowest of any State in Australia. Perhaps the most significant remarks made were by the present Treasurer, and I hope it was this sort of statement that had him put in the position of being Treasurer.

Mr. Edwards: He has done a pretty good job, hasn't he?

Mr. JENNINGS: I have not observed that he has done a very good job. I ask the member for Wombat, or whoever he is, to contain himself in patience for a while. I think perhaps the only reason, other than that which I am now going to explain, why he has been made Treasurer is that he has the ability to count whereas the Premier probably cannot count. The Treasurer said this once again in the Loan Estimates last year. He said:

I have done some research on the Loan Estimates and, although I shall be critical of the Government in many respects, I shall try to offer constructive suggestions on matters I consider it ought to have taken into account. I make this preamble to my remarks because I do not want members opposite to say (as undoubtedly they would like to say) that the Opposition has been purely destructive in its criticism without offering an alternative. There is no difficulty about offering destructive criticism of this document, because so many things have been left undone that it is easy to provide examples of this lack.

This is the Treasurer who, since taking over the Treasury, has been so constructive in his criticisms. He continued:

This is a colourless, unimaginative and disappointing document. It fails to recognize opportunities and it neglects to correct the down-turn in developmental projects on which future revenue and public confidence are based.

It is slanted in wrong directions. It has abundant evidence of misplaced emphasis and it reflects the Premier's inexperience and lack of appreciation of essentials and priorities. I believe this is glaringly evident from the Treasurer's explanation last Thursday. I believe it indicates what is obvious, when one thinks about it: the Treasurer is not an administrator of long experience. His professional training does not necessarily fit him to be the Treasurer. He has had no experience in large financial managements and organizations.

Mr. Venning: Whom are you talking about?

Mr. JENNINGS: I am talking about what the present Treasurer said about the last Treasurer last year. He continued:

In addition, he has the misfortune to be a member of a Party that is notorious through all its Administrations for its failure to take into account the larger issues of Government.

I wonder whether the present Treasurer took into account that the Party to which he was referring was capable of running a Government that looked after the affairs of this country during the darkest days of the Second World War when the political friends of members opposite walked out, without being kicked out by the people, when they had a majority on the floor of the House and did not have the guts to face up to their responsibilities. I wonder whether members opposite have any pangs of conscience about what the Treasurer said when he explained the Loan Estimates. In his speech on the Loan Estimates last year he said:

It is on record over so many Administrations that Labor Governments as a whole are introspective instead of outward-looking: they are so concerned with domestic issues that take up so much of their time and thinking that they give scant recognition to the larger and more far-reaching matters with which Governments inevitably have to deal. Unfortunately, this is the kind of document I would have expected from the Treasurer, knowing his background and the Party to which he at least professedly subscribes.

What the last sentence means, I do not know!

Mr. Edwards: You don't need a crystal ball, do you?

Mr. JENNINGS: There are times when charity and compassion should be exercised by all of us. This will be one of those occasions when I shall not answer an interjection. The present Treasurer continued:

The sum that should have been available for growth works this year is \$7,000,000 less than it ought to have been, and in the two years the total inroad into developmental works financed is increased by \$16,000,000. That means that, in the last year and the present year of this Government's Administration, \$16,000,000 which ought to have been used for developmental work in this State has been

used to bolster the Budget. There is no question about that, as it is the Treasurer's own figure. Admittedly, there is some recovery to the Loan Fund from the Highways Fund on account of the Morphett Street bridge project. Here again, I ask whether we can afford to reduce the expenditure on roads in order to help the Loan Fund to help the Budget. That is what is being done. The Leader of the Opposition has today very fairly indicated the agility with which the Treasurer mis-manages the affairs of the State and the clever way in which he covers up these irregularities in State finance in order to present a good image to the public.

I wonder whether the Treasurer has ever heard of the Auditor-General? I wonder whether he knows that the Auditor-General reports each year to Parliament (not to any Government) and that he can issue a special report any time he sees fit to do so.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: Weren't these statements a reflection on the Under Treasurer?

Mr. JENNINGS: Of course they were a reflection on the Under Treasurer, who was always lauded by Sir Thomas Playford as being the best Under Treasurer in the Commonwealth.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: And we agreed with him.

Mr. JENNINGS: And we agree with him today, having had experience of him ourselves while in office. The present Treasurer also said (last year):

I believe that the Treasurer will regret very much that he uses his agile mind in this respect, because the public is waking up to it. The public is not so lacking in discernment as the Treasurer might hope it is. This is the kind of thing he is doing, and not only will it get him into trouble: it will also get the State into trouble, and the welfare of the State is far more important than is the Treasurer's welfare.

I think anyone would agree with that, no matter who the Treasurer might be. He continued:

The juggling around with the Highways and Loan figures amounts to no less than \$760,000. That amount will be taken to help the Loan Fund so that it can help the Budget to the extent of \$16,000,000. That is the kind of proposition we are faced with this afternoon.

What is the position? What happens now? The very gentleman who voiced this criticism has done exactly the same himself, except that, as Queen Victoria said, he has done it "more so".

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: And we on this side are not amused.

Mr. JENNINGS: We are certainly not amused. We do not deny the difficulty facing the Treasurer, but we do not like the horrible

hypocrisy he has shown in this matter. In his Loan Estimates explanation this year the present Treasurer said:

Turning now to the normal works programme as set out in the Loan Estimates, I point out first that a changed method of accounting for certain Commonwealth grants for building purposes has increased the figures of expected payments and repayments shown in the Loan Estimates each by \$1,900,000. I will comment on that again later but, first, I wish to deal with the proposals in a way that compares directly with last year. After setting aside for housing \$19,500,000 out of the total of \$97,340,000 of new funds determined for South Australia by Loan Council, there will remain \$77,840,000 to be applied towards the normal Loan programme for works. As in previous years, this amount will be supplemented by recoveries of earlier expenditures, and the present expectation is that such recoveries will aggregate about \$12,300,000. Accordingly, a total of \$90,140,000 is estimated to be available towards the 1968-69 works programme or towards a further reserve against Revenue deficits. The Government, after considering the detailed proposals of departments, which are very largely to cover commitments already made, has decided to reserve a further relatively small sum of \$400,000 towards covering Revenue deficits and to frame a total works programme of \$89,740,000, including a further advance of \$1,000,000 to the pipelines authority. The \$400,000 so reserved, together with the Loan balance of \$5,658,000 carried over from 1967-68 and set apart, will give a little over \$6,000,000 towards covering the Revenue deficits, which have aggregated \$8,365,000 to June 30 last. Having regard to the fact that the advances of \$2,000,000 made or proposed to be made to the pipelines authority are on a short-term basis and may be considered as part of the reserve towards deficits, the proposal to be holding some \$6,000,000 in Loan Account at June 30 next against those deficits appears to be a reasonable and proper provision.

When there was a drought and its consequences and we acted likewise to stimulate employment, we were accused of raiding the Treasury and of every kind of infamous thing that could possibly be imagined; but now that the other Party is doing it, it is, according to the Treasurer, "a reasonable and proper provision". He went on to say:

The proposed programme of works of \$89,740,000 apart from housing is about \$12,400,000 or 16 per cent above last year's actual expenditures of \$77,338,000. This will undoubtedly make an important contribution towards meeting the demand for urgently needed works, towards increasing employment opportunities and in promoting a recovery of economic activity generally.

That we can certainly do with. I will not go any further along these lines; I think I have said enough. The member for Stirling has twice said that the Government's proposals for

a festival hall are excellent: in other words, the Government can do no wrong. However, there is no financial provision in these Loan Estimates for a festival hall. The member for Stirling should be an authority on the festival hall and all such cultural things because he and I were once members of a Select Committee, of which my cultured friend the member for Adelaide (Mr. Lawn) was also a member. I was on that committee because my cultural interest was well known. When the member for Stirling was appointed we did not know quite what his cultural qualifications were: perhaps they were agricultural or horticultural or viticultural, or something like that. Anyway, the committee sat under the chairmanship of the then Minister of Education (Hon. Sir Baden Pattinson).

Mr. Clark: Sir Baden had some claim to culture.

Mr. JENNINGS: He certainly did.

Mr. McKee: Perhaps the member for Stirling was put on the committee because he could play the part of Dopey, one of the seven dwarfs.

Mr. JENNINGS: Yes; he has been called "the biggest dwarf in Australia".

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nankivell): Order!

Mr. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Acting Chairman, for protecting me from these horrible interjections. The Select Committee came to a decision. Admittedly, its terms of reference were limited, as all terms of reference given to any committee by Sir Thomas Playford would be, but, within the terms of reference, we thought we did a fairly good job; and we came to a decision. We all agreed to it—and it was unanimous, besides that! When we were about to formally accept the decision that we had already agreed to, the member for Stirling came into the meeting with his own suggestions, which were completely different. Sir Baden Pattinson, as those who knew him would recall, was a very kindly gentleman. He always reminded me a little of myself. He took to task the member for Stirling in no uncertain fashion, as he could do when the occasion warranted it. The member for Stirling on that occasion, I assure honourable members, was not invincibly himself: he quickly toed the line and agreed to the majority decision—which he had, in fact, agreed to previously, anyway. As I say, he was not on that occasion invincibly himself,

but it was a great improvement. I do not particularly care whether I support the first line of the Loan Estimates or whether I do not.

Mr. Ryan: You don't oppose it?

Mr. JENNINGS: I have spoken to it, and when we debate the lines in detail I may refer to matters affecting my district.

Mr. GILES (Gumeracha): Unlike the previous speaker, I support the first line of the Loan Estimates and do so for many reasons. However, first, I congratulate the Treasurer, the other Ministers, the Under Treasurer, and the Treasury staff. Obviously, much work has been needed to prepare these Estimates, but I believe the results will be noticed throughout South Australia.

Mr. Broomhill: You can say that again!

Mr. GILES: It will not be long before there is an upturn in the State's economy as a result of the implementation of these Loan Estimates, the objects of which are to stabilize South Australia.

Mr. Broomhill: It's a pity they don't do it.

Mr. GILES: An important statement in the explanation of the Loan Estimates is to the effect that there will be a rise of 16 per cent in expenditure for 1968-69.

Mr. Rodda: That's not inconsiderable.

Mr. GILES: It is a considerable rise. However, I am disappointed that no allocation has been made to enable work to start on the Chowilla dam. To me, this omission indicates that the dam is not to be built, and that is why I am disappointed. Unfortunately, we are in a difficult position now because of a previous action. The people of South Australia were most conscientious in saving water during the drought last year, but because no water restrictions were applied in this State this action is being used against us by people in other States who think that, because we went through one of the most difficult droughts on record without imposing restrictions, we do not need additional water supplies. The situation was drastic in Melbourne and, because we did not have the restrictions that they had in that city, people there had a good reason to say, "You weathered the storm in a serious drought, so why do you want Chowilla?"

We know that we have a difficult situation concerning water, and I commend the Playford Government for placing us in the position where restrictions were not necessary. The Kangaroo Creek reservoir will be completed in 1969 with a capacity of 6,000,000,000

gallons, which will help the people of Adelaide. Recently, the Government Whip (Mr. Rodda), the member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney), and I visited this area and we were pleased to note that Citra Australia, the contractor for this project, was getting on with the job, and that construction work would commence soon.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: Are you pleased that the reservoirs are full?

Mr. GILES: Of course.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: Won't that be another argument why we need not build Chowilla?

Mr. GILES: Not necessarily. Water requirements of the State exceed the quantity of water held in the reservoirs, and the increase in future consumption that is predicted will obviously demonstrate that we need Chowilla. The construction of Kangaroo Creek reservoir has presented a problem. On one side of the proposed wall the rock formation was soft and a concrete wall could not be erected, because when water was held in the reservoir the rock formation on one side would not withstand the weight of the water. Because of this a different type of wall has had to be built: it will be of rock construction and on the reservoir side of the rock wall will be a concrete face.

Another important feature referred to in the Estimates is the start of building the Murray Bridge to Onkaparinga main, and \$1,300,000 has been allocated for this work. It will not be long before this main will be completed and will supplement Adelaide's water supply. Also, the Keith to Tailem Bend main has been re-started.

Mr. Rodda: This is an important part of South Australia.

Mr. GILES: Of course, and this work is important, too. As much as 48 miles of this 90-mile main has been completed. When arterial lines are included, this scheme will be responsible for opening up 2,800 square miles of land, which has much salt water underneath it. This water cannot be used for agricultural purposes, but with the use of arterial lines 1,792,000 acres will be opened up. If this land were cleared and pastured it could carry 2,688,000 sheep or 336,000 cattle, the estimated return from which would be \$13,440,000. This is an astonishing sum, and it is pleasing to note that the Treasurer has allocated money so that the construction of this main may be continued, because it will show such a large

return to the State. Because one immediate trouble on the Murray River is pollution, it is interesting to note that \$312,000 has been allocated in the Loan Estimates for a drainage scheme at Mannum. This will reduce the pollution of the river, and I hope that similar schemes will be commenced soon at towns farther up river.

Last year \$6,823,000 was spent on hospital buildings, but this year the allocation has been increased to \$11,600,000. One of South Australia's problems today is the lack of adequate hospital facilities, and it is pleasing to note that provision is made in this regard. Another important feature in the Estimates is that of the provision for schools, which has increased from \$8,000,000-odd actually spent last year to \$13,700,000 this year. The Treasurer has referred to the actual expenditure that will occur this financial year; I know of his integrity, and I know that the sums he has quoted will actually be paid out. I am pleased to note that \$504,000 will be spent in improving conditions at the Urrbrae Agricultural High School and that the following new schools will be built: nine primary and infants schools, two area schools, three technical high schools, and four high schools. As these schools will naturally have to be staffed, it is proper that money should be allocated for teachers colleges, and this allocation has been made.

With the delivery of natural gas to Adelaide by October, 1969, many opportunities will exist for various industries to establish, and I believe that the petro-chemical industry is to be included here and that it will be one of the future major industries in the world. The establishment of these industries as a result of the supply of natural gas will boost our economy. One problem in the horticultural industry relates to controlling diseases, and it has been intimated that work will be carried out in the coming year on biological control. Indeed, \$50,000 is to be spent at the Loxton research centre in order to build more laboratories, and I trust that the work carried out there will benefit the horticultural and agricultural industries in South Australia, if not Australia as a whole.

Forestry will receive a boost this year: 6,500 acres will be planted to radiata pine by the Woods and Forests Department, bringing the total area so planted to 180,000 acres. Much concern has recently been expressed by various citizens living in the Adelaide Hills to the effect that certain valuable areas of land have been bought by the department for the planting of pines. With arable land in high rainfall

areas at a premium, it is rather unfortunate that these particular areas cannot be used for agricultural and horticultural purposes. The land to which I refer is in the Gumeracha area, and it is a shame that land that is capable of producing many foodstuffs will be planted with pines, especially when other areas, which are more difficult to work horticulturally, are available.

Mr. Freebairn: We import timber but we export foodstuffs.

Mr. GILES: The timber industry has some problems at present, because it cannot sell all its products, but I think this is only a temporary position. I acknowledge the fact that we import timber and export primary produce, but taking up too much good land for forestry purposes will reduce our exports. In this regard, I think the acquisition of land by the Woods and Forests Department should be watched carefully. Much money has been loaned in the past to the Electricity Trust to carry out developmental works. At this stage I believe that over 80 per cent of South Australians have had power supplied to their properties, and a network of wires supplies power to most of the State from the Port Augusta station.

Mr. Corcoran: Wouldn't you agree that that was the result of the socialistic move made by the Premier's predecessor?

Mr. GILES: The move made by Sir Thomas Playford in this regard was made for the benefit of South Australia. Members opposite have recently been complaining of the reduction of sums allocated to the housing industry. I think it is safe to say that this industry represents the barometer of the economy, for it illustrates the economy's buoyancy. Young men contemplating marriage will not buy houses if their jobs are in jeopardy. If the economy is not buoyant, people who own houses will put up with what they have; they will not up-grade the standard of their houses, or add an extra room, etc., and this reduces employment in the industry. However, with a buoyant economy, people are willing to buy new houses, paint and repair existing houses, and add extra rooms, etc., and that naturally improves the employment position within the industry. It has been said that the sum to be spent on houses this financial year has been reduced by \$2,000,000. On reading the publication of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics for the March quarter, one sees that from 1963 to 1967 the South Australian Government was responsible for building 26.86 per cent of all dwellings in the

State. That \$2,000,000 represents about 10 per cent of the \$21,000,000 proposed to be spent, and, bearing in mind the total number of dwellings built by the Government in this State, there is a reduction of 2½ per cent in this regard. If we have a buoyant economy it is obvious that private builders will make up not only this 2½ per cent but far more besides. Therefore, I am convinced that the efforts by the Treasurer to increase the buoyancy of the economy will do not only that but will increase also the buoyancy of the building industry.

Mr. Corcoran: How?

Mr. GILES: I am sorry that the honourable member has not been listening.

Mr. Corcoran: I have.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: The trouble is that history is entirely against your argument.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nankivell): Order!

Mr. GILES: I believe I have given some sound reasons why the economy will become more buoyant. Much more land is being opened up, many hospitals, schools and so on are being built, and natural gas will be available in South Australia. For these reasons I am convinced that the economy will improve in the next 12 months.

The sum of \$520,000 is allocated in the Loan Estimates for drainage in the South-East. I believe a close examination is necessary in this regard. For a period, New York was supplied with all its fresh water from an underground basin, which was used indiscriminately until the level fell below that of the sea to a degree where the pressures varied so greatly that eventually the sea-water entered the basin and ruined it. If we are not careful, we could have a similar position in South Australia. Already there are problems associated with the Adelaide basin, around Virginia, where the water level has been reduced to a dangerous degree. An influx of sea-water into this basin, if it happened, would ruin the basin and would mean that many areas of vegetables and so on could not be maintained, because no fresh water would be available.

Mr. Hudson: You'd better keep out of the Premier's district.

Mr. GILES: The Premier is aware of the matters to which I have referred and is watching the position closely. If we are not careful in the South-East, in generations to come that underground water system could be ruined. Water must not be pumped from this basin away from the area. The area is being used for irrigation and other purposes and much

of the water goes back into the basin, replenishing it. If the water were completely taken away from the area, the level of the basin would tend to be lowered quickly and contamination could result. I understand that in certain areas the sea-water has already come from the coast inland over three miles.

Mr. Corcoran: Where is that?

Mr. GILES: Near Salt Creek. I have been told about this by a man on the land in that area. He had a bore that pumped fresh water but, in two years, he had to go to the farthest extreme of his property away from the sea to obtain fresh water, because salt-water had encroached on that part of the property nearer the sea. We must watch closely what happens in these areas when we examine the drainage situation, because water lying on top of the ground replenishes the underground water supply and the total removal of surplus water will mean that the underground basin will not be replenished.

Members on this side of the Chamber consider that the Loan Estimates are sound and wise, and should improve the employment position. They are not designed to do a flash-in-the-pan job, and the building industry will not receive a boost immediately. We do not want to improve the position and then have further trouble in six months; we want a steadily growing and sound economy, and I am convinced that the Loan Estimates will accomplish just that. I have much pleasure in supporting the first line.

Mr. HURST (Semaphore): I rise to support the first line with much reluctance. It is not entirely beyond the realms of possibility that I may move for a reduction in the first line.

Mr. Rodda: Has enough money been appropriated for the Phylloxera Board?

Mr. HURST: That interjection shows the lack of knowledge of the honourable member in relation to the financial affairs of the State: it is absolutely absurd to talk about using Loan money for the purposes of the Phylloxera Board. It is apparent that the honourable member should be taken under the wing of the member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney), and taught about financial matters. However, I do not suppose the member for Stirling could spare the time to teach the member for Victoria because, when one studies the contribution of the member for Stirling to this debate, one realizes that it is about time he took a refresher course in economics. If he took such a course he would not speak so much rubbish.

Mr. Hudson: For a small fee, I will consider teaching him.

Mr. HURST: If the member for Stirling intends to continue in this place to try to represent people on the land, he would be well advised to spend some money and take up the offer of the member for Glenelg, because it is apparent he needs a refresher course. The Loan Estimates are disappointing in many respects. However, I appreciate the difficulties that any Treasurer of a State has under the Financial Agreement between the Commonwealth and the States, an agreement that is disgusting and antiquated. Unfortunately, the Treasurer of this State is always hamstrung regarding Loan works. Contrary to what members of the previous Opposition claimed when we were in Government, the Treasurer of this State has to make do on what is handed to him by the Commonwealth Treasurer. Therefore, it is a question of cutting expenditure in certain respects to provide funds in other directions.

Mr. Corcoran: A Treasurer can forecast three months ahead how much he will get from the Commonwealth.

Mr. HURST: Yes. The Government has to answer to the people of South Australia for certain things in relation to these Loan Estimates. The Government was elected on a policy—

Mr. Hudson: It wasn't elected: the only mandate members opposite have is one to get out of Government.

Mr. HURST: The Government is in office against the will of the people, because of the gerrymander that has operated for so long. I will never acknowledge that the present Government has a mandate from the people of South Australia. What main events took place that would boost the morale of the Premier? The Prime Minister, when speaking in the Adelaide Town Hall, led honourable members opposite to believe that an L.C.L. Government would get from the Commonwealth a better deal than the Labor Government had got. Members opposite would fall for the thimble and pea trick!

The Labor Government's Treasurer was a man of experience and integrity, and was making his mark at Loan Council meetings. Indeed, Liberal Premiers from other States breathed a sigh of relief when they had at the meetings a man of the calibre of our Treasurer to advance the case for the States so that they would make the progress that

everyone desired. He was the only man who could handle the Commonwealth Treasurer. The member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney) is looking in amazement but, if his Government had an ounce of confidence in him, it would have sent him to Canberra as an adviser. However, although he is supposed to have done a few courses of study, his advice would make the situation worse than it was. The present Government sent an inexperienced person to Canberra to plead with the Commonwealth Government after the Prime Minister had deceived the people of South Australia by telling them that they would get a better deal if they voted Liberal. What sort of a deal have we had? We are going backwards, and we will go farther backwards.

Members interjecting:

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nankivell): Order! There are too many interjections.

Mr. HURST: I appreciate your assistance, Mr. Acting Chairman. It is improper for Government members to interject when I am speaking. We have heard much recently about demonstrations for political reasons, but when the situation is different honourable members opposite support these wicked demonstrations! What does this cost the State? I suppose the Treasurer will have a line on which he can make available a few dollars of Loan moneys to support these awful demonstrations!

Mr. Lawn: But we haven't seen them marching, particularly the member for Light.

Mr. HURST: I want to refer now to some of the criticisms of our Party made when we were left with a legacy from bad Governments over a period of years. We know that the money obtained from the sale of Radium Hill was hidden away and committed. Before we went into office, the L.C.L. Government had committed the State to expenditure beyond actual means, yet when we were in office members opposite cried out about a deficit. I think this was particularly disgusting when the present Treasurer criticized the Labor Government for using Loan money to try to bridge the gap and resolve the unemployment difficulty brought about by the actions of the L.C.L. Governments over a long period. Most honourable members here, except the new members, heard the criticism of the Labor Government and of its alleged maladministration. However, the present Treasurer is doing what our Government did.

Indeed, he is doing worse. He is using Loan money, instead of trust funds, to bridge the revenue deficit. Where will this get us?

Mr. Hudson: He says he is going to cover the deficit with it.

Mr. HURST: Yes, with Loan money. Because Sir Henry Bolte has been using Loan money to finance revenue deficits for years, Victoria has been missing out on millions of dollars, and a similar pattern is being adopted by the present Government in South Australia. Honourable members opposite know that, if this action continues, it will affect the amount of Loan money available to South Australia. The Treasurer has said:

Therefore in framing this year's Loan proposals the balance of \$5,658,000, which had accrued to June 30 last has of necessity been reserved in its entirety towards offsetting for the time being the cumulative Revenue deficits of \$8,365,000.

I suggest that the Treasurer also avail himself of the offer by the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) to teach him, for a nominal fee, something about economics. If the Treasurer does that, he will be able to contribute to the advancement of South Australia, instead of feeding us trash and rubbish. The statment to which I have referred was made by the Treasurer himself, yet he is trying to deny it. As a result of this Government's action, nothing but disadvantage can accrue to South Australia.

I am appalled at the housing situation. This Government promised to get things moving. There had been a lull in the building industry, and before the last election advertisements in the newspaper told us that this Government would start schemes and get things moving. However, it is reducing the amount of money available for housing, and ultimately the building industry will be in a much worse position than it has been in. The increasing of the limit for housing loans from \$7,000 to \$8,000 will reduce by one-seventh the number of houses erected. When a Government has not made additional moneys available, it must ultimately mean that increasing the amount of loan for the purchase of a house results in the reduction of at least one house in seven being built by the housing authorities. Goodness only knows, the waiting list for houses is long enough already. All members representing metropolitan districts know how long people have to wait to get shelter for themselves and their families.

When we see a lull in the housing industry we see unemployment gradually increasing. Indeed, the pattern that has been followed by members opposite shows quite clearly that

they are on the wrong track. How many times have we had Western Australia quoted as being a progressive State? No doubt it is going ahead to some degree, with the additional assistance it is receiving from the Commonwealth Government. However, unemployment in that State has increased. That is the situation members opposite are now aiming to achieve. The building industry should be stimulated. Many other aspects of these Loan Estimates cause me a great deal of concern. The question of harbour facilities is one in which I am most interested.

Mr. Jennings: That is a subject on which you are an authority.

Mr. HURST: The member for Port Adelaide (Mr. Ryan) and I represent the ports and, indeed, we represent them very well. However, I am afraid it is most difficult to get the message through to members opposite. The present Treasurer was most critical about the amount of Loan moneys made available last year to the Marine and Harbors Department. He said:

I am grievously disappointed with the line for the Marine and Harbors Department. The Harbors Board was abolished by this Government and the control of the new department is now directly in the hands of the Minister and the General Manager. However, if this is an example of the benefits accruing from that change, it is not apparent to me. The Marine and Harbors Department is suffering culpable neglect at the hands of the Government, and the figure shown in the Estimates is most depressing. One would have thought that if, as the Premier has been telling us, South Australia is on the brink of the most exciting era of industrial development in our history, there would be some evidence of his confidence in this department's line on the Estimates.

Mr. Jennings: Who said that?

Mr. HURST: The present Treasurer said that. That was his contribution to the Loan Estimates debate last year. That self-same person is now the Treasurer and is himself responsible for framing the Loan Estimates. One cannot help querying the sincerity of the present Government. It was not only the Treasurer who made remarks like that, for we heard repeatedly the Minister of Education complaining about the terminal at Outer Harbour, which is the main entry to South Australia for overseas shipping. I agree that a new terminal is urgently required, for it is essential that our main ports are given the proper facilities to enable overseas ships to come here. However, what has happened? There is no provision in these Estimates for a new terminal.

Indeed, it seems from the reply given by the Minister to questions I have directed to him that nothing tangible will be done this year.

What does the Government think the people of South Australia are? Government members are playing dishonest politics. The Treasurer would be prompted by his colleagues in Cabinet regarding what should happen in various directions. One would have thought that if they were sincere and were looking after the interests of South Australia, these projects would at least have been considered and been given a better allocation than they have received in these Estimates. I think it is a disgusting state of affairs, and I say that Government members have been talking with their tongues in their cheeks.

The Loan Estimates are just not good enough. We on this side fully expected to see some progress being made. Although I am loyal to my Party, I am not one who gets blinded with politics, and I give people the benefit of the doubt until they are proved to be in the wrong. As a result of the statements by members opposite, how can I trust the present Government? The situation is not good enough, for the Government has just been tinkering around. We know that, as a result of the efforts of members of an overseas consortium, containerization has to come to pass. But what has been done? One of these overseas shipping combines is not going to use Port Adelaide as a minor port. When we study the evidence taken by the Senate Select Committee on Containerization we find that one transport authority, whose evidence has not been upset, suggests that for up to 125 miles the cheapest and most efficient method of transportation is by road, from 125 miles up to 800 miles it is by rail, and beyond 800 miles it is by sea.

If the Government is not going to do anything about containerization at Port Adelaide and Outer Harbour, at least it should be alive to the situation existing with the railways in this State. Why has there not been a greater allocation to the Railways Department to try to improve the rolling stock and to bring facilities generally up to date? Much money is needed for signalling. All the basic means of transport are being grossly neglected by this Government. The Labor Party when in office was criticized in this regard, but we were left a difficult legacy from the Playford Government. We heard statements by members opposite, including a former Treasurer, that we could get extra money from the Commonwealth Government. It was said that if we just sat pat the Commonwealth would be forced to

make additional money available to us. Why did this not take place in these Estimates? Plenty of money could be spent in South Australia.

I, like the member for Gumeracha (Mr. Giles), am somewhat disappointed that Chowilla dam has gone by the board. It is apparent from these Loan Estimates that there is no provision for this project and that the Government was talking with its tongue in its cheek before the election. I feel sorry for the member for Chaffey (Mr. Arnold), who has to face his constituents in Chaffey on the promise made by his Premier and Leader that he would see Chowilla started within six months. I regret that members can be hoodwinked and misled and, as a result of that, can mislead their constituents by backing up these false promises, these gross untruths. There was not one iota of truth in that statement about the Chowilla dam. If the Government had any reason at all to believe it, why is there not some provision in these Loan Estimates for Chowilla? The Government has sold out the people of South Australia. We want water in this State.

Mr. Burdon: The Government was not sincere in making that statement about the dam.

Mr. HURST: It was not and, if Government members believe there was any possibility of this project eventuating, why was not some provision made in these Loan Estimates for the Chowilla dam? The people have just been hoodwinked. We are thousands of dollars in the red on this matter and the Government is trying to cover up and get itself out of the untruth it told the people of South Australia before the election; it is not prepared to face up to the situation. It is all very well for the Premier to get up and gloss over these things and tell the people this, but the member for Chaffey lives with his constituents, and it must be most embarrassing for him.

Mr. McKee: And it will get worse.

Mr. HURST: But there is very little he can do because, unfortunately, he has been let down. I notice that in the line for harbour development the Government intends to proceed with Giles Point. If it had not been for my own vigorous representations to the former Minister of Marine, Giles Point would not have been started.

Mr. Rodda: You didn't do much for the Appila silo.

Mr. HURST: I left that to the then member for Rocky River (Mr. Heaslip). He did what he could to the best of his ability, but the

new member for the district indicates the Government is not interested in that project. It only goes to show that it is difficult to discover where the Government stands and when it is sincere. I do not know whether it is a matter of being sincere or whether there is political skulduggery involved in this matter. However, I am pleased that Giles Point is being proceeded with. Another matter I should like to touch on under Marine and Harbours concerns the district of the member for Flinders, who was critical of the previous Government for not making sufficient funds available on the Loan Estimates for Eyre Peninsula.

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

Mr. HURST: Prior to the adjournment I was referring to what the Treasurer said last year concerning the sum allocated to the Marine and Harbours Department for Eyre Peninsula:

Due to the enterprise of the people there, Eyre Peninsula now grows half the grain produced in this State. Also, virtually no provision is made for the Outer Harbour terminal or Port Pirie oil terminal.

Although the present Treasurer was critical of the Loan Estimates last year, apparently, no provision has been made this year for harbour facilities in that area. These Estimates completely disregard the man on the land, as they do not provide for the efficient transport of the grain that is produced in the districts represented by the Treasurer and the member for Eyre. This deficiency demonstrates the insincerity of the Government in relation to the needs of the man on the land and proves that Liberal members, when in Opposition, did not offer constructive criticism.

Mr. McAnaney: Stop talking to yourself.

Mr. HURST: The member for Stirling seems to be getting anxious, but I suggest that if he listens attentively he may learn something. He should know that he is not sitting in the "Pink Pussy Cat" in Sydney watching the girls. Although he may have become excited at that place, he should contain himself in this Chamber. I do not object to his relaxing, but he has a responsibility here to consider matters seriously whilst they are being debated.

Mr. Broomhill: Did he relax at that place?

Mr. HURST: I do not frequent the place, but from reports I understand that he thoroughly enjoyed himself. I suggest that he pay attention to what is being said here.

Mr. McAnaney: Don't waste these words of wisdom—speak up.

Mr. HURST: Because of the allocation for loans to producers it is evident that this Government is not as liberal as we were when we were in Government, because we gave producers a higher priority than the present Government has given them. Obviously these Estimates are prepared well in advance. Although \$520,000 has been provided for South-Eastern drainage, this sum will have to be spent on something else because, on the evidence heard by and the recommendation of the Land Settlement Committee concerning further drainage in this area and the extension of Drain C, it would be inadvisable to continue with this work. Most members realize the benefit derived from the drains constructed in the early days because those drains helped to develop the South-East. I believe we have reached the stage at which money would be far more wisely spent on research into conserving water, instead of draining it into the sea. Modern planting methods have made many areas much more productive than they were years ago, and it is a pity that South Australia, which is one of the driest States in the Commonwealth, is losing water in this way. The suggestions that have been made here to conserve water should be examined closely, because I believe there is ample scope for using water in the locality concerned as well as in other parts of the South-East.

With the modern irrigation developments that are taking place, I believe also that the problem of disturbing the water level of much of our swamp land will be solved. I think the Government of this State will ultimately have to lock some of the drains that have been constructed, for underground waters have been tapped in some cases. According to the evidence recently given in Penola before the Land Settlement Committee, much water is running to waste into the sea even up until February, which is normally dry. The witnesses concerned have had many years of experience and know the particular area, and I think that their suggestions, if implemented, would be to the benefit of the State. I have occasionally wondered why water being taken to Keith from Tailem Bend should not be taken to Keith from the South-East, thus conserving water that is at present drained into the sea. We need all the water that it is possible to conserve, and I sincerely hope that more money is spent in this regard for the future development of South Australia.

The sum of \$300,000 for public parks is especially welcome in my district: some of the older established schools in suburbs such as

Semaphore have limited playing areas, and I believe that arrangements ought to be made between the Education Department and the council concerned to acquire suitable land within reasonable distance of a school. This would enable the schoolchildren concerned to enjoy facilities which do not have to be reached by crossing hazardous roads and which are equal to those enjoyed by schoolchildren in the more modern schools. I am interested in this allocation as it affects my district. I believe that further consideration should be given to the allocation to the South Australian Railways. As I said earlier, this department needs more money if it is to provide modern facilities to enable it to obtain maximum efficiency from its great capital outlay.

Mr. Freebairn: Do you mean in relation to suburban lines?

Mr. HURST: As a Socialist, I am interested in the whole of the State and not just one part of it. Much money must be spent in the metropolitan area on safety devices such as those required at railway crossings.

Mr. Freebairn: In talking about developing railway services you are thinking mainly in terms of the metropolitan area.

Mr. HURST: No, my mind is not as narrow as the minds of some members opposite. Indeed, I have had experience of lines in the South-East and in many other places. Such lines were designed to provide a service to the man on the land. We on this side pay more attention to the man on the land than do members opposite. Insufficient signalling devices have been provided at country crossings to protect farmers when they are moving their sheep backwards and forwards. These matters need greater attention.

Mr. McAnaney: Do you know that the farmers subsidize by 25c every passenger who travels by train from Adelaide to Semaphore?

Mr. HURST: As the honourable member has not suggested what subsidy should be paid to the proprietor of the "Pink Pussy Cat" in Sydney, I suggest that he give that matter his utmost attention, because his contribution to this debate was most disappointing. References in the Treasurer's explanation do not reflect the actual position. When referring to "Waterworks and Sewers", the Treasurer said:

Expenditure on this scheme to June 30, 1968, amounted to \$1,658,000. Sewerage schemes were completed at Mount Gambier at a cost of \$3,209,000, at LeFevre Peninsula at a cost of \$1,840,000, and at Semaphore Park at a cost of \$556,000.

From that, one would gather that sewerage work within those areas was completed. However, what the Treasurer should have said was that approved schemes costing that amount were completed, for some areas in my district still require sewer connections. Indeed, some areas at Semaphore Park require sewer connections. Because the project that had been investigated was completed at a certain point, people living beyond that point are still waiting for the work to be done. A couple of days ago a constituent living at Royal Park told me that sewerage services have not yet been provided for about 100 comparatively old houses in that area, which is within seven miles of the city. I understand that much sickness has occurred in that area because of the lack of proper hygiene. The member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney) should have urged his colleague to persuade the Prime Minister, at the last Loan Council meeting, to honour his promise to the people of South Australia that he would work in closer co-operation with a State Liberal Government. If what we have achieved is co-operation, I have much to learn.

These Loan Estimates, far from improving the public works programme, will bring about a worse state of affairs as far as the development of South Australia is concerned, because Loan money is being used to offset revenue. Although last year we endured one of the worst droughts in history, this year the seasons have broken and we look forward to record harvests. Because of increased production and better agricultural activities, revenue will be greater this year. The Government has been far too parochial on the expenditure of Loan money on development works. The member for Stirling knows full well that, once we start using Loan funds on revenue work, a certain amount is lost by way of further grants. I am pleased that \$1,700,000 will be spent on major additions to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. That hospital, although not located in my district, serves many of my constituents. Because it is not practicable to build big modern hospitals in every district, we have to have hospitals at certain strategic points to serve surrounding areas.

Mr. McAnaney: What about the hospital you were going to build at Modbury?

Mr. HURST: Members opposite are not doing much about that hospital. Indeed, the amount provided for it for this year is a mere \$150,000. Who can say that the people

of Modbury are not entitled to facilities similar to those enjoyed by the member for Stirling since he has left the district he represents to live within a couple of miles of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, with all the facilities available there?

Mr. Rodda: The member for Stirling lives at Langhorne Creek.

Mr. HURST: I know that the present Government is going to continue the work started on buildings for the Police Training Academy at Fort Largs. Everyone realizes that the Police Force has a policy of training young cadets in an endeavour to replace men as they retire and to cope with the expansion that is necessary. I know that some of the reports in the press about the requirements of the force are conflicting, but no doubt in due course this matter will be straightened out if we are given the information for which we have asked. We will find out that here again the Ministers and members opposite, far from facing up to the situation fairly and squarely, are trying to play politics. They are not dinkum, and we only have to look at the official records to see the political somersaults that they have turned repeatedly when they have been confronted with an issue.

In this regard, I refer to Giles Point. The present Treasurer referred to the fact that no work had been proceeded with at Giles Point. What did his Government do when it was in office before? It had to wait until the Labor Government took office for something to be done. Indeed, it was as a result of my electioneering in that district and coming back and impressing the Minister, with the support of the member for Wallaroo (Mr. Hughes), that we got some action taken on behalf of the men on the land on Yorke Peninsula. The report in *Hansard* will bear out what I am saying. Members opposite are finding it difficult to solve these problems, and they have spoken with their tongues in their cheeks. They are not prepared now to face up to the suggestions they made previously, when they were trying to deceive the people. These Loan Estimates contain nothing that will give anyone any confidence. Indeed, as I am reminded by one of my colleagues, they represent a political catastrophe.

I refer to the sum provided for the Electricity Trust. I support this Socialist undertaking, which is progressing and serving developing areas. The trust is rendering a great service to the man on the land. We on this side believe that people in the country should have, as far as practicable within the

financial structure of this State, the same facilities as the people in the city. My Party has always worked towards that end. People in the country who are enjoying the many facilities provided by the trust could never have enjoyed those facilities but for the foresight of members of the Labor Party in supporting the then Premier (Sir Thomas Playford) in enabling the Adelaide Electric Supply Company to be taken over by a Socialist undertaking. I am sure that the member for Light (Mr. Freebairn) does not complain when he turns on the light and avails himself of this Socialist benefit. The honourable member will use socialistic measures to get the utmost comfort he possibly can, and who can blame him? I am merely saying that he is not sincere in his stand on many of these matters. If he is sincere about Socialism, why does he not telephone the Electricity Trust, revert to his ideas, and use hurricane lamps? But he is not concerned about that: he is concerned only about warming himself and letting himself enjoy the facilities that people in the metropolitan area enjoy.

Apparently no settlement has been reached in the matter of the Penola electricity supply undertaking, for in that respect there is a provision of \$100,000 in the Loan Estimates. Members will recall that, when the Bill dealing with that matter was being considered, a Select Committee was set up to investigate and make recommendations. The offer then made by the Electricity Trust of about \$100,000 for the undertaking has not been increased, and the Government would find it difficult to provide for more. After hearing what had transpired, I thought that was a more than reasonable offer. People felt that, with the change of Government, they would get a better deal, but their expectations in that direction have waned. We must act responsibly and see that public moneys are spent as efficiently as possible for the sake of everyone concerned.

Mr. Lawn: Some people thought they were going to get the Chowilla dam by changing the Government.

Mr. HURST: I have already mentioned the Chowilla dam as something that really upsets me. I repeat that I feel sorry for the member for Chaffey, who has to face his constituents after hearing the irresponsible statement by his Leader about preferential treatment. Also, there was the statement of the Prime Minister (Mr. Gorton) in Adelaide

during the election campaign that he would be more sympathetic to a Liberal Government than to a Labor Government, the Prime Minister thus enticing the people to change the Labor Government. Those same people are now disappointed, as are some members opposite.

Mr. Lawn: The Liberal Governments in Canberra, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia stopped the Chowilla scheme.

Mr. HURST: Yes, although we heard these people eulogized. We heard all about the progress those Governments had made and how they had worked in harmony and in co-operation.

Mr. Ryan: They don't know the meaning of the word "co-operation".

Mr. HURST: No. Indeed, I believe they are more politically dishonest than is the present State Government, because they are taking advantage of the inexperience of the present State Government in financial matters and, as a result, we are suffering seriously. The present Treasurer, when he was dealing with these Loan Estimates, expressed concern about the number of projects that had been recommended by the Public Works Committee but never started, one of them happening to involve the District of Semaphore. Great play was made of how the Government would develop the Upper Port Reach scheme. Some candidates in the district even ran around and put pamphlets in letterboxes to try to make themselves fit. They were making great play of the fact that this was how they would get things moving. These Loan Estimates clearly indicate, however, that the State is moving backwards. I do not know who advises the Minister, but I warn the present Government that the least its members say about financial matters the better, because they will have to answer for their false, inaccurate statements when we return to Government. The Government has misled many of its enthusiastic supporters who have made themselves look foolish, as the Government has done, because of these promises. Although I said I would support the Loan Estimates, on reconsidering the position I think I should move for a reduction of \$1 to show that we on this side are completely dissatisfied with the way the Government is handling the State's finances.

Mr. Lawn: You can do that when we get on to the lines.

Mr. HURST: My colleague has informed me what I should do. In view of his advice and because of the possible absence of some Government members with influenza (and I

do not wish to take political advantage), I shall leave the matter to a later stage, when I reserve the right to move for a reduction of these lines if I consider it necessary.

Mr. VENNING (Rocky River): I commend the Treasurer for his effort in presenting these Loan Estimates, because I know the difficulties he has had in taking over from the Labor Government. He should be knighted for being prepared to take on the difficult job of straightening out the State's finances and of trying to improve the position left by the Labor Government. In fact, if members opposite had continued in the same way as Sir Thomas Playford had been doing you probably would have remained in office.

Mr. JENNINGS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, should not the honourable gentleman address the Chair?

The CHAIRMAN: The Chairman will decide on that.

Mr. VENNING: Members opposite have had much to say about the integrity of my Government, and I should like to trace the history of the State's finances. If the Labor Party had continued from where Sir Thomas Playford left off it probably would have remained in office for many years. However, like the boy with a bucket of eggs and a stick, the Labor Party had a merry time with the finances of this State. The State's progress had been based on primary and secondary industries, and all the Labor Party had to do in Government was to go ahead. However, some people thought Sir Thomas Playford had been in Government for so long that a change would be a good thing: perhaps they now regret taking the action they did.

We all know what happened: Sir Thomas Playford's Government went out of office, our friends opposite took charge of the finances of the State, and it was not long before those finances ran down considerably. If we wish to maintain the State's finances, we must give confidence to the State as a whole, but the platform of the Labor Party takes away the confidence of industry. Indeed, we found that our tradesmen left South Australia and went to other States, including Western Australia. This Government is trying to get South Australia moving again. It had taken many years to build up our economy, but what happened to it overnight? We will get South Australia moving again.

Mr. Ryan: When?

Mr. VENNING: It will take time. Once again we have taken over the finances of the State; it will not be easy but we are making an honest attempt to get our State moving. We are in trouble no doubt concerning the Chowilla dam, but had Sir Thomas Playford received the opportunity of another term of Government, Chowilla would have been half built today. Indeed, I attended a meeting recently at Berri, at which the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) was also present and at which he spoke to a large audience of about 700 people, who, when I talked to them afterwards, agreed that had Sir Thomas Playford been given the opportunity of another term the Chowilla dam would have been half built now.

Members interjecting:

Mr. Hudson: You know that that is a complete myth.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! If the member for Glenelg does not cease interjecting I shall name him. The member for Rocky River.

Mr. VENNING: I recall holidaying in Queensland about three years ago when, at lunch one day, I met a Queensland clerk of court and his wife, both of whom were learned people. When they realized we were from South Australia, they did not have to be invited into the conversation; they automatically spoke about what Sir Thomas Playford had done in this State and, although oil had been discovered in Queensland, they referred to how the business concerning Queensland oil was transacted here in South Australia under Sir Thomas Playford. They referred also to water which flowed from Queensland down into South Australia and which was reticulated, as a result of Sir Thomas Playford's efforts, throughout the State.

Although South Australia was experiencing one of its driest periods on record, we did not suffer any great disability, entirely because of the foresight of the greatest "Labor Premier" members opposite have ever known. It gives me much pleasure to remind members opposite of the wonderful work Sir Thomas Playford did for this State as a whole.

Mr. Corcoran: How many times did he win an election in his own right?

Mr. VENNING: It was only through the industrialization of the State, which Sir Thomas instigated, that he was eventually put out of office: never at any stage was there a landslide against him or his policy. I am pleased to see that the Treasurer has undertaken to straighten out the finances of the

State. Much argument has taken place this evening about the building of houses. Hundreds of houses are not occupied at present, but under this Government houses will be built in the right places.

Mr. McKee: What about a good industry for Crystal Brook?

Mr. VENNING: At the weekend I had the privilege of showing to the members for Victoria and Eyre parts of the District of Port Pirie. I showed them where the new industry would operate, and what South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. had done to handle the grain for the division; they were most impressed.

I do not think the quality of the production of primary industries can be faulted, but I realize that we are concerned with problems, such as oversea marketing, and that they present certain difficulties. This evening a member opposite referred to the drought that occurred when the Labor Party was in Government. It seems automatic that when there is a Labor Government there is also a drought. I can only say that the good Lord sees how that Party wastes the good things—

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. VENNING: With the change of Government, South Australia is now expecting one of the best years on record. I was pleased to see in the Loan Estimates reference to repayments of road maintenance charges. Some of the finance that probably should have gone into the provision of country roads and bridges has been taken up in the Government's guarantee to the Adelaide City Council in regard to building the Morphett Street bridge. However, with these repayments, perhaps we can look forward to an improved position in the future.

Mr. Freebairn: What about the demolition of the Trades Hall in Grote Street?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Light is out of order.

Mr. VENNING: The Government is attending to the necessity of providing rolling stock in readiness for gauge standardization, which will come about in the foreseeable future.

Mr. Burdon: Did your Government plan that? Who prepared all the plans for the rolling stock? Why don't you give credit where it is due?

Mr. VENNING: That is the outcome of the 1949 Commonwealth agreement on rail standardization and it must include some rolling stock. I am pleased about the policy

of this Government to give a boost to all sections of the development of our State. I refer to the development of water supply and maintenance in the Port Pirie area and at Wilmington and Orroroo in my district. The people in those areas will be pleased to know that the water supply at Orroroo will be augmented. Recently the high school was connected to the town scheme, and that the supply for the town will be brought up to date is assured by the provision made for this year.

Mr. Jennings: What about Appila silo?

Mr. VENNING: The Labor Government had the opportunity to approve of the provision of a silo at Appila. The project came into being in the transitional period before the change of Government and it fell lastly in the Labor Government's lap to do something about it. However, the Minister and the Labor Party were totally opposed to the building of that silo.

Mr. Corcoran: What are you going to do about it? Is your Government going to build it?

Mr. VENNING: Not at this stage. We will let transportation develop in this State. Our policy has been that, where we have a railway, we do not build silos off the line to compete with our railways. We believe in using the railways where it is possible to do so. If we cannot use the railways, that is another matter, and we would consider it in that light.

Mr. Ryan: Then you must admit that the Labor Government was right in not building the Appila silo.

Mr. VENNING: I did not say that at all. You brought up the question.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member must refer to honourable members on my left as Opposition members or as honourable members.

Mr. VENNING: It is pleasing that one aspect of my Government's policy is that improved hospitalization throughout the State is to be a reality, and money will be spent on some of our country hospitals. It is also pleasing that medical services will be assisted. I am also pleased about the programme for 1968-69 for the Gladstone High School and look forward to the provision of funds next year. Much has been said about the Modbury Hospital, and I hope that the graders and rollers are back on the job and that the project will be commenced. The previous

Government mentioned this project and at one time it seemed that something might be done. However, apparently that was not so.

Mr. Freebairn: Do you realize that we were doing the site preparation work for the Modbury Hospital way back in 1965? There was then a three-year break.

Mr. VENNING: I commend once again the Treasurer for his activities in straightening out the finances of this State. I have much pleasure in supporting the first line.

Mr. HUGHES (Wallaroo): I have studied the Loan Estimates with a good deal of interest and—

Mr. McKee: Disappointment.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, I was disappointed. I was not privileged to be in the Chamber all the time and to hear all the speeches, but I listened intently to some of them and I found some very interesting, some instructive and others most amusing. One member opposite for whom I feel sorry is the member for Chaffey (Mr. Arnold), because during the last election campaign it was common for members when addressing election meetings to make statements similar to those made at Moonta Bay on a Saturday evening to the effect that if the people elected a Liberal and Country League Government one of the first things that Party would do would be to get the Chowilla dam built. That Party said, without any reservations, that it would build that dam, and that is why I say I am sorry for the member for Chaffey, who now has to go back to his district and try to convince his electors that there was some mistake in the statements made during the election campaign. When the member for Stirling was speaking he referred to social services. I said, by way of interjection, that it took the Labor Party to put them on a sound foundation, and the honourable member then said that apparently I had not read his speech of last week. Mr. Chairman, I did take the opportunity this evening to read portion of his speech.

Mr. Clark: Did you read it all?

Mr. HUGHES: No, I would not attempt to read the whole speech. I merely read the part in which he referred to social services and said:

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.

Mr. McAnaney: That is absolutely true.

Mr. HUGHES: He went on to say:

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 honourable member took good care not to repeat the figures because the occasion to which he was referring was when he made his Address in Reply speech and told this Chamber that the Labor Government was responsible for giving an increase of 12.6 per cent to social services, making them the highest in Australia. The honourable member is rather like that; he has a very poor memory when it suits him. I also find a passage where the honourable member condemns the member for Yorke Peninsula (Mr. Ferguson), who is sitting next to him. He said:

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.

Mr. Corcoran: Evidently, one has to be an accountant to understand the facts of life.

Mr. HUGHES: You have to be, according to the member for Stirling, but if I had to have any accountancy work done, I would not call upon the member for Stirling to do it.

Mr. Rodda: Then you are a poor judge.

Mr. HUGHES: I shall come to the member for Victoria later in my speech. He has interjected often during this debate and he made one of the poorest contributions to a Loan Estimates debate that I have ever heard. The member for Stirling said (and I am much concerned about this):

On the subject of Government finance, the Labor Government should have employed or used accountants when it took office—

Mr. McAnaney: I said that.

Mr. HUGHES: —as it had no-one with business training or experience in its ranks.

That is a definite reflection on the Under Treasurer of the State. It is an insult, and the honourable member cannot deny it; nor can any other member opposite.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Too many salvos are being fired across the Chamber.

Mr. HUGHES: I do not mind the salvos, because that is perfectly true: it is what the honourable member said and is a reflection of the worst kind on the Under Treasurer and his officers at the Treasury. I am not concerned whether or not the Under Treasurer reads *Hansard*, but there is a principle attached to certain things in life. He is the same Under Treasurer who a former Premier and

Treasurer, Sir Thomas Playford, maintained was the best Under Treasurer in the Commonwealth of Australia; he is still the Under Treasurer today, and the member for Stirling took the liberty during the debate on the Loan Estimates—

Mr. McAnaney: I did not.

Mr. HUGHES: —of criticizing the work of the Under Treasurer.

Mr. McAnaney: You are telling untruths.

Mr. HUGHES: I am not.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. HUGHES: I have read what is in *Hansard* with reference to what the honourable member said in the course of the debate on the Loan Estimates, and he cannot deny it.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: It was an insult to all departmental accountants, too.

Mr. HUGHES: Of course it was, because the honourable member said in the debate, "I am an accountant and only I can understand these things." He took the liberty of writing down one of the finest Under Treasurers in the Commonwealth of Australia.

Mr. McAnaney: You are twisting the truth.

Mr. HUGHES: I am not. Apparently, the honourable member is fond of doing this sort of thing because, if we look back at a number of his speeches, we find various occasions on which he has cast a similar reflection.

Mr. Corcoran: To be fair, he did not really realize what he was saying.

Mr. HUGHES: If he did not know what he was saying, surely he has been in this Chamber long enough to know that every word he says is recorded by *Hansard*. Naturally, the Under Treasurer will read the Loan Estimates debate, although the member for Yorke Peninsula said that he would not do so. He does read it. Probably he would not be offended by this reflection, because he would have read previous speeches of the member for Stirling and, upon reading such insulting remarks, he would brush them aside and say, "He doesn't know any better." The member for Stirling has spoken in this debate, but when one replies to the reflections he makes on various people the member for Stirling realizes what he has said and then accuses Labor members of trying to twist his words. However, what the honourable member has said is printed in *Hansard* and, if he does not remember what he said, he should read his speech in *Hansard*.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: Do you think the Under Treasurer would co-opt this financial genius?

Mr. HUGHES: Definitely not. Before the last elections the present Premier, as Leader of the Opposition, said that the major issue at the election was financial responsibility and accused the Labor Government of lacking this. He condemned the Labor Government for running a deficit in order to stimulate our home markets, even though Sir Thomas Playford during his regime ran 11 deficit Budgets including budgeting for a deficit of about \$5,000,000 in 1964-65. He also accused the Labor Government of raiding the Loan Fund by spending Loan moneys on capital works instead of paying for the work out of revenue. State Liberal Treasurers in other States charge the same class of building works to their Loan Accounts as the Labor Government did during its period in office—

Mr. Corcoran: But for the first time ever they raided the Commonwealth road grants.

Mr. HUGHES: Exactly, but not one Government member has said anything about that.

Mr. Rodda: You are saying it.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, and I will say something about one or two other matters that may be distasteful to the honourable member.

Mr. McAnaney: You left us with a \$9,000,000 deficit.

Mr. HUGHES: The trouble is that these stupid interjections are repeated when either the member for Glenelg or I am speaking, because the member for Stirling does not like having the truth rammed down his throat. I could say much about Radium Hill but as that is in the past, I shall not speak about it to cause displeasure to the Premier and the Treasurer.

Mr. Rodda: You should look forward.

Mr. HUGHES: I am doing that, but I shall speak about one or two things that happened during the life of the Labor Government, and about one or two things which should be happening during the life of the present Government but which are not happening.

Mr. Rodda: What about Wallaroo?

Mr. HUGHES: I will say something about Wallaroo later. If ever there was a switch, to which the member for Stirling refers, it was the Liberal Government switch—

Mr. Clark: Over and over again!

Mr. HUGHES: —concerning natural gas. Prior to the election, the Premier made such a feature of assuming financial responsibility

that it behoves us to examine his proposals carefully in order to see the way in which he believes this ought to be done.

Mr. Clark: He wasn't game to take on the job of Treasurer.

Mr. HUGHES: He carefully avoided that. He condemned the former Treasurer so much, knowing all the time that his condemnation was false, that he was not game to be Treasurer of the State. In fact, he politely handed over that portfolio to the person who should be the present Premier, by virtue of his service alone.

Mr. Rodda: He declined the nomination.

Mr. HUGHES: That does not matter; I still say the present Treasurer should be the Premier of the State because of the very valuable service he has rendered, even though I do not agree with a number of items in these Estimates.

Mr. Rodda: You're raking over the ashes now.

Mr. HUGHES: I am not, but I like to give credit where it is due, and that is more than any member of the Government—

Mr. Rodda: Come now!

The CHAIRMAN: I ask the member for Victoria to cease interjecting.

Mr. HUGHES: Concerning the Premier's remarks about financial responsibility made prior to the election, on making inquiries we found that he intended to maintain the existing State services. This would immediately have involved his Government in at least a \$4,000,000 deficit, if he did not raise additional taxation. To spend money from revenue on buildings of the kind which Labor charged to Loan Account would involve this Government in a further deficit of \$7,000,000 a year. The Premier intended to spend \$375,000 in assistance to non-State schools and an additional \$100,000 on fishing havens. I know that members opposite will say that if I look at the Estimates I will find an increase; certainly there is, but only if this item is included with tourism and foreshore improvements.

Mr. Rodda: What about a motel for Wallaroo!

Mr. HUGHES: That was not built under encouragement from the present Government: it was built because of the skilful handling of the previous Minister of Lands (Mr. Corcoran).

Mr. Clark: Has a Liberal Government ever done anything for Wallaroo?

Mr. HUGHES: Offhand, I cannot think of anything it has built at Wallaroo during the 11 years I have represented the district but I know that it was responsible for taking away

some industries. What is more, I can vouch that it took away one of the best industries that was established at Wallaroo.

Mr. Langley: For political purposes.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes.

Mr. McAnaney: Why did you object to having the gas pipeline go to Wallaroo?

Mr. HUGHES: I did not. I will come to that a little later, when I shall be pleased to answer any interjections the honourable member has.

The CHAIRMAN: I hope that the honourable member is not inviting interjections.

Mr. HUGHES: I would not do that, Sir. It appears that I do not have to invite interjections, as the things I am saying seem to be getting under the skins of members opposite. Before the election, the Premier said that he would spend an additional \$100,000 on fishing havens, and a further unspecified sum (apparently not less than \$150,000 a year) on mining investigations. However, before the election the Premier proposed no increase in taxation, but said he would reduce it by removing the winning bets tax. He announced a programme which would be more costly than the Labor Party's programme and which had obviously not been properly investigated. When asked how he intended to increase spending, reduce revenue and balance the Budget without increasing taxation, he said he did not know whether he would have to increase taxation until he had a look in the Treasury. Did the Premier think there was a huge vault under the Treasury building which would miraculously provide money to meet the cost of spending and which had not been used by the former Labor Premier?

Apparently he had conveniently forgotten two things. The first of these was that as Leader of the Opposition he had available to him a monthly statement of Treasury finances. Therefore, he knew perfectly well whether it would be necessary to increase taxation to maintain the State's services because, within less than a month of his taking office, an announcement was made that the Government intended to reduce State services, and I will have more to say about that a little later. Secondly, at the time the Labor Government took office, the expenditure per capita on health and hospitals was (and had been consistently since 1945) the lowest in Australia. The Labor Government increased this expenditure by 55 per cent per capita and took it to the highest level of spending of all the States.

The Government not only set about improving hospital facilities everywhere; it provided through subsidy an additional 600 beds to the public, or a 23 per cent increase in hospital beds in three years. For the poorer people of the State the Labor Government improved concessions for pensioner travel. Whereas pensioners in the country had been restricted to two trips on the railways a year, only those pensioners in possession of a medical entitlement card being eligible, under the Labor Administration all pensioners were given concession fares for as many trips as they liked, the only restriction being over the Easter and Christmas periods.

Similar widening of concessions was extended to public transport in Adelaide. In addition, despite what the member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney) says, the Labor Government introduced a public relief system that filled in the major gaps in Commonwealth social services. Increased public relief was given to those who were on public relief in South Australia, the means test was relaxed, and the number of people eligible was increased, yet the Opposition at that time said that the Labor Treasurer was throwing money around like a drunken sailor. When the present Premier was asked prior to the election how he intended to increase spending, reduce revenue, and balance the Budget, we were met with silence.

Perhaps one can excuse the present Premier for a number of mistakes before and after the elections by putting them down to inexperience and the lust for power, but when the Treasurer of a State is prepared to strongly criticize the method of a former Treasurer in the financing of the State during his term of office and then proceeds to adopt the same method, this in my opinion is two faced. However, it is the greatest unknowingly-made compliment that could be paid to the former Treasurer, Don Dunstan. My reason for making that statement was that on May 2 last the present Treasurer was reported in the *Advertiser* as follows:

Treasurer Surveys State Finances—The Treasurer (Mr. Pearson), in his first survey of State finances yesterday, said that about \$17,000,000 in Loan funds had been withdrawn from its normal and proper use in developmental and capital projects. This had been used to cover what had become, during the past three years, a chronic excess of current expenditures over current revenues. Mr. Pearson has been engaged in a study of State finances since taking up the Treasury portfolio. After referring to the \$17,000,000 diversion of Loan funds to finance revenue

deficits, Mr. Pearson said, "The community has been deprived, to that extent of highly desirable, if not essential, works. It is not surprising that the local economy has, at the same time, suffered a serious recession in activity and growth. It is vital that steps be taken to restore Loan funds, to the greatest practicable extent, to their normal purposes."

For the benefit of the member for Chaffey, there is then a comment about the Chowilla dam. The report continues:

Mr. Pearson instanced the Chowilla dam as one example where funds intended for spending this year had been absorbed by Revenue deficits. "We must make these good and reserve further substantial amounts to finance the resumption of this vital project," he said. "This can only be done by bringing current expenditure and revenue into balance." The Government had to try to do this by three methods: by controlling current expenditure by all proper economies and efficiency measures; by seeking Commonwealth grants fully in accord with State obligations and reasonable means; by securing and protecting a proper yield of revenues from sources available to the State.

Dealing with State finances for the current year to the end of April, Mr. Pearson said the major variation from the Budget estimate in the Consolidated Revenue Account was likely to be a short-fall of rail revenues approaching \$2,000,000, chiefly as a result of drought. There might be a saving of about \$250,000 in rail expenditure, so that the net deterioration in rail finances should be offset rather closely by the special grant from the Commonwealth of \$1,700,000 recently announced. Other adverse features were higher costs in the Hospitals Department and the Water Supply Department amounting together to about \$750,000, and about \$650,000 less funds available from the Hospitals Fund because the yield from lotteries had not continued at the high rate of the first few months. Improvements had been noted in the yield of stamp and succession duties—

which I thought, Sir, was such a terrible thing to members opposite!—

which might be between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000 above estimate. Other variations seem likely to balance each other, so that the present outlook was that the Budget estimate for a deficit of \$3,967,000 might be exceeded only by \$300,000 to \$400,000.

"The Government is doing all it can to contain the final deficit within the estimate of \$4,000,000," Mr. Pearson said. With a Revenue deficit of about \$5,500,000 carried forward from previous years, it appeared that the accumulated deficit at June 30 next, if the Government could keep within the Budget estimate for 1967-68, would be about \$9,500,000. Against this it seemed likely that Loan expenditure for the current year might fall short of estimate by about \$5,000,000, so that the \$9,500,000 or so of accumulated Revenue deficit at June 30 next was likely to be financed by just over half from Loan funds, with the remainder from trust funds—

I did not think the Government would bring that into it—

and other balances held by the Treasury.

Although I realize that some of this is not relevant to what I want to say, I did not want to be accused by members opposite of picking out only certain paragraphs—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nankivell): I was wondering when you were going to relate this to the Loan Estimates.

Mr. HUGHES: I did not want to be accused by members opposite that I quoted only specific paragraphs to suit my argument. With your indulgence, Sir, I will continue. The report went on to say:

The \$5,000,000 or so of Loan money not spent would have arisen about equally from funds intended for the Chowilla project and from some slower progress of expenditure on public buildings, mainly hospitals. Although the final accounts at June 30 might show a \$9,500,000 accumulated Revenue deficit this did not tell the full story of diversion of funds over the past three years to assist a consolidated revenue account seriously out of balance. The year 1965-66 opened with a credit balance of \$1,222,000, but finished overdrawn by \$5,612,000 or a deterioration of \$6,834,000. The following year showed a current surplus of \$107,000, but only by charging grants for hospital and university buildings of a net \$6,902,000 against Loan Account instead of Revenue. If this had not been done, the accumulated Revenue deficit would have become \$12,407,000 at June 30, 1967. This year, although the current Revenue deficit might be kept down to about \$4,000,000, it would be shown at about \$9,300,000 if building grants and other provisions of a net \$5,300,000 had not been charged against Loan Account instead of Revenue. Accordingly, on the basis of appropriation and accounting which had applied consistently up to 1965-66, the over-spending on Revenue Account at June 30, 1968, to cover would have been about \$21,700,000.

This would have been financed up to \$12,200,000 by meeting building grants and other charges out of Loan Account instead of from Revenue, by using a further \$5,000,000 of the prospective loan balances at June 30, 1968, to cover part of the remainder, and \$4,500,000 of trust funds and other balances in the Treasury to cover the rest.

These figures make it abundantly clear that what has during the past three years become a chronic excess of current expenditure over current revenue has been substantially covered by withdrawing something like \$17,000,000 of Loan funds from their normal and proper use on development.

That is what the Treasurer said. After reading these criticisms in early May of this year, one would have expected that no such transfers would occur under the L.C.L. administration for this financial year, particularly when the L.C.L. sent out a pamphlet condemning the

Labor Government for doing the very things it has chosen to do itself. I have some of these pamphlets because they are interesting.

Mr. Hudson: Didn't you throw them into the wastepaper basket?

Mr. HUGHES: No. Members opposite, when a Labor Government is in office, condemn things that it does, but they are all right for a Liberal Government. This pamphlet states:

Under the Liberal Government, South Australia financed its normal running expenses from normal revenues, and financed capital works programme from Loan money borrowed for the purpose. The Dunstan Labor Government, in its desperate efforts to balance the Budget, is using Loan money to pay running expenses, like a private individual raising a mortgage to pay the housekeeping.

Mr. Hudson: That statement is a lie, anyway.

Mr. HUGHES: Of course it was a lie, yet the Treasurer in presenting the Loan Estimates demonstrated clearly that the criticisms previously made by himself and by the Premier earlier this year were entirely unfounded because the Treasurer has provided for the continuation of financing university buildings and non-Government hospitals from Loan Account. The State Government's share of university buildings for 1968-69 is \$2,500,000, while the provision for non-Government hospitals is \$2,525,000. Not only has this occurred but further transfers have taken place which in all amount to \$5,575,000. It is right when the Liberal Government does it but it is wrong under a Labor Administration! I itemize other things done by this Government. The provision of \$300,000 for public parks, which in all previous years has been in the Budget, has been transferred to Loan Account. The provision for a grant to the Renmark Irrigation Trust of \$100,000 has also been transferred to Loan Account, and the provision of \$150,000 for National Reserves has been transferred from Budget to Loan Account. Multiply these amounts by three and it will be found that about \$17,000,000 in Loan funds will be withdrawn from its normal and proper use in developmental capital projects as was claimed by the Treasurer earlier this year when surveying the State's finances. When the survey was made he proclaimed that it was a terrible thing that the Labor Treasurer had done. However, now that an L.C.L. Government is in office, spending Loan moneys on capital works instead of paying for this work out of revenue was no longer looked upon as "raiding the Loan Fund".

Mr. Lawn: Even "knucklehead" cannot dispute that.

Mr. HUGHES: Of course not, because it is in the Treasurer's Loan Estimates. "Knucklehead" cannot dispute it.

Mr. Clark: That is the first time he has been quiet this session.

Mr. HUGHES: The Treasurer said that he was doing what was being done by his counterparts in other States. When one carefully examines the Loan Estimates one realizes that an entirely different picture exists from the one of rapid expansion that the Treasurer tried to present. The most serious effect the Loan Estimates will have is in the building industry with the reduction of \$1,500,000 in the provision of Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement money from \$21,000,000 to \$19,500,000. At a glance this may seem satisfactory because another \$1,500,000 is available for other works in the Estimates. However, it must be noted that the reduction is at the expense of the building industry.

Mr. Edwards: But we are building houses.

Mr. HUGHES: If the member for Eyre wants to make a speech on finance I challenge him to prove where I am wrong. He may be all right in looking down wombat holes, but instead of trying to deal with the Loan Estimates submitted by the Treasurer perhaps he should continue with his jaunt around Eyre Peninsula with William Rodda.

Mr. Lawn: You don't look down wombat holes: you look up them.

Mr. HUGHES: I shall quote from an interesting pamphlet placed in my letterbox entitled *The Voice of South Australia*. What did the Liberal Party have to do to get this information? It went to a member aged 81 years, but I do not know how the information was obtained. I do not think Sir Thomas Playford would have lowered his dignity and put out the trash that was distributed prior to the last election. The pamphlet says that the first job of South Australia's next L.C.L. Government will be to "repair the State's economy and restore confidence by showing the Government's ability to get back to prosperity".

Mr. Lawn: They sacked their Director of Industrial Development.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes; one of the finest industrialists the State has been privileged to have as an officer has had to take second place, and I was sorry to hear that today. I fail to see how the L.C.L. Government is carrying out the promise to the people that was contained in *The Voice of South Australia*, namely, that it

would restore confidence by showing its ability to get back to prosperity, or even that it would maintain the *status quo*, when money is being withdrawn at the expense of the building industry, which provides employment for the people of South Australia and which contributes considerably to the economy of the State. The provision for the Housing Trust has been cut by \$650,000 from \$10,150,000 to \$9,500,000 and for the State Bank from \$9,650,000 to \$8,500,000, but the provision for co-operative building societies has been increased from \$1,200,000 to \$1,500,000.

Mr. Edwards: That's good business.

Mr. HUGHES: It is not. If you were farming a property under measures such as this—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nankivell): Order! I ask the honourable member to address the Chair.

Mr. HUGHES: I apologize, Sir. Through you, I wish to say that, if the member for Eyre were to operate his farming finances in accordance with the Loan Estimates, he would be coming back to the State Bank to obtain the money that is, in fact, being denied that bank.

Mr. Edwards: Not on your life.

Mr. HUGHES: No, perhaps the State Bank would not lend money to him. The co-operative building societies are being expanded by a policy of reducing the overall provision for housing and at the same time of reducing more heavily the traditional roles played by the Housing Trust and the State Bank. I am concerned that new money previously provided to finance the purchase of existing houses under the State Bank has been eliminated. Advances for homes under this line have been reduced in the Loan Estimates from \$700,000 to \$500,000.

The problems of the building industry can only be made more difficult by these policies, particularly in view of the increase in the maximum limit of any loan from \$7,000 to \$8,000. The increase in the limit means that even the same financial provision would build fewer houses. The reduced financial provision will therefore have a more substantial effect. In a document circulated from the Under-Treasurer towards the end of March last, the Labor Government was informed that the likely under-spending on school buildings for 1967-68 would be \$300,000 and, for hospital buildings, \$1,500,000.

The under-spending on school buildings turned out to be \$1,971,507 and, on hospital buildings, \$2,236,806.

Mr. Broomhill: That should have been spent.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, and it was fully intended to be spent by the Labor Government. Only within the last few months has someone been responsible for this money not being spent and I, for one, would like to know who is responsible.

Mr. Broomhill: The Treasurer should have seen that it was spent.

Mr. HUGHES: Exactly. The money was there to be spent and it was the Treasurer's responsibility to see that it was spent. These sums have been carried over to the proposed expenditure for 1968-69 and, naturally, they inflate the 1968-69 proposals over and above what they would normally be. The provision for school buildings for this year is \$13,700,000, including estimated Commonwealth assistance of \$1,700,000. However, in the Under-Treasurer's document at the end of March, Commonwealth assistance for this financial year was estimated to be \$2,600,000, and to date no explanation has been given to this Chamber of the lower figure. Taking the lower figure to be accurate, the State Government is committed to providing \$12,000,000 for school buildings this financial year. However, it should be noted that \$1,971,507 is a carry-over from last year, so that the provision by this Government is only \$10,028,493. Honourable members should compare this figure with the provision of \$10,650,000 for 1967-68.

The provision for Government hospital buildings is \$11,600,000 but \$2,236,806 is a carry-over from last year, so the effective new provision is only \$9,363,194. This is an increase of only \$303,194 over last year, despite the very great need for increased provision of hospitals.

I want to give an overall comparison between 1967-68 and 1968-69. To obtain a proper picture of the change in those years, one should inflate the 1967-68 figures by the \$4,208,413 of under-spending on school and hospital buildings and reduce the 1968-69 figures by the same amount. In addition, the short-term loans of \$1,000,000, which are provided in both years for the Natural Gas Pipelines Authority, should be subtracted, because this money, as every honourable member knows, will be repaid when alternative financial arrangements are made. The effect of the

\$1,500,000 reduction in Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement money should be taken into account by reducing the 1968-69 figure by that amount and the provision for 1968-69 of \$500,000 for the festival hall should be eliminated, because it is clear from what is going on at present that there is no chance that this money will be spent. In addition, the State Government's own provision for school buildings in 1968-69 is likely to be \$900,000 less because of the under-estimation of Commonwealth assistance.

After all these adjustments were made, the actual payments for 1967-68 would be an adjusted figure of \$80,546,570, and the adjusted figure for 1968-69 would be \$81,631,587, an effective increase (and after all we have heard from the other side and what we have been told about getting things done) of little more than 1 per cent. It is strange that I do not hear any interjections now. This comparison gives the likely effective impact on the economy of the L.C.L. Government's Loan Estimates. The position is not as Government members would have us believe. What they have tried to present to this Committee is entirely wrong, and I challenge any honourable member opposite who follows me in this debate to prove that I am wrong in these submissions I have made tonight. I understand that the member for Eyre may be following me in this debate, but I do not mind if he does. These figures are correct, and I invite any honourable member to try to prove that I am wrong.

Mr. McAnaney: Did you get them from the member for Glenelg?

Mr. HUGHES: I should be pleased to receive a document from the member for Glenelg at any time, because I would know that I could rely on him: that is more than I can say of the member for Stirling.

Mr. Jennings: The member for Stirling is interjecting from out of his seat.

Mr. HUGHES: Well, it makes better sense from that end than from the other. I thought I was being very helpful in regard to the interjection by the member for Rocky River (Mr. Venning), who no doubt is casting his mind back to the night of a public meeting at Kadina when I had to defend him as a member of Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited. I now turn to the line on harbours. During the election campaign great play was made in the Wallaroo district by members of the L.C.L. regarding decentralization, and a number of statements were made in an effort to mislead

the people into thinking that if an L.C.L. Government were elected their worries in obtaining employment within the district would be at an end. I heard some of the statements at second hand, and I read some of the others in the press. I rely a great deal on the press, and because of that I do not blame some people in the Wallaroo District who usually vote for the Australian Labor Party for lodging their votes on election day in favour of the L.C.L. Those people had been told by members of the L.C.L. (and I can produce written evidence of this), "We want work now and not lots of talk; we want to improve the Wallaroo harbour and have it used more; we would look for new industry to start in Wallaroo; and low rental homes are needed for Wallaroo senior citizens."

On June 26 last I directed a question to the Premier reminding him that prior to the election he had been in the Wallaroo District when a half-page advertisement was inserted in the local press on behalf of his Party stating, "We want to improve the Wallaroo harbour and have it used more." I asked whether he would tell the House what improvements were envisaged by him and his Party to enable the harbour to be used more as advocated in the advertisement. Imagine my surprise when the Premier could not answer my question, clearly indicating that the advertisement was a lot of hogwash, that he and his Party never had one single improvement in mind, and that the advertisement was only inserted to deceive the people in the Wallaroo District. He lamely suggested that perhaps I might like to address a question to the Minister of Marine. As you know, Sir, we met on June 25 and 26, and as Question Time expired before I could direct this question, as it had been suggested by the Premier I should do, the first opportunity I had to do this was on July 23, when I asked the following question:

On June 26, when asking a question of the Premier, I stated that in three weekly editions half-page advertisements had appeared in the local press on behalf of the Liberal and Country League, one of the issues being, "We want to improve Wallaroo harbour and have it used more." I asked the Premier what had been contemplated when the advertisements appeared during the election campaign. He was unable to tell me and suggested that I refer the question to the Minister of Marine, but time did not permit me to do that during Question Time on June 26. Can the Minister of Marine now say what improvements are envisaged at Wallaroo harbour to have it used more?

The Minister replied:

The honourable member's reference to the advertisements is perfectly correct, as were the advertisements. Already we have taken definite steps to ensure that improvements will be effected to enable more use to be made of Wallaroo harbour and to provide more employment in that town. The Minister of Agriculture—

I want the Committee to note this—

on behalf of the Government, has announced that extensions will be made to the silo. Tenders for these extensions will be invited next month. They will provide additional storage of 1,000,000 bushels and will incorporate 17 additional cells, making the total storage 4,500,000 bushels. Work will start as soon as possible and much of the work will be done during the present financial year. This is the first project to come from this report and I am very happy to repeat the announcement that the Minister of Agriculture was pleased to make regarding a project that will provide benefit for Yorke Peninsula in general and for Wallaroo in particular.

I was not pleased with that reply from the Minister, because I had not been referring to the silos. Apparently, the Minister was aware that I thought he would do his best as Minister of Marine to try to get something done. However, coming back to the Minister's reply on that day, I was not going to be fobbed off with that type of reply, which had no bearing on what the advertisement implied because it was misleading and inserted solely for the purpose of vote catching. Therefore, I directed a subsequent question letting the Minister know that a number of prominent people were incensed over the matter and had written to me accordingly. My subsequent question was as follows:

The Minister has been fluent in passing on stale information made available to me by South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited and the Minister of Agriculture. I have been approached by the Wallaroo District Development League comprising farmers and businessmen, asking me to seek information on deepening of the berths, deepening of the swinging basin and the channel, alterations to loading booms, and lengthening of the jetty at Wallaroo. As the Minister may not be able to answer this question this afternoon, I ask whether he will obtain a report on any plans that may have been made in regard to these items.

The Minister replied:

I will try to obtain that information. I recall that much deepening occurred at Wallaroo a few years ago following a Public Works Committee inspection.

On August 6 I received a reply, reported at page 444 of *Hansard*, as follows:

Following a report of the Public Works Committee the then Government in 1964 carried out improvements at Wallaroo including

deepening by 3ft. the berths, the approach channel, and the swinging basin, and provided 10 navigation beacons to mark the new channel at a cost of \$240,000. This work has permitted vessels of up to 30,000 dead-weight tons to berth at Wallaroo. Any further deepening would involve dredging into rock, which would be likely to involve heavy expenditure. Modifications to the loading booms are possible, but at a considerable cost. The *Pontos* last year loaded 29,500 tons of grain (the largest quantity ever loaded at Wallaroo), and it was necessary to shift the vessel once only during the loading operations. The measurements of the *Pontos* are interesting—length, 657ft.; beam, 88ft.; and draft, 30ft. 5in. (on departure).

The previous Government had informed the honourable member that other ports awaiting urgent works had a higher priority than Wallaroo, and this position still obtains. However, the Government desires to increase the throughput and usage of Wallaroo harbour, and the recent announcement that 17 new cells will be built at the Wallaroo silo will undoubtedly assist in this way. Other sources of trade will be actively pursued. In order to improve facilities existing at Wallaroo, a contract was recently let for the provision of a new harbourmaster's office at Wallaroo costing \$12,657, and the work is now in hand and should be completed within three months.

The reply then refers to fishing havens, which have no bearing on the harbour. I always give credit where credit is due, and it should be noted that this work was done in 1964 while the Liberal Government was in office. At a luncheon at a field trial held at Paskeville, before a huge gathering I complimented the then Minister of Marine, now the Treasurer, on the work and his efforts in maintaining Wallaroo as a deep sea port. I could not be fairer than that. The reply of the present Minister clearly showed that the press advertisement of the L.C.L. before the election was a fraud, and that extensions to the silos would be built by South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited, as the member for Rocky River knows. That is correct, isn't it?

Mr. Venning: Yes, and we are proud of it.

Mr. HUGHES: The contract for the new harbourmaster's office was planned and let by the Labor Government. Therefore, when the advertisement appeared the present Government had not contemplated improving the Wallaroo harbour. Whatever replies the Director of the Marine and Harbors Department sends through the Minister, nothing will convince me or the people of Wallaroo that anything was contemplated at Wallaroo, because the Minister condemned himself by his replies and by trying to imply, incorrectly, that the silos would be built by the Government and that the harbourmaster's office contract was let by a Liberal

Government. Although I should like to have said something about railways, I shall do that later, and I now have much pleasure in supporting the first line.

Mr. WARDLE (Murray): I, too, support the first line and, in doing so, I realize that as a new member I have limited experience, but I am learning slowly. Indeed, it seems that one must spend much time listening to lengthy debates in order to glean information. Not all of us are experts, as are the member for Stirling and the member for Enfield, who seem to know their subjects adequately. Not wishing to detract from the ability of the member for Eyre, I simply remind the member for Enfield that other speakers, including me, were to follow the member for Wallaroo. As a new member, these are the first Loan Estimates I have ever seriously considered, and I am trying to do my homework adequately and to acquaint myself with what is contained in the explanation.

Mr. McKee: Very little!

Mr. WARDLE: I do not agree with that for one moment. I believe that the Treasurer has allocated to all of the important works and undertakings in this State sufficient finance to provide an impetus and to maintain progress in each particular section. I am particularly interested in the moneys allocated for mains and the pumping of water, although members may agree that the reserve of water from which we pump is not as great as it might have been had the Chowilla dam been constructed. It seems that, considering the allocation of almost \$1,000,000 for additional pumping equipment on the Mannum-Adelaide main, the main is capable of bringing more water to the metropolitan area than it has been bringing hitherto, and I am pleased to see that money is being allocated in this regard so that the main will be used to capacity.

Perhaps it is even more pleasing to note the sum allocated for commencing the new Murray Bridge to Onkaparinga main. Over \$1,300,000 has been allocated for the work, and I believe the Minister of Works has accepted a tender for work on the first eight miles of the main. In fact, a large camp has been erected in the municipality of Murray Bridge, and considerable staff have been assembled in order to get the main under way. It is also pleasing to note the sum allocated for continuing the Tailm Bend to Keith main, a project which began some years ago but which was stopped.

Mr. Rodda: That was a great disappointment to the people in the area.

Mr. WARDLE: I have no doubt that it was and that the people living between Tailem Bend and Keith are excited that this venture is again progressing. I also note with pleasure the sum that is to be spent on sewerage work in my district, namely, on continuing the system in Mannum which it has been found necessary to install. It was obvious that the nature of the soil in this locality, having regard to the position of the township, was affecting the supply of fresh water from the Murray to the metropolitan area, and that is the reason for the necessity to sewer the township. The allocation of \$312,000 will largely complete this particular work. Although no sum is allocated in the Loan Estimates, there is the assurance that sewerage work will continue in the township of Murray Bridge following the completion of work at Mannum.

Regarding Government spending on hospitals, while a tremendous sum has been allocated for Government hospitals, I note that many country hospitals will be encouraged by the sum being made available on a subsidy basis. In my area, \$200,000 has been allocated to the Murray Bridge Hospital Board on the basis of \$2 for \$1 raised locally. The building of Housing Trust houses at Murray Bridge is to proceed. For many years, there has been a shortage of houses in this fast-growing country town and I am pleased to see that 40 houses have been allotted to the town in this financial year. I am also pleased to see that 15 houses have been allotted to Mannum, another small but steadily growing industrial town on the Murray River. Because of secondary industry, these two towns on the Murray River are growing quickly and thus a need exists for more power. Therefore it is pleasing to see in the Loan Estimates a large sum allocated to bring to Murray Bridge via Mount Barker and Cherry Gardens a high tension power line of 130,000 volts.

Mr. Hudson: It is disappointing that there is nothing for the Murray Bridge High School.

Mr. WARDLE: That could be, but I have no doubt that, in the next Loan Estimates, we shall be delighted to see that much money has been allocated for a new high school.

Mr. Hudson: Have you shown the Minister the editorial on this matter in the local paper?

Mr. WARDLE: I am sure it would have been nice for the previous member for Murray to have the pleasure of being able to announce that money had been allocated for a new high school at Murray Bridge.

The Hon. Joyce Steele: The previous Government chose between Murray Bridge and Mount Gambier.

Mr. WARDLE: Mount Gambier was fortunate in securing a new high school. I conclude by expressing my belief that these Loan Estimates will inspire primary and secondary industries in South Australia. I believe this State will return to being economically sound, that the employment position will improve, and that the State will go ahead and prosper. I have pleasure in supporting the first line.

Mr. BROOMHILL (West Torrens): Unlike the member for Murray, I am not a new member and I have been accustomed, during the three years I have been in this place, to considering Loan Estimates that have been the basis for providing for the ensuing financial year announcements that will mean a stimulus to the economy and a boost to industry in the State. For this reason I am particularly disappointed at unimaginative Estimates of the type that we have before us. In most instances, the bulk of the provisions deal with matters that were conceived and commenced by the previous Government. The Loan Estimates, in general, are most disappointing to me.

However, if for no other reason, I am grateful for the opportunity that this debate provides to me to refer to some of the scandalous smear attacks that have been made against members on this side by members of the present Government in the last year or two. Charges were made, both inside and outside Parliament, that the Labor Government had diverted Loan funds in an abnormal and improper manner. While we were in Government, we were able to point out to members of the then Opposition that this type of financial arrangement had operated in all other States and that it had been approved by the Auditor-General of South Australia. However, it was difficult for us, in those circumstances, to establish that what we were doing was a proper accountancy method.

Since then, the present L.C.L. Government has come into office and, as has been pointed out by many honourable members on this side, has applied the same methods and even improved upon them, and we are able to establish clearly that the charges made by members of the present Government were

completely incorrect. Soon after the present Treasurer assumed that office, I was disturbed to read the following statement in the *Advertiser* of April 2:

The Treasurer (Mr. Pearson) in his first survey of State finances yesterday, said that about \$17,000,000 of Loan funds had been withdrawn from its normal and proper use in development and capital projects.

This clearly meant that he was charging the previous Government with abnormal and improper use of the State finances. In addition, just before the last State election, a leaflet distributed within my district contained a report which was contributed by "Bill McAnaney, the L.C.L. member for Stirling" and which, in part, stated:

Of this amount Labor decided to filch a further \$2,600,000 out of Loan funds earmarked for development works.

As a result of this type of report and of the type of attack made by the Government when it was in Opposition, I suffered the indignity of having members of the community approach me on this matter, suggesting that I, as a member of the Government, had associated myself with virtually stealing money from the taxpayers of this State. I resented what had taken place then, and I still resent this action by members of the present Government. I am certainly pleased that the Treasurer has not only realized that what we did was proper (he did this by continuing these features), but has improved upon these methods.

Mr. Clark : An apology should be offered.

Mr. BROOMHILL: Yes, an apology should be made by the Treasurer, by the member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney), and by any other member who was a party to the charges to which we were subjected in the past year or two.

Mr. McKee: What about Sir Thomas? Was he one of them?

Mr. BROOMHILL: Yes, I would think that all those members were parties to the charges. When other budgetary measures were considered during the last year or two, almost every honourable member from the then Opposition made himself a party to the charges against us. As has been pointed out by previous speakers from this side, one of the features in these Estimates of which we complain most is the bleak outlook provided for the housing industry. In view of the Premier's policy speech and of what he had to say before the election, I believe that many South Australian people will be disappointed when they see what the Estimates provide for housing.

After listening to what the Treasurer said by way of interjection during the speech by the Leader of the Opposition on this subject, I am not surprised that our housing industry suffers so badly under these Estimates. The Leader made the following comment:

Another of the things said by the Government before it took office was that it intended to get this State moving again by boosting the building industry.

The Treasurer interjected and said, "Are you sure we mentioned the building industry?" This was quite staggering to me because I well remember that the present Government, through the Premier as its spokesman, went to a great deal of trouble to attempt to establish in the community that it thought the building industry in this State badly wanted a lift. I am sure all members will recall the types of publication put out by the Government and the advertisements which I believe appeared daily in almost every newspaper in this State and most certainly appeared in the local newspapers distributed in my district. One advertisement was headed "Eight ways the L.C.L. will get South Australia moving." Most members will recall this advertisement if I point out that the reproduction of the Premier was not a good one, for it appeared on all occasions as if he were suffering from chickenpox. The number one point in this advertisement was, "Help the building industry." This type of advertisement was circulated all through South Australia. Also, we find in the Premier's policy speech many references to the building industry. In that speech, under "Education", the following appears:

Buildings are important, but as we see it education is a process continuing through life, and the needs of all who want to share its benefits must be met. We will, therefore, reverse the downward trend in school building.

Later, under the heading "Housing" the following appears:

It is ludicrous that this State should have empty houses. We shall do our utmost to populate them by a revival in commerce and industry which will not only provide more job opportunities but bring back to South Australia skilled men whom the policies of the Labor Government drove out. We will review Government policy as to the areas in which the Housing Trust will operate in coming years. We place importance upon redevelopment of districts more central to city employment, and to continuing the provision of homes in developing country towns and cities. We will construct the Greater Port Adelaide scheme at the earliest opportunity.

These isolated references in the Premier's policy speech indicate clearly that the Premier most certainly laid considerable emphasis on the question of housing in this State. However, we find that during the last three months approvals for houses and flats have decreased by 119 compared with the corresponding three months of last year. It is interesting, therefore, to notice that one of the most serious matters of substance in the Loan Estimates is the reduction of \$1,500,000 in the provision of Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement money. The provision for the Housing Trust has been cut by \$650,000, from \$10,150,000 to \$9,500,000, and the provision for the State Bank has been cut from \$9,650,000 to \$8,500,000. This is hardly the act of a Government that claimed before the election that it was disturbed over the housing position in this State.

While the Opposition at that time shared the Government's point of view in relation to the State's housing problem, it is unfortunate that the Government did not put into practice what it was preaching before the last election. We have noticed over the last week or two a large announcement by the Housing Trust of a housing development project costing \$3,000,000. The people outside feel that the Government is taking some additional action towards improving the housing position, but this \$3,000,000 announcement was simply part of the reduced allowance made to the Housing Trust within its normal development. When we consider the employment figures in this State and relate them to the needs of the building and housing industries, the fact that the employment position is bad at the moment and the fact that less overtime is being worked by members of the community, as a result of these things people are reluctant to take the step of purchasing a house (which is the largest personal investment they may ever make) while this state of affairs continues.

This present Government claimed before the election that, if it was elected to office, a miracle would take place and the employment record of this State would improve but, when we compare unemployment figures throughout Australia, we find that South Australia is in the unenviable position of having the highest level of unemployment of any State—1.6 per cent of the work force here as against 1.2 per cent in Western Australia, 1.2 per cent in Queensland, 1.3 per cent in Victoria, 1.1 per cent in New South Wales and 1.3 per cent in Tasmania. In view of this,

I would have thought it was the purpose of the Government under these Loan Estimates, considering these unemployment figures, to attempt to do what it could to provide additional housing in this State, which would have the effect of boosting employment in the building industry, which at the moment is not enjoying a very good record; and this position is not likely to improve in the future.

It is important for us to remember, as has been pointed out properly by the Leader of the Opposition on many occasions, that this State depends upon car sales, both here and in the other States, to maintain a high employment figure. With other States, too, suffering a low employment level, we can look with pleasure at the statement made only yesterday about the market boost for South Australia in the motor vehicle industry. Mr. Williams, the General Manager of General Motors-Holdens, was quoted as saying that since the beginning of 1968, when the new HK Holden range was introduced, employment in South Australian plants had risen by over 1,000. Had this additional 1,000 employees not been placed in the motor vehicle industry in the first six months of this year our employment position would have been drastic. In addition to employment for the 1,000 persons the subsidiaries of the motor vehicle industry received a boost, and the rubber industry, tyre manufacturers, and other associated industries have all benefited. However, this state of affairs is not likely to continue. Some odd circumstances have effected the motor vehicle industry during the last six months. A price increase was announced and many people took advantage of this to change their vehicles and to save money by purchasing early and, as a result, car sales have been inflated. In the next 12 months there may be a slowing down in the present rate of employment.

Mr. Corcoran: The Commonwealth Government's action in its Budget won't help the position, either.

Mr. BROOMHILL: Of course not. Undoubtedly, had the motor vehicle industry been enjoying an unusual position it would have been appropriate for the Government to act to improve the depressed building industry, but instead of this we have a complete reversal. Unfortunately, the State is likely to suffer during the next 12 months as a result of the Government's action. In the last three months we have constantly noticed newspaper articles

emphasizing that the decline in South Australian housing continues. On June 19 this year the following article appeared in the *Advertiser*:

A continuation into this year of the decline of house approvals for construction in South Australia for 1966 and 1967 is reported in the current edition of the national journal of the Housing Industry Association. The prolonged recession in dwelling construction in South Australia may have reached its limit, but there is little expectation of any marked upsurge, the journal says.

The Housing Industry Association and those associated with it will find little comfort in these Loan Estimates. On June 6 under the heading "Housing Work Reduced" the following article appeared in the *Advertiser*:

A drop in house commencements and completions in South Australia is reported in building figures issued last night by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics. The figures show that in the quarter to March last, 1,655 houses were started—eight fewer than in the December, 1967, quarter and 36 fewer than in the March, 1967, quarter.

These reports are constantly appearing, and the Treasurer needs to justify his actions in preparing the Loan Estimates and his emphasis on the amount of money at his disposal by explaining why he chose to select the housing industry as the one industry to suffer. During 1967-68, payments for fishing havens amounted to \$92,000, whilst the provision this year totals \$93,000. In normal circumstances one might not complain about such a modest increase, but in view of what has been said by Government members over the last three years about the Labor Government's providing for fishing havens—

Mr. Hudson: And in view of what was said in the Millicent by-election campaign.

Mr. BROOMHILL: Yes. One is amazed that so soon afterwards such a modest sum is provided for fishing havens. Government members were obviously not sincere when criticizing provisions contained in the Estimates introduced by the Labor Government. The Deputy Leader referred to the fact that the present Government had chosen to sell the fishing research vessel *Investigator*, I understand for \$18,000. It is staggering that no statement has been made to the effect that the Government intends to purchase a replacement vessel for what is very necessary research work in the fishing industry. Referring again to one of the leaflets circulated throughout my district (although it does not purport to be a statement made by the member for Stirling it certainly sounds like one

of his comments), I point out that under the heading, "Did You Know?" the following appears:

Did you know that the fisheries research vessel *Investigator* has not been out to sea since the A.L.P. took office two and a half years ago?

The present Government apparently thought it necessary deliberately to include that comment in a publication in order to seek support at the March election. It was obviously trying to find fault in the previous Government's not using the *Investigator* sufficiently. However, we find that one of this Government's first actions on attaining office is to sell the vessel instead of increasing its work. Another matter causing me concern is the provision for "Adelaide Sewers" under "Engineering and Water Supply". The proposed expenditure is \$8,045,000, whereas \$9,182,000 was spent under this line last year. I would have thought that this sum, instead of being reduced by over \$1,000,000, would have been increased, especially when metropolitan members are constantly referring to the Government the need for sewerage work to be carried out within their districts. I believe this reduced provision will be another blow to South Australia's housing industry. In my district alone, a large Housing Trust project, known as Hughes Estate, at Henley Beach, has been held up because of the lack of sewerage. Some houses have been constructed and others are awaiting construction. I believe ready sales would be possible in this area but work cannot proceed until sewerage is available. Similar circumstances apply in many parts of my district, including Kidman Park and other areas at Henley Beach. Before house construction can take place these areas must be sewered, and I think it is a great pity that the Government has seen fit to reduce expenditure in this connection by such a significant sum at a time when I believe the allocation should have been increased.

Although I wish to refer to other matters, I believe I can deal with them conveniently when we consider the lines. I conclude by repeating what I said initially: I believe these Loan Estimates are disappointing. We are used to Loan Estimates that announce new projects for the development of the State, but these Estimates certainly do not achieve this aim. As a result of the emphasis that has been placed on expenditure, employment opportunities in particular will not be available.

Mr. EDWARDS (Eyre): I am pleased to speak about the Loan Estimates programme, which is a credit to the Treasurer. Country

areas as well as city areas are dealt with extensively. Members opposite are only jealous that they are not on this side of the Chamber and are not able to present the Loan Estimates. However, they could not have done nearly as good a job as has been done by this Government. The member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) spoke at great length about the Loan Estimates. However, I am sure he could not have done as well as the Treasurer has done. Members opposite have said a lot about newspapers. I believe that this is a free country and that a newspaper may print what it believes to be the best medium for its readers. As two opposite views are expressed in this place, both cannot be correct; therefore, we must allow the newspaper reporter to be the judge of what should be printed. All members cannot make the headlines. In fact, it is just as well we cannot because, if we could, some of us would have swollen heads and would not even speak to our colleagues.

The member for Glenelg was sarcastic and uncharitable in his remarks about housing. In his speech, he attacked the *Advertiser* for not reporting things said by himself and the Leader of the Opposition. Members on this side could not help take notice of the fuss he made. The *Advertiser* has always been a fair and unbiased newspaper and has always carried out responsible reporting. Let me tell the member for Glenelg that, if he has constructive and helpful criticism to offer, the *Advertiser* will be only too happy to report it, but when he carries on as he does he should not growl if he does not make the headlines. I did not consider that much of what he said was worth reporting, and obviously the *Advertiser* thought as I did. The honourable member complained that the Treasurer had reduced the amount of money available for housing by \$1,800,000 and he said that approvals for the June quarter this year were 119 fewer than for the June quarter of 1967. His third point of criticism related, as he put it, to the Government's intention to make deposits with building societies authorized investments under the Trustee Act. The honourable member went on with much of his academic expert know-how, obviously gathered during his long term of three weeks as Minister of Housing! I am sure that this term is a milestone in the honourable member's Parliamentary career and that he cannot resist the opportunity of letting the House know all about it. His real success has been nipped in

the bud. The real growls from the Leader and the member for Glenelg have no foundation, because the Treasurer has stated clearly that in the Loan Estimates programme the emphasis is on development and that the Estimates have been brought down after careful consideration of where the greatest needs will arise and where capital input can be most effective for the State. We have had in the State many empty houses because the Labor Government built houses where they were not needed. Through its economic policies, Labor frightened industries out of the State. Skilled tradesmen have gone through my district on the way to Western Australia, and many more have gone to the Eastern States.

Mr. Rodda: Why are those houses empty?

Mr. EDWARDS: There was no-one to occupy them: they were built in the wrong places. The present Government is to be congratulated on its handling of the housing quotas for the coming year. The policy will meet the needs of our people, expand industry, and go a long way towards getting the State going again. I again refer to the member for Glenelg, who raved on about softwood pine floors and said that contracts let permitted other forms of flooring to be used. I have travelled over most of the State and I know that, if softwood pine flooring is used in certain areas, white ants will eat it overnight. There is a very good reason why locally grown timbers cannot be used.

It would do the member for Glenelg good to look around before making statements such as that. Perhaps he could ask the member for Frome (Mr. Casey) about various parts of Australia, because the member for Frome has been taking an interest in other members' districts. I am sure that that member would know where the white ants operated. If he did not, he would be falling down on his job of being the all-seeing eyes of this Chamber. Perhaps I can refer to members opposite as the member for Light (Mr. Freebairn) referred to them, when he said that a Socialist was one who yearned for the equal division of unequal earnings. This sentiment seems to have been expressed in the speeches of Labor members opposite.

I know that the member for Enfield (Mr. Jennings) will be listening to this and not liking it at all. He said I had solved a great problem that that honourable member always

regarded as being insoluble and he referred to my predecessor, George Baron Bockelberg, and his distinctive years of service to the people of Eyre Peninsula. The honourable member was most likely pondering these Loan Estimates brought down by our L.C.L. Treasurer, which will do nothing but good for the people of this State.

I can only liken members opposite to the wombats of the Eyre District, those protected animals that dig their own holes and let the dingoes in through the dog fence, thereby causing strife in an otherwise peaceful community.

Turning now to a consideration of the Loan Estimates, I am rather disappointed to see that the Electricity Trust has not started the substation at Pine Corner, six miles east of Cleve. However, I am sure that now the Government has agreed to commence the Polda-Kimba main the Commonwealth Government will also give us some help with this project, particularly when we have shown that we are genuinely intending to get on with the job. All the councils in Eyre—Cleve, Kimba, Lock, Elliston, Le Hunte, Streaky Bay and Ceduna—have said they would be only too willing to hook up on the Electricity Trust powerline as soon as it is available to them, and they have all agreed that the sooner this happens the better it will be for all concerned. All small towns throughout Eyre are patiently waiting also. The E.T.S.A. power and lighting charges are not as high as most people think they will be; in fact, with the Government subsidy they are almost at city rates. Therefore everyone would be far better off if we were all on the E.T.S.A. link-up. As far as I can discover, it is no dearer today to be coupled up to the E.T.S.A. power than it was 20 years ago, under the single wire earth return system which is used today. I certainly hope that the trust will have another look at our problem in Eyre. I am sure the trust does not realize the vast potential of this large area of the State. It can help that area along to further prosperity by giving us a substation near Cleve and letting us get on with the job of reticulating power throughout the area.

When we examine the Treasurer's statement in presenting these Estimates we find quite a few things that are of great help to people in both the city and the country. The sum of \$900,000 is provided for loans to producers, and \$180,000 is provided for advances to settlers. Both of these allocations help not only the man on the land but other

people who come under this category. As we read through the Loan Estimates statement we find that much money is set aside to help the Eyre District and the southern end of the Flinders District. The top end of the Ceduna-Thevenard railway line is almost completed, and money has been set aside for continuing that work. Money is also set aside for work on the construction of new hopper waggons and steel brake vans for the narrow gauge line. Also, money is allocated for fishing havens throughout the State and for foreshore improvements. Despite what the Opposition has said, this all helps out in the long run.

Then we come to the Tod River scheme where, under an extension programme, \$175,000 is set aside for the Lock-Kimba main, \$25,000 for the hundred of Mamblin, \$23,000 for the hundred of McLachlan, \$40,000 for the hundred of Pygery, \$5,000 for the Pimbaacla tank, and \$25,000 for the Kalanbi tank. Also, \$40,000 is provided for the Streaky Bay project, to provide water for that town, which is growing fast. Honourable members opposite are saying much about the Loan Estimates, but how many of them would like to contribute to them? They had better look out or they may be taxed more highly. The member for Wallaroo criticized the Treasurer, but all he had to take over was a bare cupboard left behind by the previous Treasurer.

Mr. Hughes: That's a lie.

Mr. EDWARDS: It is amusing to sit on this side of the Chamber and hear members opposite mumbling into their beards. If it was not for a "Hear, hear!" occasionally from the member for Enfield we would not know he was here at all. Also, the member for Glenelg at Question Time is up and down like a jack-in-a-box.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member must refer to the Loan Estimates.

Mr. EDWARDS: I come then to the Ceduna and Blanchetown police stations, for which \$50,000 is provided. Under the programme of the Electricity Trust, \$60,000 is allotted for the final payment on the 132,000-volt transmission line and equipment from Whyalla to Port Lincoln, and \$30,000 for the transmission line from Port Augusta to Whyalla, which are considerable sums of money. Further on, under "Non-government hospital and institution buildings", \$100,000 is set aside for the Helping Hand Centre, North Adelaide. It is of great benefit to this home to

have that money available to help it build its 100-bed infirmary for the chronically sick and aged persons who will come to that area. The provision of that money is a tribute to the Treasurer. Then a large sum of money is provided for the Produce Department at Port Lincoln.

Much money has been allocated to housing as shown by details in appendix 2. There were 909 houses completed by the trust in country areas for 1967-68, and 770 were under construction as at June 30, 1968. A total of 1,181 was to be commenced for 1968-69 and, of these, Ceduna would receive 25, Cleve 10, Cowell five, Lock three, Streaky Bay 10, and Tumby Bay one. That means a total of 53 houses will be commenced in the District of Eyre and 27 in the District of Flinders. Also, about 100 more houses are to be commenced this year in the District of Whyalla than for the previous year. Recently, it was announced in a newspaper that about 375 houses would be built in the city area—200 at Christie Downs and 175 at Ingle Farm. This morning it was announced from radio station 5CK that for the coming 12 months \$1,800,000 would be spent on houses and other buildings in the Whyalla area. Of course, many houses are being erected in addition to those by the Housing Trust, so that the programme for country areas reveals that houses are being erected where they are needed. Perhaps if the member for Wallaroo worked harder some allocation might be made for housing in the Wallaroo area next year. I have much pleasure in supporting the first line.

Mr. McKEE (Port Pirie): I, too, have studied the Loan Estimates, but with much disappointment. Since the member for Eyre has spoken I have found out where all the money has been allocated: he has got the lot. I suppose some will be allocated for inspectors of wombat holes. The honourable member asked a question today about wombats and the Minister replied that permits could be obtained to eradicate wombats within a radius of a mile each side of the dog fence. I consider that some confusion has been caused about the the wombat situation during this debate. When the member for Wallaroo was speaking the member for Eyre suggested that he was only good for looking down wombat holes. The member for Adelaide said, "You don't look down wombat holes, you look up them." We should clarify the situation, because if inspectors are to eradicate wombats they should

know how to go about it. No matter how one does go about it one should approach them with extreme caution, because it could be a risky job.

Government members seem to have experienced extreme difficulty trying to justify their support of the Loan Estimates, although it seems to me that most L.C.L.-represented districts have received generous treatment. The Premier through his "public relations department" (the *Advertiser*) has been receiving considerable publicity regarding his claims of getting the State moving. We do not know how he intends to achieve this because that is not mentioned. Of course, if there is anything to do with that matter in these Loan Estimates, I am afraid it is well concealed.

The Premier has also claimed that he confidently expects that his Government's new approach to industrial promotion will stimulate confidence and lead again to greater development, and he has referred to two projects that are of the utmost importance. He referred first to the Chowilla dam, and the whole State is anxiously waiting to hear something definite from the Premier about this project. Secondly, the Premier said that natural gas was expected to facilitate greatly the Government's plans for industrial expansion, but one would not need to be particularly smart to realize that. However, this project is not likely to be completed before 1970, if it is completed then, and by that time the Premier may well find himself sitting back on the left-hand side of the Speaker.

Mr. Clark: Or possibly not here at all!

Mr. McKEE: Indeed. As Leader of the Opposition, the Premier did everything in his power to delay the construction of the natural gas pipeline. Strongly criticizing the authority's decision to construct the pipeline along the shortest route, he said that he had no confidence in the authority, and he tried to have the whole project referred to the Public Works Committee. His Party was prepared to jeopardize the future of the State merely for political purposes. At the time, the Leader raved madly about the State addressing protest meetings and criticizing our Government's decision to construct the pipeline along the shortest route. In fact, promises were made by members opposite that an L.C.L. Government would run the pipeline almost all round the State on its way to Adelaide. Since they have been in Government, however, Government members have not seen fit to go back to

these people to tell them that the pipeline route will be changed and will go through Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Wallaroo, around to Angaston, and back to Adelaide. However, that is what they promised the people they would do. They did everything possible to obstruct the negotiations that took place into the sale of natural gas.

At that time, the then Leader (the present Premier) did not stop to think of the economics involved or of the competition involved in the sale of natural gas. Had the Labor Government taken notice of his suggestion, he would not now be saying that natural gas would greatly assist the Government's plans for industrial expansion: he would be criticizing the Labor Government for taking his advice, because we would not have been able to sell the gas at competitive prices and the result would have been that industry would not benefit from natural gas. That is what would have happened had we taken the Leader's advice and placed the pipeline where he wanted us to place it. Had it not been for the business-like approach of the late Hon. Frank Walsh and the present Leader of the Opposition in this connection, I am afraid that the provision of natural gas would have been about as far advanced as is the Chowilla dam project. Of course, now the Premier, assisted by the *Advertiser*, is taking the credit for work done by the Labor Government. Soon after taking office, the Premier announced that early rains had provided a good seasonal break and excellent pastoral and cereal conditions. Yet almost immediately the Government increased water charges. I suppose it is in order for the Premier to take credit for the good season: the Government is taking credit for everything else that it has not achieved. I also noticed in the Loan Estimates that a reasonable provision is made for "Fishing Havens and Fore-shore Improvements".

Mr. Hughes: They are grouped together.

Mr. McKEE: Yes. The allocation in this year's Loan Estimates for this industry is the largest I have seen, and it particularly affects the South-East. I wonder what is the reason for this large allocation. All I can say is that it is about time this important industry received recognition because, for over 30 years, the Liberal and Country League Government treated it with contempt. Of course, the present Government, when in Opposition, did everything possible to prevent the Labor Government from passing legislation that would assist this industry. The then

Leader of the Opposition, I think before the March election, campaigned vigorously in the South-East against legislation that the Labor Government intended to introduce to assist the fishing industry. He had more success there than he had in his campaign in the North against the natural gas pipeline. His tactics almost paid off in the South-East. However, when the legislation became effective, the fishermen soon realized that the Labor Government was right.

Of course, during the Millicent by-election the people of Millicent, including the fishermen, showed their approval of the measure. The then Leader had told the people fairy stories and, as I have said, he was reasonably successful, but it did not take the fishermen long to realize who was right. The Treasurer admits that the Loan Estimates are very ordinary. In his preamble, he said that only by very careful allocation of the funds available would the Government be able to meet normal requirements. This is the truth of the situation: if it were not, I doubt that the Treasurer would have said it. I am sure that his statement is not encouraging to the increasing number of unemployed. A small amount is to be spent on the water supply in the Beetaloo district, so we are going to gain something. An industry expanded recently in that area and the small amount to be spent at Beetaloo will help.

Mr. Virgo: You're fortunate. Some districts aren't getting anything.

Mr. McKEE: That is so. New members have a rude awakening coming to them when they talk about huge sums being provided in the Loan Estimates of this Government. Work on the standard gauge line is progressing, and I agree that it is important that this work go on. Money has been allocated for that purpose. However, we must not forget that the work is important not only to Port Pirie but to the whole of the State and that it is a job that had to be done. In fact, I would say that the State generally will derive more benefit from this work than will Port Pirie. In any case, as the member for Wallaroo (Mr. Hughes) points out, this is Commonwealth money, and it is thrown in here to boost the morale of the Government in presenting these Loan Estimates. I do not think the allocation of this money should be used as an excuse to delay essential work in any district.

Mr. McAnaney: How do you work that out? Most of the money is going to Eyre Peninsula.

Mr. McKEE: The member for Stirling is going back to the wombat country.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Port Pirie.

Mr. McKEE: Thank you, Sir. Apart from the allocation for work on the standard gauge line, nothing is provided in these Estimates for my district. As I was about to say, the allocation of this money should not be used as an excuse to delay such essential work as the children's ward and other improvements urgently needed at the Port Pirie Hospital to give hospital services not only to the community of Port Pirie but to a vast area taking in also the Districts of Rocky River and Stuart. This hospital even provides services to some people from the Premier's district. I consider that an essential service such as the provision of hospital accommodation should be one of the first and foremost things to be considered, for the people should be catered for. I notice that \$500,000 is earmarked for the festival hall. Although this project is important to Adelaide, I do not agree that it should have priority over accommodation for sick people.

I wish to deal now with the decision by the Institute of Technology to close its branch at Port Pirie. The institute is playing an important role in Port Pirie in training skilled technical people, and the closing of its branch there will result in a severe loss to that city. This decision seems to be a strange one, for Port Pirie has the largest lead-smelting works in the world. Also, a new zinc plant has just been opened there, and the old uranium treatment plant has recently been opened up by Field Metals and Chemicals Proprietary Limited. The present Government cannot claim too much credit for these changes, for apart from the latter company the industries that have made these changes have been in Port Pirie for some time. I think that even Field Metals and Chemicals Proprietary Limited was well advanced with its negotiations when the present Government took office. I understand that one party that was negotiating to take over the uranium treatment plant is still associated with the industry that has in fact taken it over.

Mr. Hughes: That particular party was negotiating for this site when the Labor Government was in office.

Mr. McKEE: Yes. That party was, and still is, associated with the industry that is there. The honourable member has noticed that. Besides the industries at Port Pirie, we are receiving many reports about likely mineral development in the North and the exploration

for minerals; yet it is decided to close this branch of the institute. Another important point is that the students at Port Pirie have the benefit of practical training. I understand the institute claims that the decision was for educational reasons: it is impossible to give a full tertiary education with a staff of only one lecturer in each subject, with a total staff of only four or five. As the Government claims it places great importance on mineral development, it should see that this branch of the institute is retained at Port Pirie. Economics should not take precedence of education. By its action the Government is retarding the education of the people needed for mineral search. I say particularly to the new members of this Chamber, who claim that these Loan Estimates will solve all the Government's problems, get things moving and provide full employment, that they will be sadly disillusioned but will probably finish up much wiser men.

Mr. ARNOLD (Chaffey): It is with great pleasure that I support the first line of the Loan Estimates because, like many other members on this side, I believe the Treasurer has done an excellent job in the way he has allocated moneys to the various projects throughout the State. It is important to note that these moneys have been allocated where they will do the most good. I am gratified by the allocations for my own district. For instance, for Barmera \$100,000 has been provided for a new overhead storage tank for the water supply urgently needed there. This is important for the future development of that town, which I regard as becoming completely residential, the industrial centre being at Berri rather than at Barmera. The shortage of an adequate town water supply has restricted its development considerably and, with this new overhead storage tank, the expansion of Barmera on which the council is working diligently at present will be able to proceed.

Also, an allocation of \$61,000 will be used to build a reticulation scheme at Berri, especially in the North Berri area, which has expanded considerably. Much criticism has been heard from members opposite about the Loan Estimates, but the member for Mount Gambier must have a strange feeling, because his district has not been as well catered for since the last L.C.L. Government went out of office. However, allocations have now been made for a high school, and Housing Trust development (almost double last year's) and

these provisions must make it difficult for honourable members opposite to criticize the Loan Estimates.

Mr. Hughes: Mount Gambier has progressed enough under a Labor Government to warrant these allocations.

Mr. ARNOLD: Quite so, but the allocations were not as great from the Labor Government as those received from a Liberal Government. Obviously, the member for Mount Gambier was pleased with the sums to be made available for his district, although he could not say so. The school-building programme allocation this financial year is \$13,700,000 and for a new primary school at Berri \$240,000 has been provided, and for one at Renmark \$244,000 has been provided. The people in the District of Chaffey will be pleased to know that \$100,000 has been provided for erecting an adult education centre at Renmark. They have been waiting for this for at least the last three years.

Mr. Virgo: Say something about Chowilla.

Mr. ARNOLD: Members opposite have said much about Chowilla. We would not be faced with this problem if the Labor Government had not deferred building Chowilla dam.

Mr. Hurst: You promised to start it within six months.

Mr. ARNOLD: We have not been in office for six months, but I am confident that this Government will have this project commenced and on its way. The people of the District of Chaffey are well aware that the Chowilla dam project was sold out from under them during the period of the Labor Government and all the amazing statements made by members opposite will not convince them otherwise. The present Housing Trust programme contemplates the building of houses where they are needed.

The allocations made for housing in country areas are a credit to the Treasurer. In 1967-68 five houses were completed at Barmera, seven were under construction at June 30, 1968, and 10 are to be commenced in 1968-69. We see a similar picture at Berri and Renmark. For the District of Chaffey the totals are as follows: 23 houses completed in 1967-68; 24 under construction as at June 30, 1968; and 60 to be commenced during 1968-69. That is a totally different picture from what we have seen in the last two or three years. A person must at present wait for about 15 months to

obtain a house at Renmark, and that is a ridiculous state of affairs. However, the actions taken by the Government will quickly rectify that position. The allocation for the Renmark school, to which I have referred, will ensure completion of the work within another two or three months, so that students will be occupying the building before the end of this school year. Students and parents alike are pleased with what they see in this new two-storey school. Although building of the Berri school is not as advanced, it will undoubtedly be near completion within the next 12 months, bearing in mind the allocations being made for this project. I support the first line.

Mr. CASEY (Frome): The purpose of the Loan Estimates is for moneys obtained from the Commonwealth Government under the Commonwealth-State Financial Agreement to be distributed by the Treasurer, and it is up to him to satisfy members of this Chamber and the State generally that what he is doing with the money will be for the benefit of the State. Reading the Loan Estimates debate that took place last year, when the Estimates were introduced by the then Treasurer (Hon. D. A. Dunstan), we soon become aware that it was the aim then of members opposite to attack the then Treasurer in no uncertain fashion, under-rating everything he did and that they had an ulterior motive. To illustrate the viciousness of the attacks which came from the Opposition benches at that time, I shall refer to what the present Treasurer said. This is an illustration of the ulterior motive behind the attacks. When this statement was made, it was known that the election would follow shortly and that any attack, no matter how untruthful, provided it received publicity in the newspapers, was justified. The following is a report which appeared in the *Advertiser* on August 9, 1967:

Mr. Pearson (L.C.P.) described the Estimates as a colourless, unimaginative and disappointing document. It failed to recognize opportunities and neglected to correct the down-turn in developmental projects on which future revenues and public confidence were based.

I believe that type of statement is detrimental to the State as a whole. It does not matter to me who is the Treasurer of the State—if he thinks that, by fanning out money in a certain direction, productivity can be increased, he will get my support. However, in looking at the Loan Estimates on this occasion, the first thing that strikes me is the fact that there is a downward trend in the allocation to the Housing Trust.

This is a serious matter because the trust is the major builder of houses in this State: it provides low rental and rental purchase houses and cottage flats. Any boost that can be given to the trust is most essential. Of course, the trust does not build these houses itself: it lets out contracts to private builders. Members opposite often refer to private enterprise, so surely they must realize that allocations to the trust are a shot in the arm for private enterprise. We heard in the past a hullabaloo about tradesmen in the building industry going to other States because they could not find work here. However, I wish to remind members opposite that the Labor Government allocated much more money than this Government has allocated to the trust in an effort to create an incentive for the building industry; in fact, the difference in the allocations is about \$1,500,000. Therefore, members opposite cannot say sincerely that, while we were in Government (particularly in relation to Loan Estimates), we did not do our utmost to direct moneys into certain channels that would benefit the building industry generally.

If it is true that tradesmen employed in the building industry were forced to go to other States because of a lack of work here, then

many more tradesmen will leave in the next 12 months as a result of this Government's reduced allocation to the trust. We have to be honest about the present position. The Premier has promised many things. In his policy speech he said that he would do his utmost to work with the Governments of the Commonwealth and other States to hammer out a better Commonwealth-State Financial Agreement. That is the joke of the century, because before the Premiers go to the Commonwealth to receive their small portions of Commonwealth money, the Commonwealth Treasurer knows exactly how much each State will get. The cake has already been cut into slices, and pieces are designated to particular States. It is complete rot for the Premier to talk in this vein.

Mr. Virgo: The Premiers' Conference is nothing more than a farce.

Mr. CASEY: That is right, because the cake is already cut when the Premiers get there. Let us face the facts as we see them.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11.18 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, August 28, at 2 p.m.