

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, August 29, 1968.

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the following Bills:

Fruit Fly (Compensation),
Supply (No. 2).

QUESTIONS

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yesterday I forwarded to you, Mr. Speaker, a letter which you read to the House and the first two sentences of which were as follows:

On the meeting of the House this afternoon I propose to move that the House at its rising do adjourn until 2 o'clock on Friday, August 30, for the purpose of debating a matter of urgency, namely, the repudiation by the Government of the arrangements made for the employment of the Director of Industrial Development and his continuing in that position for a period of five years.

The Director of Industrial Development was induced to relinquish security, pension rights and considerable emoluments in order to take the post in which he was guaranteed continuance of employment for five years as the head of the Branch of Industrial Development.

Yesterday, in his speech, the Premier saw fit to read the first part of the second sentence without reading the rest of it, and to allege that on this basis some allegations had been made by me and members on this side that, in the alteration of his post to the post of Director of Industrial Research, the Director of Industrial Development had been induced to relinquish security, pension rights and considerable emoluments. No such allegation appeared in the letter to you, Mr. Speaker, or was made in this House, and the Premier's attempt to make—

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Are you making a personal explanation?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Or are you attacking the Premier?

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Leader has obtained leave to make a personal explanation.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Premier's attempt to set up an allegation that he then knocked down showed that he had not even bothered to read the material in front of him. If he had read it, he could not possibly have said what he did say.

Mr. HUDSON: In relation to the changes that have taken place in the Industrial Development Branch, members were given the impression on Tuesday that there would be no Director of Industrial Development under the new arrangement and, therefore, that there would be no head of the Industrial Development Branch, and that Mr. Currie, as Director of Industrial Research, would not be subordinate to Mr. Ramsay. I find, from reading the *Hansard* proof, that the Premier said yesterday:

Within the Premier's Department there is the Industrial Development Branch, which is now headed by the Director of Industrial Development (Mr. Ramsay), supported by the Director of Industrial Research (Mr. Currie). In order to try and clarify this position, can the Premier say whether it is now the case that Mr. Ramsay, as Director of Industrial Promotion, will be head of the Industrial Development Branch and, therefore, whether Mr. Currie will be subordinate to Mr. Ramsay?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: In phrasing his question the honourable member said he was quoting what I had said from *Hansard*: that Mr. Ramsay was the Director of Industrial Development.

Mr. Hudson: That is what the proof said.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: It should be "Industrial Promotion", because that is his title. I do not know what the honourable member's objective is.

Mr. Hudson: I am just trying to find out what is happening.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: It appears that the Opposition is in some way trying to cast a slur on the developmental activities at present being undertaken. The publicity given yesterday was indeed bad for the industrial development effort in South Australia. All I can say is—

Mr. Hudson: Are we entitled to know what's happened, or not?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Mr. Speaker, I should like your indulgence, to enable me to give a little more information to members opposite. Apparently, they intend to press this situation. I had hoped that they would not continue to do that. Members opposite, including the Leader of the Opposition, made a token effort to set up in South Australia a branch of the Premier's Department.

Mr. Corcoran: I ask the Premier to answer the question, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. CORCORAN: I take the point, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier, in replying to the member for Glenelg, is debating the question. Is this permitted?

The SPEAKER: The member for Millicent has raised a point of order. I did not interrupt the honourable Premier, because the honourable member for Glenelg had, by interjection, asked a subsequent question, which I allowed. If honourable members follow me closely, I point out that if such a question seeks further information I do not interrupt. Therefore, I did not stop the honourable member. The Premier then sought my indulgence to enable him to give an explanation. That is why I think I should allow the Premier to answer the question further. The honourable Premier.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Well, I will restrain myself and simply say that Mr. Alex Ramsay, as Director of Industrial Promotion, will frame the policies that will, of course, control the actions of the Industrial Development Branch of the Premier's Department, and in so framing them he will be responsible to me.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE (Attorney-General): I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I wish to correct the statement made in this House yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition, when referring to the titular head of certain Public Service departments. The Leader then said that, as Attorney-General in the last Government, his Secretary was titular Public Service head of the Aboriginal Affairs, Social Welfare, and Attorney-General's Departments. This is incorrect because, although the Secretary was the permanent head in terms of the Public Service Act of the Attorney-General's Department, the permanent heads of the Aboriginal Affairs and Social Welfare Departments were the Director of Aboriginal Affairs and the Director of Social Welfare. This position is still the same today and can be verified by reference to the Second Schedule of the Public Service Act. The Secretary was originally appointed to the additional positions of Secretary, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and Secretary, Minister of Social Welfare, because it has always been customary for a Minister to have a secretary for each portfolio held by him. I may say that I was surprised that,

as the Leader had held these portfolios for two and a half years, he was so inaccurate in what he said yesterday.

MATRICULATION CLASSES

Mr. NANKIVELL: Can the Minister of Education now say which schools will next year be provided with Matriculation classes?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I have a reply to the honourable member that I think may be of interest to other members, too. The claims of seven secondary schools to begin Matriculation classes in 1969 have been thoroughly investigated by officers of the Education Department. The practice has been to consider, for the introduction of Matriculation, only those schools that can guarantee 40 in the Matriculation class in the metropolitan area and 20 in the country, with the likelihood of maintaining those enrolments. Daws Road High School and Underdale High School easily meet the requirements in the metropolitan area. Modbury High School was considered but did not reach the required enrolment for 1969. Matriculation students from Modbury can be accommodated at Gilles Plains High School. Of the country schools considered, Bordertown High School and Heathfield High School are assured of at least 20 students in the Matriculation year in 1969, with strong indications that the numbers will increase in the future. Maitland and Oakbank Area Schools were also considered. Maitland could not provide anywhere near the required 20 students for Matriculation in 1969, or in the following year. Oakbank Area School could not provide the necessary 20 Matriculation enrolments from its own ranks, but hoped to attract students from Mount Barker High School, Birdwood High School and metropolitan secondary schools to reach the required number. Oakbank children are at present well served for Matriculation at Mount Barker High School and at metropolitan schools, and Oakbank's claims cannot be supported. The Director-General of Education has assured me that the necessary staff can be provided for Matriculation classes in four additional schools in 1969, although resources will be severely taxed to do so. I have, therefore, approved his recommendation that Matriculation classes be commenced in 1969 at Bordertown High School, Daws Road High School, Heathfield High School and Underdale High School.

STATE GOVERNOR

Mr. LAWN: Can the Premier tell the House what progress, if any, has been made by the Government towards appointing a Governor?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member will be informed of this progress when an announcement is ready to be made. If he pays due attention to it, I hope he will learn of such an appointment at some time in the future.

Mr. LAWN: The Premier has not answered my question but has said that if I watch the press I will see when the matter is finalized. However, I did not expect to be told the name of our new Governor: I only asked what progress, if any, had been made regarding such an appointment. Can the Premier now say whether any recommendation has been made to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Progress has been made, and an announcement will be made at the appropriate time.

Mr. CASEY: Can the Premier say whether the recommendations that have been made are along the lines that the next Governor of South Australia will be a South Australian?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: No. I cannot say that.

Mr. LAWN: Can the Premier say whether I may take it for granted that members of the Opposition have to read the *Advertiser* to obtain information about Government policy and Government decisions?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I remind the honourable member (I think he already knows this) that any communications this Government may have on this matter are highly confidential, and until the appropriate time arrives for a public announcement it would be wrong of me to give details of any communications on this matter. Consequently, there is no point in embarking on a series of questions and answers that will lead into this matter. If, on a certain date, it is appropriate for me to give a reply I shall do so. At present, however, it is inappropriate for me to say anything.

WATER COSTS

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the cost of supplying water in various parts of my district?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: The costs of supplying water for the year 1966-67 for the Burra, Clare and Jamestown districts were as follows: Burra, \$1.03 a thousand gallons; Clare, 76c a thousand gallons; and Jamestown, \$1.48 a thousand gallons.

TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Mr. VIRGO: Yesterday in the Legislative Council my colleague the Hon. A. F. Kneebone directed a question to the Minister of Roads and Transport about the acquisition of church properties if recommendations in the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study Report were to proceed, and he drew attention to the fact that normally a church property had no market value because it was not placed on the market as were houses, commercial properties and the like. In reply, the Minister said, in regard to the valuation of church properties and similar buildings, that the valuer did the following:

He does not use what is known as the principle of comparable sales: he uses what is known as the summation method—that is, he simply totals up the value of the land and the value of improvements on the land. He totals up these figures that he assesses—the value of the land, the value of the church buildings and the value of any annexes that may be attached to the rear of the church and any other buildings at the rear that may be situated on church land. He adds up his assessments of these separate valuations and arrives at a figure.

As a church has a definite requirement to provide for the spiritual needs of people in a particular area, obviously the mere valuation of existing land may not, and probably would not, be sufficient to acquire alternative land in that same area. Therefore, I should be pleased if the Attorney-General would take up with the Minister of Roads and Transport the question of assessing the value for acquisition of these properties to enable churches to buy property in the same area without suffering financial loss in so doing.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Very well.

STATE BANK LOANS

Mr. WARDLE: The owners of many houses in the township of Mannum have borrowed money from the State Bank to purchase them. These houses are soon to be provided with sewerage. Can the Treasurer say whether the owners of these houses will be able to borrow from the State Bank additional sums of money (probably between \$300 and \$400) to install sewerage at their dwellings?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: As the honourable member would be aware, there is a maximum amount that the State Bank may advance for the purchase of a house. However, an amendment to increase the allowable maximum advance under the Advances to Homes Act is at present before Parliament, but has not

yet been passed. Until it has been passed, the old limit must stand. If borrowers have already borrowed in the first instance the maximum sum allowable, the bank cannot legally extend the advance. However, when the amending legislation is passed by Parliament, the bank or any other similar lending institution could have authority to make a higher advance. I am not certain whether the amendment would operate retrospectively. As I am aware that the cost of sewerage connection is heavy, I will ask the State Bank whether it has in the past considered such applications, and I will let the honourable member know next week.

AIR POLLUTION

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about air pollution?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The Minister of Health states that the Senate Select Committee on Air Pollution, of which the Acting Chairman is Senator Laucke, is to visit South Australia early in October.

LANGHORNE CREEK MINING

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Premier received from the Minister of Mines a reply to my question about well-drilling in the Langhorne Creek area?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: A preliminary progress report on the Langhorne Creek investigation has been submitted, in which it is shown that the area is being seriously over-pumped and that depletion of the aquifer is already evident. Work has not progressed far enough to enable a quantitative conclusion to be arrived at.

MILITARY ROAD

Mr. BROOMHILL: The strip of Military Road between West Beach Road and the Patawalonga is in extremely bad condition, being full of potholes, and is a menace to drivers. As Military Road is used by most of the visitors to this State who use the West Beach caravan park, will the Attorney-General take this matter up with the Minister of Roads and Transport and ascertain whether any provision has been made for improvements to this section of the road?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

OAKBANK AREA SCHOOL

Mr. GILES: Has the Minister of Education further information about when the agricultural science blocks will be erected at the Oakbank Area School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I cannot give the honourable member that information now, but I shall certainly ask for a report and let him have the information next week.

WALLAROO ROAD

Mr. HUGHES: Yesterday the Attorney-General was good enough to have the messenger place on my desk two notices that he had replies to questions but, unfortunately, I was out of the Chamber attending to some of the requirements of my constituents and, when I returned, Question Time had finished. Will the Attorney-General now be kind enough to give the reply to my question about work on Cornish Terrace, Wallaroo?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Minister of Roads and Transport tells me that the pavement investigation for Cornish Terrace, Wallaroo, has been completed. Work can now proceed as soon as the corporation can so arrange.

SHOWGROUND FARES

Mr. RYAN: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a reply to the question I asked on August 1 about what I considered to be an anomaly in the fares that will be charged for travel from suburban railway stations to the showgrounds?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Before the closing of the railway siding at the showgrounds a quarter-hourly service was run between Adelaide and the showgrounds during show week, and a special fare applied between Adelaide and the grounds. Passengers from Outer Harbour, Grange and North Gawler lines were able to obtain a through ticket to the showgrounds, the charge being the sum of the fare for the journey from their home station to Adelaide and the special fare from Adelaide to the showgrounds. This practice was discontinued after the closing of the showgrounds siding, but passengers were then able to buy the cheap ticket to either Keswick or Goodwood only from Adelaide. It is possible, however, to reintroduce the former system, and this it is intended to do. Through tickets will be available from stations on the Outer Harbour, Grange and Gawler lines at the sum of the normal fare to Adelaide and the cheap fare from Adelaide to either Keswick or Goodwood.

ABORIGINAL RELICS

The Hon. B. H. TUESNER: I was pleased to note an announcement by the Minister of Education in the *Advertiser* last Monday that

the important archaeological site known as the rock shelter at Devon Downs near Nildottie on the Murray River had been declared a prohibited area under the Aboriginal and Historical Relics Preservation Act of 1965, because of vandalism that had occurred in the past few years. In areas adjoining the Barossa Valley there are several Aboriginal cave paintings and rock shelters, most of them situated on private property, and during a recent visit to these localities I noticed that there had been vandalism by defacement of these rock paintings. Will the Minister ascertain whether the board appointed pursuant to the Act has taken or intends to take action to preserve for posterity these paintings? I suggest that if it is impossible to declare these localities prohibited areas, it may be possible to prevent further despoliation by providing protective grids at these rock shelters.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I am grateful to the honourable member for asking this question, and because of his interest in the preservation of Aboriginal relics. In the past two or three months many places have been declared prohibited areas under the Act. Officers of the board have made many journeys to various parts of the State in order to look at places that have been brought to their notice, and in consequence those places have been brought under protection. If the honourable member will give me the names and the localities of these places I will, with pleasure, refer them to the board and ask for something to be done to protect them from the vandalism that, unfortunately, has marred some of these places in the past. The action taken by the board to preserve these native relics and sites of early camping grounds has given much pleasure to many people throughout South Australia, and I shall be pleased to add further names to the list of places that the board can visit.

HAWKER SCHOOL

Mr. CASEY: The Minister of Education will recall that earlier this year I wrote to her about the need to acquire land at Hawker for extensions to the recreation grounds at the Hawker Area School. The reply I received was that the land had to be compulsorily acquired, and I believe that August was the deadline for this acquisition. Will the Minister ascertain what progress has been made towards the acquisition of this land?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I shall be very pleased to obtain the information for the honourable member. I seem to recollect

that something has cropped up in the last week or so regarding this matter, but I shall investigate and let the honourable member have a report, I hope next week.

CHOWILLA DAM

Mr. HUDSON: Yesterday the visit of the Minister for National Development was reported, and I believe that at a joint press conference that was held Mr. Fairbairn said he believed that the Dartmouth site was just as suitable as the Chowilla site and that the Dartmouth site would, in his opinion, provide benefits equal to those that could be achieved at Chowilla. I understand that the Premier, in the presence of the Minister for National Development, said only that Mr. Fairbairn and he had had interesting discussions. In view of the Minister's visit to Adelaide yesterday and in view of his statements, which again revealed his basic prejudice in favour of the Dartmouth site, is the Premier able to report to the House on the conversations he had yesterday with the Minister for National Development, and is there any information he can make available that will either correct or confirm the rather unfavourable impression created yesterday by Mr. Fairbairn?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am sorry that the Minister's visit yesterday created an unfavourable impression on the honourable member. I would have thought he would welcome the Minister's visit to South Australia, because he previously accused this Government of alienating him in personal relationships. As I pointed out yesterday, this is not so: the Minister for National Development and I are on good terms. The South Australian Government is still awaiting the comparisons that are being made, following the decision of the River Murray Commission. The Government has repeatedly stated its position regarding the Chowilla project. This position remains as it was, and we are now awaiting the results of the comparative studies.

Mr. RICHES: I understood, from viewing television last evening, that the Premier and his Commonwealth colleague, speaking on the Chowilla dam, expected a decision before the end of this year. Whilst \$500,000 is proposed in the Loan Estimates for a festival hall, I can see no provision for the Chowilla dam. Can the Premier say whether that means that the Government thinks there is no possibility of commencing work on the Chowilla dam in this financial year even if a favourable

decision is reached, or whether it is proposed that provision for it can be made by excess warrant or some other means?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I assure the honourable member that, if the Chowilla dam is approved, this Government will provide for its building. The fact that no provision is made in the Loan Estimates this year is simply an organizational matter. It is not intended that any pessimistic view should be taken on this matter.

FISHING REGULATION

Mr. CORCORAN: The Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Agriculture, will be aware that in, I think, October last a regulation was formulated in regard to controlling the number of pots used by cray fishermen working from South-Eastern ports. I believe that this regulation has been fairly rigidly adhered to by the fishermen concerned. However, the Government at the time intended to improve the facilities available to inspectors in order that they could periodically check the number of pots being used by fishermen and ensure that the regulation was being observed in this respect. Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture to outline the Fisheries and Fauna Conservation Department's plans concerning future facilities for inspectors involved in checking this regulation?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes.

SEMAPHORE CROSSING

Mr. HURST: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a reply to my question of August 13 regarding accidents on the Semaphore railway line?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Dealing first with accidents at the intersection of Semaphore Road and Military Road, the Minister of Roads and Transport reports that since January 1, 1967, there have been three accidents at this point. In one instance a railcar struck the side of a road vehicle, while in the other two the road vehicle contacted the side of the train. On the occasion of the most recent accident, which occurred on August 7, 1968, the motorist proceeded from the "stop" sign and struck the rear end of the leading car of a Glanville to Semaphore passenger train. This occurred at 3.36 p.m., when visibility was good. The headlights on the railcar were burning and the train warning was sounded. Referring to a recent accident which occurred at 11.10 a.m. on August 10,

1968, at the intersection of Woolnough Road and the Semaphore railway, a road vehicle, after stopping at the "stop" sign, proceeded and ran into the side of a railcar. In this instance, too, visibility was good. The railcar headlights were burning and the train warning signal was sounded. In all instances it is considered that the South Australian Railways was not responsible. Had the road vehicle drivers observed the requirements of the Road Traffic Act the collisions would not have occurred.

Mr. HURST: I am grateful for the report supplied by the Attorney-General regarding the accidents that have occurred on the Semaphore railway line. His report states that the accident on August 7 occurred at 3.36 p.m., that the visibility was good, that the headlights on the railcar were burning and that the train warning was sounding. Will the Attorney-General ascertain from the Minister of Roads and Transport whether the visibility referred to in the report was that of the railcar driver or of the driver of the motor vehicle? Further, what warning devices are usually sounded along the line? Concerning the accident that occurred at the corner of Woolnough Road on August 10, the report further states:

In this instance, too, visibility was good. In all instances referred to—

The SPEAKER: Order! I notice that the member for Semaphore is reading from a document. Will he hold the document away from the microphone so that he may be heard clearly?

Mr. HURST: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The report concludes:

In all instances referred to above it is considered that the South Australian Railways was not responsible. Had the road vehicle drivers observed the requirements of the Road Traffic Act, the collisions would not have occurred.

Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport to ascertain which sections of the Road Traffic Act were breached by the drivers involved in these two accidents, the first on August 7, and the second on August 10?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: These interrogatories are becoming rather detailed, but I will certainly ask my colleague whether he is prepared to try to answer the questions.

RADIATA PINE

Mr. BURDON: In reply to a question asked by the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) on August 20, the Minister of Housing said that the previous policy had been modified so that

the Housing Trust was not required to specify exclusively in contracts which it lets to private builders the use of radiata pine. Can the Minister say whether the trust still purchases Woods and Forests Department radiata pine, or whether he has given it permission to purchase from any source?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: At present I am seeking a docket which has in it a report from the Conservator of Forests that bears upon the general question of the effect of the decision made by the present Government regarding the use of radiata pine. When I obtain that report, I shall be able to give the House further information on the matter. The only change in policy has been that the trust will not be required to use only the products of the Woods and Forests Department. Previously the trust was in the habit of specifying the department's flooring for use in its houses. Although now, when it buys the timber, it still invariably buys the department's timber, it does not now specify in its contracts that only the department's timber shall be used. However, it does provide that the timber used shall bear the stamp of the Standards Association, which is a stamp subscribed to by the Radiata Pine Association in order that the quality of the product will be accepted as equivalent, whether it comes from a Woods and Forests Department mill or from a private mill. The honourable member will know that, some years ago, this position did not apply and that much flooring milled by private mills did not meet the standards adopted by the department. As Minister of Forests at that time, I took action to insist that the department should brand every piece of flooring that came out of the Mount Gambier mill so that it would be identifiable.

Mr. Burdon: This applies to all Woods and Forests Department products.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Each piece was to be branded distinctively so that it could be identified and so that the buyer would know whether or not he was getting a first-rate product. The present Government has not seen fit to tie the Housing Trust contractors to Woods and Forests Department timber only, having regard to the fact that other mills produce timber of an equivalent quality at competitive prices and, of course, those mills have employees to consider. They are viable industries and contribute greatly to the prosperity of the honourable member's district. The decision was taken in the light

of these facts and in the belief that this course was fair and just to all producers of radiata pine in that area.

Mr. BURDON: Can the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Forests, give the House any information regarding the importation of New Zealand radiata pine, its effect on sales of the local product and, generally, what effect the importation of New Zealand radiata pine has on the sale of South Australian radiata pine in the Eastern States?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I shall be happy to get that information for the honourable member.

HOLDEN HILL SEWERAGE

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about sewerage at Holden Hill?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: An amended subdivision plan of the area at Holden Hill immediately south of Southern Terrace has now been obtained from the South Australian Housing Trust, and this subdivision has been made allowing for future construction of the Modbury Freeway. A sewerage scheme to complete the trust area is being prepared and will be submitted to the trust. When these sewers are laid, it will provide a sewerage outlet for the area comprising Malcolm Avenue, Graham Avenue, the eastern extremities of the Parade, and Southern Terrace. The area in which the honourable member is concerned is in major part suggested for resumption under the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study Report, but I am informed that no action is likely in the area for some years. In these circumstances the sewers can be provided as soon as the trust area provides the necessary flow lines.

NORTH-WEST RESERVE

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: In yesterday's *News* there appeared an article which referred to the application by Mr. Stonier (who claims that he has secret information about how to find Lasseter's gold reef) to enter the North-West Aboriginal Reserve. Has the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs taken any action to renew Mr. Stonier's optimism in this regard, for he was refused permission to enter Musgrave Park during the terms of office of two previous Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs, and it has been standard policy among the last three Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs to keep out prospectors from the North-West Aboriginal Reserve and to maintain it properly for the Aborigines in it?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I have no knowledge at all of this matter, but in view of the report to which the honourable member referred I will make inquiries in the department.

LIQUOR PRICES

Mr. BROOMHILL: My question relates to my question last Thursday about the establishment of the Liquor Industry Council, when I asked the Premier whether he would ascertain whether it had met and provided a report on the variation in liquor and beer prices between metropolitan and country areas. I understand, too, that the council was considering the implementation of a standard price for standard wines in hotels and restaurants. As there has been some publicity in the newspapers during the last week about this, indicating a public interest, can the Premier tell me whether a report is available?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am sorry that a report is not yet available but I will obtain one as soon as possible for the honourable member.

ELIZABETH TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Mr. CLARK: Earlier this week I sought information about the proposed technical college at Elizabeth. I understand the Minister of Education has some additional information on that.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Following the honourable member's question to me the other day, I knew I had a statement on the matter and, after I had resumed my seat, having been unsuccessful in my search for it, I found it; and I told the honourable member that I would let him have it. It was announced on Tuesday that it was proposed to build a technical college on a 13-acre site held by the Education Department at Woodford Road, Elizabeth. The decision followed a survey that had been made of the Elizabeth, Para Hills, Salisbury and Gawler South areas. Provision for commencement of stage I of the project had been included in the current Loan works school buildings programme to enable planning to proceed. I said earlier that this would be the first technical college in South Australia to be designed as a complete college from the outset. It would also be the first of several regional technical colleges planned to meet the needs of outer metropolitan areas where there were high concentrations of population. The facilities would include automotive, electrical, mechanical, welding, building, boilermaking and hairdressing workshops, laboratories and ancillary rooms. Facilities would thus be pro-

vided for the technical education of apprentices in all trades where numbers warranted the provision of accommodation. In addition, the college would provide courses in commerce, management studies and commercial art at technician level.

REMARK EDUCATION CENTRE

Mr. ARNOLD: I notice on page 23 of the Treasurer's statement explaining the Loan Estimates that \$100,000 is earmarked for an adult education centre at Remark. Can the Minister of Education give details of the proposed construction work on the new building?

The SPEAKER: Order! Does the Minister wish to reply now? There is an opportunity to deal with this in the debate on the Loan Estimates.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I have no particulars here in connection with this matter, but I can get them for the honourable member.

BURRA ROADS

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Attorney-General a reply to a question I asked on August 20 about Burra roads?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Preconstructional activities have been started on the Burra-Booborowie section of the Andrews-Burra Main Road No. 140. However, staff shortages are such that it is unlikely that commencement of construction will be possible in 1969-70.

FOSTER PARENTS

Mr. HURST: Has the Minister of Social Welfare a reply to my question of August 22 about foster parents?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Rates of subsidy which may be paid to foster parents for the care and maintenance of State children are as follows:

- (a) for any child under the age of 10 years—up to 70c per diem (\$4.90 weekly);
- (b) for any child of 10 or more years but under the age of 15 years—up to 80c per diem (\$5.60 weekly);
- (c) for any child of 15 or more years—up to 90c per diem (\$6.30 weekly).

In addition to the above, the regulations under the Social Welfare Act, 1926-1965, also provide for the supply of clothing and other items as may be necessary at the time the child is placed. Special expenditure incurred as a result of the child's medical, educational and other particular needs may be refunded. The rates payable to foster parents for State children were last revised in January, 1966.

ELDERLY CITIZENS CLUBS

Mr. LANGLEY: It was reported in the *Advertiser* this morning that last night at the annual meeting of the Old People's Welfare Council of South Australia it was stated by Miss Taylor, the guest speaker, that the subsidy to elderly citizens clubs should be increased from \$6,000 to \$10,000. As individual loans for new houses have been increased from \$7,000 to \$8,000, it seems to show a rise in building costs. Will the Treasurer consider this request for an extra subsidy for elderly citizens club buildings, which have been so successful so far?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I did not see the report in the press this morning, but I gather it refers to a limit of \$6,000 in the subsidy on halls. I will look at this matter for the benefit of the honourable member and of those people who derive considerable pleasure, recreation and social company from the use of these halls, and see whether anything can be done.

MOTOR VEHICLE CONSTRUCTION

Mr. GILES: I am perturbed at the rising danger of the modern motor car on our roads. Recently, three serious accidents occurred, in one of which five people were killed, in another two were killed, and in the third the car was wrecked beyond repair. It appears that when vehicles are hit in the centre pillar position—

The SPEAKER: The honourable member is beginning to debate the question.

Mr. GILES: I will try to explain the question without debating it, Sir. The centre pillar position of a car, between the front and back door, appears to be a weak spot, because when a vehicle is hit in that position the car usually folds around the object it has hit. This has been illustrated by the accidents to which I have referred. Can the Premier therefore say whether, in an attempt to reduce the weight of the modern motor vehicle, the safety factor of this section of the car has been overlooked, and can something be done to correct the situation?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Quite frankly, I do not know, but I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

MEAT

Mr. McANANEY: Last week the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Agriculture, was good enough to obtain for me the costs of meat inspection carried out by the

Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs for the last three years. Could he now ascertain for me the amount of revenue obtained from those inspections?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes.

RAIL SERVICES

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a reply to my recent question regarding the proposed cancellation of the rail service between Moonta and Adelaide?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: My colleague, the Minister of Roads and Transport, has informed me that present planning contemplates the continuation of the existing railcar services between Adelaide and Moonta until at least March 1, 1969. Railway employees in the area may be assured that the Railways Department will give every consideration to personal problems that might arise from the cessation of the rail services.

WOOMERA LIBRARY

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding the Woomera library?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I have been informed by the State Librarian that the negative answer concerning 177 requests out of 544 from the Woomera library over an 18 months period is about average. In many instances the standard of the titles requested falls below the standard applied to books supplied to municipal libraries and to lending sections of the State Library. It is probable also that some of the requests are for books which would meet the standard but are not in the State libraries collections. Municipal librarians are asked to indicate on their requests whether the book concerned is required solely to fulfil a particular inquiry, or whether the book is required to become part of their permanent stock. In the latter case, where a book is not immediately available we proceed to investigate whether we should buy it. In the former case, if the book is not immediately available, the request is returned marked "not available".

At this point it is true to say that lack of funds enters the discussion, as we do not have adequate staff to follow up every single request we receive. In 1968, the flow of books to municipal libraries has improved significantly. In the January-July period 32,528 books were distributed. This includes 4111 volumes to the new Para Hills library.

and 668 volumes to the Woomera public library. It is not considered that any special consideration should be given to the Woomera library.

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT STAFF

Mr. RICHES: The Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, informed me earlier this session that work on the Port Augusta bridge would be delayed for six months because of lack of staff in the Highways Department. Also, several questions have been asked in this place, the replies to which have contained references to the shortage of staff in the department. To my knowledge, too, roadworks in other parts of the State are being held up because of the shortage of staff. Will the Premier therefore inform the House what steps the Government is taking to recruit staff to the Highways Department in order that these delays can be avoided?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I appreciate the honourable member's concern at the delays, especially if there is a bottleneck, as has been indicated, through the lack of planning staff. I will ascertain for him the department's programme for attracting planners to its staff. I am aware that a number of appointments to the Highways Department have been made in recent weeks, but whether this is taking up to a significant degree that slack to which the honourable member refers I do not know. However, I will obtain a report for him.

MINERALS

Mr. McKEE: Has the Premier received from the Minister of Mines a reply to my recent question about the potential of copper in the northern areas of the State and consideration of the establishment of a copper smelting works?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Regarding the establishment of a smelting works in South Australia to treat copper ores, it is pointed out that, at this stage, there are no established reserves of copper ore capable of being so treated. Some tonnages of sulphide ore have been established in one or two isolated deposits, but until a substantial quantity of ore is proven the matter of a smelting works could not be seriously considered.

UNLEY POLICE STATION

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the surfacing of the Unley police station yard?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The contractor commenced work on site on May 15, 1968, and completed to the sealing stage by June 3, 1968. Unfavourable weather conditions delayed the completion of the work and the contractor was forced to transfer his plant to the West Coast area, where he was committed to other contracts, including another departmental project. The contractor has now returned to Adelaide and has given his assurance that, subject to favourable weather conditions, the sealing of the area will commence this week.

MILLICENT NORTH SCHOOL

Mr. CORCORAN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked recently about a water main that crosses the main drain near the Millicent North Primary School?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: Yes, and I hope that this reply will be satisfactory to the honourable member. Investigations into this matter reveal that both the Postmaster-General's Department and the Engineering and Water Supply Department are involved. The District Building Officer of the Public Buildings Department has been in touch with the Group Engineer of the Postmaster-General's Department and the Area Engineer of the Engineering and Water Supply Department, and these representatives have indicated that they will take appropriate action to erect barriers to prevent access to the pipes.

PETROL PRICES

Mr. McANANEY: The price of petrol in my district is 30c a gallon more than the price in Adelaide, and I have been asked to inquire about the reason for what appears to be an excessive difference, having regard to the distance of 50 miles that the petrol has to be transported. Will the Treasurer, as Minister in charge of the Prices Department, obtain information for me on this matter?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will take the matter up with the Prices Commissioner and get a report.

DENTAL HEALTH

Mr. CASEY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked recently regarding dental health, as it affects country areas of this State?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The Director of Public Health reports:

It is not the present policy of the School Dental Service to make treatment available to children in the independent schools in those

areas of the State served by the mobile dental clinics. The current policy has been influenced by the shortage of departmental dentists available for work in the State schools of these areas remote from resident dentists in private practice. However, during this year, our dentist, whilst at Peterborough, has given emergency treatment to children from the local convent school. On some occasions an independent school has requested that the children's teeth be examined, and this has been done, a note being sent to the parents advising that in the opinion of the dentist the child required, or did not require, dental treatment.

POWER BOATS

Mr. WARDLE: As members know, during the past two years six deaths involving the use of speed boats have occurred on the Murray River in the District of Murray. I understand that a committee has reported on the registration of power boats and the licensing of drivers. Can the Minister of Marine say whether this report is under discussion, and whether the Government intends to take any action in the matter?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I have considered this report, and it has been discussed briefly in Cabinet. Important and far-reaching recommendations are made in the report, and a certain amount of organization is involved. Any decision certainly could not be implemented for the coming summer and boating season. However, as soon as I have had an opportunity to discuss this matter at further length, I shall inform the honourable member and the House accordingly.

STUDENT TEACHER ALLOWANCES

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about student teacher allowances?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The total cost of allowances paid in 1966 and 1967 to students attending South Australian teachers colleges and the estimated cost for 1968 are:

1966	1967	1968
\$	\$	\$
2,907,000	3,112,000	3,257,000

DRAIN E BRIDGE

Mr. RODDA: A bridge about eight miles west of Naracoorte crosses Drain E on Main Road No. 18. I understand that the bridge was constructed in 1909 and handed over to the District Council of Naracoorte by the then Premier. The condition of the bridge is such that the council has had to close the road, and a school bus is required to travel about 12 miles farther because of this, causing much

inconvenience to the people living at Stewarts Range. Will the Attorney-General consult the Minister of Roads and Transport with a view to having this bridge inspected by an officer from either the Highways Department or the South-Eastern Drainage Board, and will he bring down a report on whether the bridge can be repaired or whether a new bridge should be constructed?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

REGIONAL OFFICERS

Mr. BURDON: The previous Government arranged to appoint regional officers to country centres in order to decentralize some activities of the Education Department. As a newspaper report earlier this week indicated that the Minister of Education had appointed officers to these positions, will she say in which towns these appointments have been made and when they will become effective?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Appointments have been made at Whyalla and Mount Gambier, and the necessary administrative steps will be taken to set up these offices.

CONCESSION FARES

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Minister of Roads and Transport to the question I asked on August 22 about travel concessions for country pensioners?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: My colleague reports that fares, including concessions for pensioners, are one of the factors taken into account by the board when considering applications for a licensed road service. In addition to licensees of the board who are re-imbursed by the Government for granting concessions to pensioners carried within the metropolitan area, there are other licensees who give concessions varying from 20 per cent to 50 per cent to pensioners travelling between Adelaide and country centres.

BUILDERS LICENSING ACT

Mr. VIRGO: On Tuesday I asked the Minister of Housing a question concerning the appointment of members of the Builders Licensing Advisory Committee, and I understood from his reply that certain submissions had been considered by the Minister and a Cabinet subcommittee and that the Government did not intend to make further appointments. Further, it seemed from his reply that the operation of the legislation was in jeopardy. Because the advisory committee provided for

by the legislation represents all sections of the building industry, will the Minister consider appointing the members not yet appointed so that the committee may, in accordance with the purpose for which it has been established, consider any proposed amendments to the Act and advise the Minister on their merits or defects?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The function of the advisory committee was not to consider amendments to the Act or to make recommendations thereon, but to consider procedural and detail matters and to advise the board how the Act should be administered. Although the honourable member said that the component structure of the advisory committee represented all parts of the industry, that statement is disputed by people who have seen me and who have written to me complaining that they have no representation on the advisory committee. However, I do not intend to make an issue of that matter, because whatever the size of any committee some people will claim that they are not properly represented on it. Nevertheless, the representations that have been made on this aspect must be considered. As I said on Tuesday, until the Government decides what amendments, if any, should be made there is no clear-cut line of progress along which the advisory committee can proceed. For that reason I have not yet made further appointments to the advisory committee although, as I said earlier, the names of people submitted by certain organizations have been in my possession for several weeks. I am doing my best to have the matter finalized so that Cabinet may consider it but, as I have not been able to finalize the matter, Cabinet has not made a decision about the appointment.

Mr. Virgo: Do you know when it will?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member knows that we came into office at a time when the State's major financial documents had to be prepared. I do not know whether he knows, but I am sure that my predecessor can appreciate, that the preparation of the Loan Estimates and the Budget is no small task. In addition, many other serious and urgent matters have had to be considered by the Government. The Government has done well to cover the areas and scope of the matters that it has had to consider, bearing in mind that most members of the Cabinet were new to the work and that the volume of the work was great. I assure the honourable

member that the only reason that I am not dealing with the matter is pressure of work. As soon as I can get the Cabinet subcommittee together to consider this matter that will be done.

CORNSACKS

Mr. VENNING: As this year the State could have a record grain production, will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture what are the present stocks of cornsacks and whether, if necessary, they may be augmented soon?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes.

STUDENT TRAVEL CONCESSION

Mr. HURST: It has been brought to my attention that the Municipal Tramways Trust does not allow the use of student tram or bus passes during vacations. My question concerns a first-year university student. Although this student has some academic duties at the university during vacation she has been told that her current pass cannot be used during the vacation. Although this follows the trust's policy on school concession passes, I suggest that there is a distinction between school and university because university life continues, in a modified form at least, during the vacation. Does the Attorney-General agree that this matter deserves attention? If he does, will he ask the Minister of Roads and Transport to have this apparent anomaly removed?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: My recollection is that this is an old problem, but my answer to the two questions asked by the honourable member is "Yes."

WOOMERA ROAD

Mr. RICHES: Has the Attorney-General received a reply from the Minister of Roads and Transport to my recent question about the road from Port Augusta to Woomera?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: My colleague reports:

The Commonwealth Government has now replied to the effect that it does not propose at present to make any special contribution towards the reconstruction of the road from Port Augusta to Woomera, particularly as it is regarded as being adequate for the purpose of the Commonwealth establishment at Woomera. It will, however, continue to contribute to the maintenance of the road. This matter will be presented to the Commonwealth Government again as part of the overall submission for financial assistance for the Stuart Highway (from Port Augusta to the Northern Territory border).

MARION TRAFFIC

Mr. HUDSON: On August 6 I asked the Premier to obtain from the Chief Secretary information about the need for police officers to control traffic at the Oaklands railway crossing and at the intersection of Diagonal Road and Sturt Road. I read out portion of a letter from the Marion council to the Chief Secretary specifically requesting that he personally intervene in this matter as Minister in charge of the Police Department. The letter asked him to consider making available such traffic police as he himself would agree were necessary for the direction of traffic on Saturday mornings in the localities referred to. The reply I received, which dealt with both this question and another matter, quoted statements of the Commissioner of Police. The part of my question that asked the Chief Secretary personally to consider the provision of police officers to control traffic, even if for only one and a half hours or two hours at the busiest time on Saturday mornings, has not been answered. Will the Premier again take up this matter with his colleague and request him to inquire personally and to consider the Marion council's request?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will again refer the matter to my colleague.

MARGARINE

Mr. McANANEY: Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture how much margarine was produced last year in South Australia under the quota system?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes.

BOARDING ALLOWANCES

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding boarding allowances?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Boarding allowances for secondary and tertiary students and the dates on which they were last fixed are as follows: boarding allowances under the progress allowance regulations were increased from, in present currency terms, \$100 to \$150 a year on October 2, 1958, to take effect from the first term in 1959. At the same time, an allowance of \$150 a year was introduced for students holding an Intermediate or Leaving certificate who were forced to board away from home to attend a school offering a full Leaving or Leaving Honours course, as the case might be. Also, allowances for bursary holders were increased to \$150.

In November, 1961, the allowance for students in Leaving Honours classes was increased from \$150 to \$200. Boarding allowances for teachers college students were increased from \$200 to \$250 on May 31, 1965.

FREE RAIL PASSES

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about privilege passes for retired railwaymen?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: My colleague states that retired railwaymen are entitled to two destination passes and 12 privilege tickets a year for travel on the South Australian Railways. The decision to discontinue departmental passenger services between Adelaide and Moonta will mean that retired railwaymen living in the Wallaroo district will be unable to use these passes and privilege tickets for journeys to and from Adelaide. However, they will be able to take advantage of these facilities for rail travel elsewhere in South Australia.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: On September 1, railway traffic on Eyre Peninsula will cease. In the past, free passes have been issued to railway men on their taking annual leave and these passes, of course, will in future be useless to them: the employees concerned will have to pay for transport by other means to Adelaide or to the nearest point where a railway system carries passengers. Will the Attorney-General ask his colleague to provide for Eyre Peninsula railway employees free bus travel from Eyre Peninsula to Adelaide once each financial year when they are granted annual leave?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will do that, but I guess the answer will be substantially the same as the answer I have just given the member for Wallaroo.

IRRIGATION

Mr. McANANEY: In my district much irrigation is carried out at weekends when surplus power is available at the Electricity Trust generating stations. Will the Minister of Works ascertain whether a cheaper rate can be applied for weekend pumping? It is understood that there would have to be an additional meter rental charge on any additional meter.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I will inquire and bring down a report as soon as possible.

GEORGES CORNER

Mr. RICHES: I am not sure that the Attorney-General walked as far as Georges Corner in the recent Walk Against Want, but has he obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a report on redesigning this corner?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I did not get that far, but I am happy to give the honourable member the information he requested. My colleague reports that the broad outline for the redesigning of Georges Corner should be made final and approved in one month. Design in detail and land acquisition will follow immediately. However, it is not expected that progress in these preconstructional activities will permit work to commence until the latter part of this financial year. Financial provision has been made.

CHARITABLE COLLECTIONS

Mr. HUDSON: My question relates to charitable collections and to whether or not the Collections for Charitable Purposes Act is up to date. In answer to a previous question, I was informed that certain amendments were being investigated but that in general the Chief Secretary's Department was not aware that fund raising had become more professionalized in recent years. I should like further information, particularly about that class of fund raising that takes place in connection with beauty contests. Will the Premier obtain from the Chief Secretary details of the number of beauty contests that employ professional organizers (or a professional organizer) and of the percentage of funds collected in beauty contests that finds its way to charity?

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

BIRDWOOD SEWERAGE

Mrs. BYRNE: On March 1, 1967, when I asked a question of the previous Minister of Works about sewerage for the town of Birdwood, I was told that the Engineering and Water Supply Department was preparing a plan for the scheme that had to be submitted to the Public Works Committee for approval. If approved, the proposal would be implemented in three stages: work on stage 1 to be completed in 1970; stage 2, in 1971; and stage 3, in 1972. Will the Minister obtain a further report for me on this matter?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: This matter was apparently first raised in March last year. I will certainly take it up and inform the honourable member next week, if I can.

GREENHILL ROAD

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a reply to my recent question about parking on Greenhill Road?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The road reserve of Greenhill Road between Goodwood Road and Glen Osmond Road is vested in the Corporation of the City of Unley. This portion of Greenhill Road is not a main road. While the Commissioner of Highways has taken over maintenance of the section by virtue of powers under the Highways Act, his responsibility covers only the actual sealed roadway. As stated, therefore, any work on the areas of road reserve used for vehicular parking is the responsibility of the Unley corporation.

MOUNT GAMBIER HOUSING

Mr. BURDON: The policy of the Housing Trust, particularly concerning rental houses, does not permit of accommodation being made available to a single person. However, I understand the trust considers individual cases concerning handicapped people, for whom it provides certain facilities. Will the Minister of Housing consider making these facilities (a unit or units) available in Mount Gambier? I understand that a need for such accommodation has arisen in Mount Gambier as a result of a further expansion of the Heritage Sheltered Workshop Incorporated.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I shall be happy to take up that matter with the General Manager of the trust and to obtain a report.

PENSIONERS' TELEPHONES

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Housing a reply to the question I asked on August 8 about the Housing Trust's providing a telephone for groups of pensioner cottages so that this facility may be available within the confines of each Housing Trust property?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The General Manager of the trust has inquired and has submitted to me a tentative report which, I think, is on my office table. As I do not have it with me today, I will bring it down for the honourable member on Tuesday.

DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY

Mr. LAWN: Some years ago, while Sir Thomas Playford was Premier and Treasurer, I asked on behalf of the Daughters of Charity, whose premises are in Hutt Street, Adelaide, whether he would consider making a grant

from the Treasury to this charitable organization, which provides two meals a day (breakfast and lunch) and distributes clothing to a considerable number of the poor, pensioners and others. When I originally raised the matter, the then Treasurer acceded to my request to the extent of granting \$600 a year to the organization concerned but, since then, there has been no increase. When drawing up the Budget this year, will the Treasurer give consideration to increasing this grant?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will look into this matter but, as the honourable member knows, funds are not unlimited and it is difficult to bring the two ends of the Budget together.

YOUTH RECREATION

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: During the past two years a survey has been taken by the Social Welfare Department, together with the National Fitness Council and other youth organizations, of the existing recreation facilities in the State. A plan was then prepared as to prototypes of recreation facilities that were needed, as well as a general survey of the areas where these should be provided on a priority basis. In the Premier's policy speech he said that the Government intended to undertake additional training of youth leaders in South Australia and that this would be done in co-operation with the Police Force. Will the Minister of Social Welfare say what has happened since the Government took office on any one of these scores? What is the present position of the committee that was set up to examine recreation facilities and recommend for their provision? What action has been taken to provide additional funds for the training of youth leaders, which was previously the work of the National Fitness Council?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Leader's paraphrase of the policy speech delivered by the Premier before the last election is not quite accurate, but I will get the information the Leader seeks as soon as possible.

TARLEE ROAD

Mr. FREEBAIRN: The Owen-Alma-Tarlee main road is an old one, as it was one of the first roads surveyed in the State. It carries considerable traffic, but to make it a major modern highway would require considerable re-routeing and land acquisition. I assume that this is why the road has not been

sealed. Will the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, ascertain what plans his colleague has for the re-routeing and sealing of the Owen-Alma-Tarlee main road?

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

GRAIN CROPS

Mr. HURST: Reports regarding the wet season have appeared in the press and I understand that certain farmers are having difficulty in seeding. Will the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Agriculture, ascertain the acreage at present under crop and what acreage is at present awaiting the drying out of the land so that seeding may be completed?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I think those figures would be obtainable, although the acreage expected to be cropped would necessarily be a rather wide estimate. I am sure the Minister will obtain the most up-to-date figures available.

APPLES

Mr. GILES: Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture to give his wholehearted support to a move made by Tasmanian growers to obtain assistance from the Commonwealth Government to stabilize the fruit industry in Tasmania so that it can be of assistance to the apple industry in South Australia?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will convey the question to my colleague.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Mr. HUDSON: My question concerns the recent announcement of the setting up of a special subcommittee of Cabinet to inquire into problems created by the increase in juvenile crime. I direct the attention of the Minister of Social Welfare to the valuable work which is being done, and which has been done for some years, by the Service to Youth Council, which is one of the few organizations that makes a determined attempt to work with groups of young people among whom there are criminal elements, or with groups of young people who have some association with youths who have got into trouble one way or another. In view of the signs that this kind of work has been having some success, will the Minister take up with the Cabinet subcommittee the possibility of expanding greatly the work of the Service to

Youth Council in order to combat juvenile crime? In addition, will he take up with the Treasurer the consequential need for increased assistance to the council so that this work can be better carried out in the future?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The honourable member is not quite accurate in his interpretation of the newspaper reports he has apparently seen: there is no formal subcommittee of Cabinet on this matter. The report of the Juvenile Court magistrate which came to me contained suggestions and recommendations that are properly in the province of a number of Ministers. I have asked the Ministers to consider the various matters so that we can then discuss whether recommendations should be made to the full Cabinet.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: It's an informal subcommittee?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: To grace it with the description of subcommittee is perhaps taking it too far. I mentioned the matter to the Minister of Education, the Minister of Roads and Transport, and the Chief Secretary. Only this morning, some of them mentioned to me that they were in a position to discuss the various matters raised in Mr. Wright's report, and I hope we shall be able to meet next week to discuss those matters. I am glad that the member for Glenelg appreciates the good work the Service to Youth Council does and has done for a long time in this field. Mr. Killington has been in touch with me since Mr. Wright's report was released, and certainly since his comments along the lines of the report were made known a few weeks ago. I shall be grateful for any help that the council or Mr. Killington personally can give us on this matter and, in return, whatever help we can give the council will be given.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: PARTY MEMBERSHIP

Mr. EDWARDS (Eyre): I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr. EDWARDS: I wish to quote the following portion of an article that appeared on page 8 of the *Advertiser* of August 28:

An open season on the hairy-nosed wombat would be considered, the Premier (Mr. Hall) told Mr. Edwards (A.L.P.) in the Assembly yesterday.

I presume the initials "A.L.P." refer not to "Alpine Club" but to "Australian Labor Party".

Since becoming a member of this House, I have learned, to my dismay, how honourable members opposite have to toe the line of their Party bosses, the faceless men.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr. EDWARDS: I could on no account tie myself down to such rigid control. I wish to make it clear that I am a "true-blue" member of the Liberal and Country League.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Eyre has obtained leave to make a personal explanation. Far be it from me to put a stopper on a little humour and hilarity among members, for I think this is a good thing at times. However, the honourable member is entitled to make his personal explanation.

Mr. EDWARDS: Thank you, Sir.

Mr. RICHES: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, just to settle a query in my mind: when leave is given, should not the personal explanation be made in silence? When continued interjections are being made during a personal explanation, does that not end leave to make the explanation?

The SPEAKER: In reply to the member for Stuart, who has had experience as Speaker in this Chamber (and I respect his knowledge of the Standing Orders), I agree that strictly speaking the honourable member is correct. But far be it from me to stop the little hilarity which on occasions I think is good for the atmosphere of the Chamber. However, I must thank the honourable member for his admonition. The member for Eyre.

Mr. EDWARDS: I am free to cross the floor of the House, and I am responsible to no Party boss but only to those hard-working people of Eyre who elected me. I wish to make it clear to the House that I am in no way connected with the Socialists of the present Opposition—

Mr. Ryan: What's this got to do with a personal explanation?

Mr. RICHES: This statement, which comes in the guise of a personal explanation is, as I have indicated, highly provocative, and I object to it.

The SPEAKER: Order! Objection having been taken, the member for Eyre cannot proceed further.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: WOMBATS

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Lands): I ask leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: My statement deals with the hairy-nosed wombat.

The SPEAKER: Order! As the member for Stuart (Mr. Riches) has raised the question that Ministerial statements and personal explanations must be heard in silence (and this is strictly laid down in Standing Orders), I rule that the House hear the Minister in silence.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Last Tuesday, I replied to a question concerning damage done by wombats to the vermin-proof fence on Eyre Peninsula. As has been mentioned earlier, this question was reported in yesterday's *Advertiser* as having been replied to by the Premier. Although I understand that the rest of the report was accurate, it carried the headline "Wombat Drive Under Review", and mentioned that an open season would be considered. This report has caused much concern to people in the State who are very justifiably interested in the preservation of wombats. In my reply to the question I paraphrased a recommendation of the Director of Fisheries and Fauna Conservation, which was that he would consider recommending an open season on wombats for one mile on each side of the dog fence, with provision being made in the permits for the filling in of the burrows. The fact that these wombats are damaging the dog fence is a serious matter, and without doubt they should be destroyed along the fence in the area mentioned. It now appears feasible to achieve the same object without using an open season (even though in a limited locality) by issuing permits to landholders on each side of the fence to have wombats killed within one mile of the fence. Permits will be issued when landholders apply.

The Director will visit the area shortly, having flown over it some time ago. He has told me that only at certain places along the fence do the wombats present a problem. Absolutely strict control will be imposed to make sure that the destruction of wombats is undertaken only to preserve fences so that the flocks of farmers in the inside country will not suffer as a result of the ravages of dogs. Therefore, there will be no open season on wombats as originally stated: it will simply be a matter of permits being granted to landholders concerned. This course will achieve the desired

result. However, I believe it was necessary for me to make this statement in view of the widespread interest (and justified concern) of people in South Australia in preserving our native fauna.

STRINGY BARK

Mr. FREEBAIRN: My question, which is directed to the Minister of Lands representing the Minister of Forests, refers to red core stringy bark—

At 4 o'clock, the bells having been rung:

The SPEAKER: Call on the business of the day.

LOAN ESTIMATES

In Committee.

(Continued from August 28. Page 941.)

Lands, Irrigation and Drainage, \$1,815,000.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: For the Cadell irrigation settlement, two generous allocations are made; one is for the major restoration of the drainage facilities, and the other is for the complete rebuilding of the irrigation pump-house. Can the Minister of Irrigation say when the works at Cadell will commence? I express my appreciation to the Treasurer and to the Minister of Irrigation for their interest in this settlement. Settlers in the area are keen to explain their problems to the Minister, and I know he will visit the area as soon as he can. Also, I thank the former Minister of Irrigation (Mr. Corcoran) for the interest he showed in the settlement when he was Minister.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Irrigation): Although I do not have the information (I will obtain it), it is hoped to commence work soon. I shall be happy to visit this area as soon as I get the time.

Mr. CORCORAN: I refer to the Renmark Irrigation Trust, with which I had some dealings as Minister of Irrigation. The present Minister was a member of the Select Committee (as I was) which investigated this matter. Can he say what stage the work has reached? Initial difficulties led to the appointment of an advisory committee which, I believe, has functioned fairly well. I understand the first major works to be commenced relate to the pump-house and rising main. The work is absolutely necessary because not only is the pump-house inadequate but the channel system, which the trust intends to replace with pipes rather than continue with

the open channel, is in a shocking state of repair. The Treasurer said that the grant portion of the advances under the terms of the Act, which was passed by Parliament after being investigated by the Select Committee, was originally proposed in the Revenue Budget last year but was subsequently met from the Loan Account. All funds expected to be required this year are included in the Loan Estimates. Can the Treasurer tell me whether the transfer from the Revenue Budget to the Loan Account took place during the term of the Labor Government or whether it has taken place since?

I believe the sum specified in the Act will be insufficient to meet the cost. When the committee met representatives of the trust, who gave evidence on this matter, there was some doubt, even by the committee, whether the sum estimated to cover the total cost of the works would be sufficient. Therefore, the committee's report to Parliament was, in effect, that, if the trust found subsequently that the sum was insufficient, it would be able to come back to the Government. I understand the Government intends to amend the Act, probably during this session, so that the necessary additional funds can be made available. Will the Treasurer comment on this?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Treasurer): I am not sure of the exact date the decision was made about the transfer from the Revenue Budget to the Loan Account. I believe the member for Glenelg asked a question about the matter, and I gave a precise date.

Mr. Hudson: The transfer was approved on April 8.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes, it was approved on that date. However, although I presume that the transfer took place on that date, I cannot say so with certainty.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Work in relation to the Renmark Irrigation Trust is proceeding impressively. I visited the area not long ago and saw the laying of the major closed channel taking place, some of the pipe-laying and other works being undertaken by the trust's own staff. It struck me that the whole operation was being undertaken systematically. Although the pumping station is not presently being replaced, it will be in due course. Several decisions have to be made in relation to the pumping station.

Mr. Corcoran: Have they decided on the type of pump?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Not finally.

Mr. Corcoran: Much money can be saved in one case.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes, several alternatives are still being considered. However, no hold-up has resulted from the decision's not being made and, within a comparatively short time, it will be made.

Mr. CORCORAN: National reserves are referred to in this document for the first time. This is an additional item that has been transferred from Revenue Account to the Loan Estimates, the same position applying in regard to public parks. This course would possibly have been taken had the Labor Government remained in office. In view of the attitude of the Treasurer to the moves we made in this respect, I was surprised that on this occasion it was transferred to the Loan Estimates. Nevertheless, I am happy that the sum to be spent this year on acquiring land for national parks has not been reduced: indeed, I am sorry it cannot be increased. It is reassuring that the Government is maintaining the programme we tried to maintain in the Revenue Budget for the purchase of land for national parks. I cannot over-emphasize the need for action in this regard because, although the figure may have improved slightly in recent months, only .3 per cent of the total land mass of this State had been reserved for future generations as national parks. This is a reflection on past Governments.

The percentage has increased slightly, mainly because a large area of the Simpson Desert was set aside as a national park recently. I am not sure, but it may have been dedicated before I left office. I commend the National Parks Commission for the work it has done. It is functioning well and has justified my hopes. It is heartening to know that the representatives of primary producers, conservationists and others are working well together. They will achieve much. The Act is working well, too. Can the Minister tell me what area the department has in mind for purchases this year or future purchases?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I appreciate the remarks of the former Minister. Both this Government and the last Government have taken much the same interest in this matter. The building up of our national parks area is continuing. We start with a small area and are at some disadvantage compared with other countries that have inaccessible mountain ranges, which are made for this purpose; but

we are continuing to increase the area as and when circumstances allow. For instance, a large area in the County of Way was recently dedicated and a smaller area of 500 acres near Currency Creek was purchased. Where possible, land is not being bought but is being dedicated from within State ownership. This provision will be used for purchasing, where necessary. I am doing my best to obtain other areas for this purpose.

Mr. CORCORAN: For South-Eastern drainage, \$520,000 is allocated. Can the Treasurer say whether the recent findings and recommendations of the Land Settlement Committee not to proceed with certain drains will have any bearing on the amount to be spent on this line this year? I think that this work was to commence in about October, and I assume that this money would have been allocated for that work. If the committee's recommendations are not accepted, the work will be commenced but, if its recommendations are accepted, much of this money will not be required. Has any decision been taken on this? If so, what is the future of the board?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member has opened up a big question that it is not possible for me to answer in detail now. These Loan Estimates were prepared before the recommendations of the Land Settlement Committee were made known. The whole matter of South-East drainage is exercising the Government's mind. If the Government decided to discontinue or modify that work, these figures could be altered, but they have been put here as part of the programme as it stood at the time these Estimates were prepared. They can be adjusted if Government policy changes.

Mr. CORCORAN: If any decision is made, may I be advised of it and of the amount of money that will be saved?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

Mr. ARNOLD: The sum of \$100,000 is provided for a new overhead water tank for Barmera. Water is vital to the town; its growth has been severely restricted because of the present water situation. Can the Treasurer say when this tank is expected to be built or completed, as it will have an important bearing on the town's expansion?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: This tank will be constructed by the department under the control of the Minister of Works. I will ascertain when it is proposed to commence the work and the estimated completion date. I know that the problem is urgent.

Mr. HUDSON: On this line are two matters involving transfers from Revenue Account to Loan Account. This raises an important matter of principle that has often been discussed in Parliament. A provision of \$150,000 has been made for national reserves which, until the present financial year, has been met from Revenue Account. The provision of \$100,000 for the Renmark Irrigation Trust, which is in the form of a grant and not a loan, has until the last financial year been met from the Revenue Account and not the Loan Account. The transfer for 1967-68 of \$100,000 to the Renmark Irrigation Trust was made on April 8, only eight days before the present Treasurer assumed office, and I presume that it would have been brought to his attention and that he probably approved of it. He certainly approved of its continuation for 1968-69. This item gives members a good understanding of what we would like to do in practice if we could do it this way: namely, where a loan that must be repaid is made, it is appropriate to transact it through the Loan Account, but, where a direct grant is made, it is better if it is provided through the Revenue Account.

The provision of \$150,000 for national reserves is outright expenditure, because this sum will not be recovered to Loan Account. As there will be no recovery, we will receive no help in meeting future interest payments on the Revenue Account. That part of the provision for the Renmark Irrigation Trust that is in the form of a loan, however, will ultimately be recovered, and the interest payments to which we are committed under the Loan Council arrangements will be met by the trust and recovered from the Revenue Account.

Most members on this side will agree that where the Revenue Account is able to tolerate it, as many capital items as possible should be met out of revenue. This is a simple way of saying that, in a growing society such as our own, we want to make as much provision for the future as we can. We want to see to it that as much of our resources as possible is devoted to capital items such as the ones in this and other lines in the Loan Estimates. This means a provision for future generations, and we have a responsibility to do this. Our ability to do this depends on the general health of the Revenue Budget. That Budget has been in deficit for the last four financial years. In 1964-65, 1965-66, and 1967-68 the Revenue Budget was in deficit, and in 1966-67 it was in surplus. I am distinguishing between the

deficit in one financial year and the cumulative position. The deficit in 1964-65, about \$7,000,000, was one of the largest for a single year.

The Treasurer and other members of the Government have not treated transfers from Revenue Account to Loan Account (of which part of the provision for Renmark Irrigation Trust is an example) in good faith. When the present Government was in Opposition, as well as in the Premier's policy speech and during the election campaign, the previous Government was criticized for what it was doing, and the Treasurer, as reported in the *Advertiser* of May 2 last, implied that a significant amount of Loan money had been misused because of the policy of the previous Government, but did not say that he was going to deal with funds in the same way. He said in this Chamber that it was wrong when we did it, but that, when he did it, he had been forced to do it. The Treasurer has had sufficient experience in politics to know that any side of politics takes umbrage at this sort of thing.

We need an explanation of why the Treasurer has been forced to make these transfers and why, if his criticism of May 2 was valid, he was doing, at the end of July, what he criticized us for doing. If he does not do that, the Opposition is entitled to an apology, and the previous criticisms of the Labor Government will be shown to be baseless, unjustified criticisms made for the purpose of the worst type of electioneering tactics. The charge of misappropriation of funds is designed to create in the minds of the electors fear about the future and about the consequences, should a Labor Government be returned to power. The Treasurer should say whether his reason for making the transfers relates to the difficulties all States have been experiencing in the last three or four years because of the hopelessly inadequate attitude of the Commonwealth Government.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the Treasurer wish to reply?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I do not think you will allow me to reply at any length, Mr. Chairman. The honourable member sought to link his speech to the fact that in previous years the provision for national reserves had been met from revenue, whereas this year it will be met from Loan. If he is patient, when the Budget is debated I will tell him fully why I made the statements previously and why I am in this position regarding transfers.

Mr. HUDSON: That answer is not satisfactory to me. Both the provision of \$150,000 for national reserves and of \$100,000 (out of the \$600,000) for the Renmark Irrigation Trust do not generate any recoveries to Loan Account so far as repayment, sinking fund contribution, or interest recovery are concerned. Therefore, the interest commitment on about \$250,000 of borrowing to finance these grants must be met from the Budget. We appreciate why the new item relating to national reserves appears and why \$600,000, instead of \$500,000, is provided for the Renmark Irrigation Trust: it is because every State has been subjected to much financial pressure consequent upon their need to expand expenditure by about 10 per cent or 11 per cent a year in order to give the standard of service demanded by the people, whilst the Commonwealth income tax reimbursements grants have increased by only 7 per cent or 8 per cent. The statement about the percentage rate of change for the last 12 years applies not only to South Australia but to every State.

There has been a gap between the growth of the expenditure needs of the State and the rate of growth of the Commonwealth's income tax reimbursement grants, as a result of which each State has been faced with either raising its State taxes at a faster rate in order to close the gap or running into a deficit. Each State has raised its State taxation in that time significantly faster than the rate of increase of 7 per cent or 8 per cent in the income tax reimbursement grants—faster than 11 per cent or 12 per cent in South Australia. To some extent every State has been forced to go into deficit. As a result, transfers such as this have appeared.

Mr. McANANEY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Last year when discussing the Loan Estimates I was prevented from referring to revenue from waterworks as that was ruled to be out of order. I consider that the honourable member is equally out of order now.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member can refer to the items mentioned, which deal with the Renmark Irrigation Trust and national reserves, and I think he is discussing those items.

Mr. HUDSON: If the Opposition thought it was completely wrong for such a transfer to take place and therefore for national reserves to appear on this line, we could have moved to reduce it by \$150,000, thus eliminating it.

We would not get the motion through but, although this is a financial measure, we could move it, and similarly, we could move to reduce the Renmark Irrigation Trust line. However, we understand and appreciate why these transfers have become necessary and why the items appear on this line in the way they do. But I am trying to obtain the agreement of the Treasurer that the reasons I am giving to him why the transfers have occurred are in fact correct, that they have applied in every State, and that they have been and are still applying this year, because the Treasurer was no more successful with the Commonwealth Government than previous Treasurers have been for the last 12 years in relation to the general principles underlying the Commonwealth tax reimbursement grants. It is important that we establish the truth concerning these matters, because once we do that Government and Opposition will be united in pressing the Commonwealth to make the appropriate adjustments to the Commonwealth tax reimbursement grants formula, and that would sufficiently relieve our Revenue Account to prevent this kind of transfer. The amount of pressure brought to bear on any Commonwealth Government, whatever its political complexion, would be much greater if Government and Opposition in each State were united in the reasons why these matters have occurred and were therefore united in bringing the proper political pressure to bear in Canberra. So long as we remain divided, the greater is the ability of the Commonwealth Prime Minister (Mr. Gorton) and the Commonwealth Treasurer (Mr. McMahon) to divide and rule and to keep on getting their own way.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: I do not know about that. I have criticized it here.

Mr. HUDSON: I hope the Treasurer will agree with me that the difficulty we have been having with the Commonwealth is one reason why he has been forced into these transfers.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: That is not the only reason.

Mr. HUDSON: It is the major reason. Another reason in this State is that some revenue measures of the previous Government were thrown out. However, until the Commonwealth's attitude is changed we shall be faced with items similar to those dealing with the Renmark Irrigation Trust and national reserves, whether the Treasurer retains his present position or not. Whatever the Treasurer may say in defending his previous

criticisms, and whatever he said in the past or will say in the future, these transfers will continue unless the Commonwealth revises its whole attitude towards the needs of the State. That is why I press the Treasurer, in a kindly way, to go back on his previous criticisms, to admit that they were not justly based, to admit that the campaign conducted during the last election was a phoney one, and to admit that what was said in Opposition by him and other Government members was said purely for electioneering and political purposes.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: I am not going to do that.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think this is relevant to the debate.

Mr. HUDSON: Mr. Chairman, the statements by the Treasurer about why the item dealing with national reserves appears on this line is a subject of this debate. I give due notice to the Treasurer and other Government members that the Opposition was appalled by the line taken by Government members over this matter. We believe that the people of South Australia have been misled, and we think the Treasurer, by making these transfers, has demonstrated clearly that there was no basis for the criticisms that were levelled at the previous Government.

Line passed.

Woods and Forests Department, \$2,250,000.

Mr. CORCORAN: The Government's decision that the South Australian Housing Trust be no longer required to specify that subcontractors purchase radiata pine from the Government mills is not in the best interests of the Government or of the State. I cannot say exactly to what extent this decision will affect the Woods and Forests Department and the sales of its products. The Treasurer has said that other people who produce a similar product at competitive prices should have the same opportunities as has the Government department, but I cannot agree with this view. I believe the Government is responsible for looking after its own assets and, consequently, the recent instruction to the Housing Trust should be cancelled.

There is at present a considerable build-up of stocks in the departmental mills throughout the South-East and we should be doing everything possible, in addition to promotional schemes, to see that Government and semi-government instrumentalities use this timber wherever possible. I am disappointed at the Government's decision, and I ask it to review it. It was Sir Thomas Playford who first

instructed the Housing Trust to require its sub-contractors to use radiata pine from the Woods and Forests Department mills, and the Labor Government continued this practice.

I am disappointed at the reduction in this year's provision for the purchase of additional land in the South-East for further pine plantings. The forestry industry has already proved itself, and the Premier, who is so interested in industrial development, should see the need to expand these plantings as rapidly as possible to attract further industries to the South-East. It was because insufficient pine was available that the Harmac pulp mill was not established. Our aim should be to obtain sufficient timber not only to maintain and expand the two existing industries but also to provide for the establishment of a pulp mill. Surely one of the first steps is purchasing additional land for pine plantings.

Mr. CASEY: I agree with the remarks of the member for Millicent regarding the Woods and Forests Department which, as the Premier knows, is one of South Australia's major assets. Consequently, every attempt should be made to foster it. I was most concerned when I read that the amount of land for reforestation was to be reduced this year. The Labor Government believed that reforestation was vitally important to this State. It has been said by experts both in this State and in other parts of Australia that softwoods are extremely important to Australia, and that we are lagging in the production of this timber throughout the country. If we are to reach self-sufficiency in softwoods, it is only natural that we should keep ahead in reforestation.

During the last three years the value of milled timber ready to be used has increased. Last year it was more than \$2,000,000, it was close to this figure in the previous year, and in the year before that it was about \$1,500,000. The Government should recognize that this timber should be used in Government construction work. It was for this reason that the Labor Government instructed the South Australian Housing Trust, a semi-government instrumentality, that this timber should be specified in contracts let to private builders.

Over the years it has been proved beyond doubt by departmental officers that the timber produced in the South-East is highly suitable for the building industry. We find now, however, that the present Government has rescinded the direction previously given to the Housing Trust. Timber from New Zealand and Victoria is being imported into South Australia. I believe, however, that if we produce

a product here that is equal to the imported product we should use the local product. We should remember that much employment is tied up in Government mills in this State. If we are to foster a good relationship between employees and the mill personnel, an opportunity must be given for permanent employment. I sincerely hope that the present Government will see the light in this regard and realize the importance of using this product, for this will benefit the State in general. Concerning the reforestation programme, the member for Millicent said that when overseas companies were first enticed to examine South Australia's softwood products they were not satisfied that sufficient quantities in the South-East were available for their requirements. However, we have two excellent timber organizations (Cellulose Australia Limited and Apcel Limited), which, if they maintain and increase production, will require more timber in the future.

I think that in the past three years under the Labor Administration more reforestation took place on average than took place in the previous 10 years under a Liberal Administration. The Labor Government realized that this was a most important activity of the Woods and Forests Department. Although members opposite realize that Government instrumentalities are against acquisition generally, I hope they will acknowledge that that policy does not hold water in this case. The State Government has to take charge of many instrumentalities, and we believe that that applies here. This particular industry deserves every consideration and protection possible so that the State may benefit as a whole.

Mr. HUDSON: We are delighted at the Government's attitude to these Loan Estimates! I did not know the Minister of Works had been appointed Minister of Forests or even possibly Treasurer, because there is no responsible Minister in the Chamber to answer our queries on this matter. Here comes the Treasurer now; I am glad that he has seen fit to return. These Estimates contain many disturbing features. I would, of course, be out of order if I referred to anything other than the Woods and Forests Department items here. However, one of the most disturbing features of the Estimates is this whole line. In the past the Woods and Forests Department has not been a tremendous drain on the Loan Account, because each year the department has been able to operate profitably, and the profit it makes is a recovery to the Loan Account.

Therefore, any money that is available as a result of profits made by this department can be used by the Government of the day to finance other Loan works. This behoves any Government to see to it that the profitability of the Woods and Forests Department is ensured.

Not only is it necessary for us to treat the Woods and Forests Department as an important asset of the State: it is also important because of the consequences that it has elsewhere in the Loan Estimates. It is particularly for that reason that we on this side are seriously disturbed at the decision of the Treasurer, as Minister of Housing, to alter the policy of the Housing Trust regarding the specification of departmental radiata pine in Housing Trust contracts at a time when the department is heavily overstocked, its profitability is at a low ebb, and it is experiencing increasing competition from other competitors. Some of this competition is unfair and is not based on normal commercial practices, because there are tie-ups between one of the department's main competitors and timber merchants, through which the timber merchants are the ones who do the ordering for the various builders. Where the timber merchants have a tie-up with Softwood Holdings Limited, is it likely that these merchants will obtain radiata pine from the department for builders who do not specify what they want?

As a result of this decision, the Woods and Forests Department has been placed at an unfair competitive disadvantage with respect to Softwood Holdings Limited and also with respect to Southern Australia Perpetual Forests Limited because the production and sale of radiata pine in this State is not a case of competition without any restrictive practices applying. The whole business is shot through with restrictive practices, and the ability of the Woods and Forests Department to compete effectively is not as great because, as the Treasurer well knows, the department is a party to a resale price maintenance agreement; it is a party to a restrictive trade practice. Will the Treasurer say, first, whether the decision taken by him as Minister of Housing was approved by Cabinet and, secondly, whether the Under Treasurer was consulted about the possible effects of that decision on the overall financial position of the Government on Loan Account?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes, Cabinet decided this matter; I did not decide it. Furthermore, as the Minister concerned, I had

discussions on this matter with the Chairman of the Forestry Board and the Conservator of Forests.

Mr. HUDSON: Will the Treasurer indicate what likely impact the Under Treasurer or the Conservator of Forests thought there would be on the profitability of the Woods and Forests Department as a result of this particular decision?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: As I mentioned earlier today in answer to a question on this or on a related matter, I have seen a report by the Conservator and I have tried to get the docket it is in. The context of the report is that the effect of the decision is minimal, if there is any real effect at all.

Mr. HUDSON: I do not think the member for Frome would confirm this statement. In a discussion that took place between him (when he was Minister of Forests), the Conservator, the Chairman of the Forestry Board, and myself we were not given the impression then that the effect was minimal: the impression we were given was that there was a serious danger of the Woods and Forests Department losing an important section of the market it previously held, and this at a time when it was holding surplus stocks. There is also the problem of competition from radiata pine from New Zealand. Will the Treasurer say whether Housing Trust contractors are free to use New Zealand radiata pine, and do the Australian suppliers get the normal Government advantage with respect to products imported from other countries?

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: What do you mean by "normal Government advantage"?

Mr. HUDSON: Would a South Australian contractor be given preference over a contractor in another State and still greater preference over an oversea contractor?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I do not know whether any imported timber is being used in South Australia, but I would be surprised if it is. It is possible it is, because notwithstanding that New Zealand is a prolific producer of radiata pine (it is almost a noxious weed—at least I have heard it so described—because it grows extremely well there), I think it would not be possible for the exporters there to bring timber here in competition with our own radiata pine. Regarding the preferences for South Australian products, I presume the member for Glenelg is referring to preference given by the Supply and Tender Board which is normally extended to South Australian producers of commodities in competitive

tendering; if he is, there has been no alteration to the preferences extended to South Australian suppliers in that category.

Although, as the member for Glenelg said, the Conservator and the Chairman of the Forestry Board would not be bounding with delight at the fact that a situation had been changed, they are not afraid of competition. Indeed, the more the member for Glenelg mentioned unfair competition the more he cancelled out the effect of that point by saying that the department itself was partner to an agreement. He knows this, because his Government authorized the department to make special discounts. I have no doubt the department did this and is still doing it. All the South Australian producers of radiata pine whose timber is acceptable for house building are members of the Radiata Pine Association and their timber conforms to the standards set down by the association for its products. Therefore, all the producers of timber in that field are in the same boat. Indeed, the department is not subject to taxation in the same way as its competitors are, so I do not know where the unfair competition to which the honourable member referred comes in. In reply to a question, I told the member for Mount Gambier (Mr. Burdon) this afternoon that I thought the situation was fair and just as between all timber mills in that area. They are all employers of labour, some being large employers of labour. Is it not reasonable to give them an opportunity, along with Government institutions, to sell their products? I stand by that attitude because I think it is the proper one.

Mr. HUDSON: I disagree entirely with the Treasurer and I think the attitude the Government is taking in this matter is most improper. I believe there is a good case for saying that an agreement between Sapfor, the Woods and Forests Department, and the Radiata Pine Association is an improper agreement; it is certainly one that would require registration under the Commonwealth Trade Practices Act and would be subject to an investigation under that Act. Does the Treasurer really mean to say that the Woods and Forests Department, which has competitors, should not provide discounts in certain circumstances? Almost any agreement of resale price maintenance ever known to man involves some sort of discount being granted.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: I did not say it should not grant discounts.

Mr. HUDSON: The Forestry Board does the same thing in respect to the Housing Trust. For the information of the Treasurer, I suggested to the Woods and Forests Department not that it should give discounts (it was already doing that and had been doing it for a long time) but that it should make discounts uniform to the Housing Trust so that the trust would not be in a position of claiming that the directive with respect to the use of Woods and Forests Department timber subjected it to any disadvantage or to any undue restriction.

Mr. Casey: You had to get my concurrence on that.

Mr. HUDSON: Yes, and I got it, too. I hope that now the Treasurer has removed this directive he will also go back to the old rate of discounts.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: I didn't interfere with that.

Mr. HUDSON: I believe the Treasurer should, because these matters are tied up together—they are not separate. I hope the Treasurer will at least make inquiries about this matter so that he can investigate it further. If it turns out that what I have said is correct (namely, that the uniformity of discounts was conditional on this specification of Woods and Forests Department radiata pine), now that he is not requiring the trust to specify this for all contracts, the previous rate of discount should be adhered to.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: You mean I should withdraw the higher discounts?

Mr. HUDSON: I want the Treasurer to restore the previous directive.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: You want me to prevent the offering of higher discounts?

Mr. HUDSON: I think that the higher discount on certain lines (and that was all that was involved for the trust regarding its own use of timber) is inappropriate once the Treasurer has withdrawn the previous directive that applied. It was only appropriate in terms of the previous direction. The Housing Trust wants freedom from the various pressures on it and on the Government from other sources.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Will it help the Housing Trust in using its stock?

Mr. HUDSON: It will make very little difference one way or the other. The Treasurer's policy is putting the Woods and Forests Department in difficulty. It is all very well for him to say that the department does not pay taxation, but that certainly is not true: It is paying equivalent to taxation in relation to its repayments to the Loan Account.

The charge of \$1,200,000 that the Treasurer hopes to get from the trust this year is equivalent to taxation.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: But do not some other people have to pay for the cost of money?

Mr. HUDSON: Surely.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Exactly.

Mr. HUDSON: I am not complaining about that, but the Treasurer was trying to tell us that the Woods and Forests Department was really at a competitive advantage compared with Sapfor and Softwood Products.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: You are trying to tell me that it is at a disadvantage.

Mr. HUDSON: It is at a disadvantage as a result of arrangements made by your Government.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: No, it is not.

Mr. HUDSON: The Treasurer in his own statement admits that in the last financial year—

the proposed repayment from the forestry undertaking had to be deferred pending a review to determine what the undertaking could afford consequent upon the latterly reduced sales and forest exploitation.

That was the \$1,000,000 in the last financial year that the forestry undertaking had originally proposed to repay to the Loan Account, but it was not repaid.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: It is very lucky to have a bank that is so accommodating.

Mr. HUDSON: It has not been repaid and it is not available for you to use on schools and other buildings.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: You say it is at a disadvantage, but it is not.

Mr. HUDSON: Do not private undertakings have to pay dividends to their shareholders? If they do not, what happens?

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: They go broke.

Mr. HUDSON: If they eliminate dividends, that puts them in the same category. It is ridiculous for the Treasurer to make the suggestions he has in this matter. I hope he is aware of the existing connections, particularly one between one of the private companies and a whole series of timber merchants. Were any approaches made to the present Government by any of the competitors of the Woods and Forests Department in this matter?

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Not that I am aware of; they did not come to me.

Mr. HUDSON: Have they been made to the trust?

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: I am not aware of them.

Mr. HUDSON: This matter at the moment is most unsatisfactory. The Woods and Forests Department is one of the most valuable State undertakings. It does not compete fully with private companies because it does not make pine board. Probably over the years it should have been allowed to make it so that it could go in for a further range of competition with Sapfor and Softwood Products, but that is the present situation. The Treasurer knows full well the song and dance occasioned by the introduction of the Bruce box when we were in Government and the allegations of the difficulties that that would cause the Woods and Forests Department. Certainly some of the difficulties it has experienced over the last financial year were the result of the change-over to the Bruce box by the Citrus Organization Committee. I do not think there is any doubt about that. The significant reduction in sales made by the Woods and Forests Department has led to overstocking, which is a more serious problem in a Government department than in a private undertaking. Members opposite, including the member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney), are under instructions not to speak in this debate: all they are allowed to do is interject.

Does the Treasurer suggest that any private company would allow overstocking to occur to the extent that it has occurred in the Woods and Forests Department? A private company would dismiss employees, but will this department adopt the same policy? We hope not. The Government has a responsibility to set an example to private companies by maintaining employment in its undertakings, and this department has to allow stocks to build up in order to do that. Despite that, the Treasurer says that the department is better off than private firms. The Government's attitude is completely irresponsible, having regard to both the future of this Government undertaking and the position of the Loan Account.

The Treasurer is prejudicing the proposed repayment of \$1,200,000 from the Woods and Forests Department to Loan Account this year. Failure to make that repayment may be consequent upon the Government's allowing Housing Trust contractors to use timber from other sources. The member for Stirling gives us lectures on accounting, but he will not speak of the Government's prejudicial action regarding this department and the Loan Account. I think the Government's attitude is a disgrace.

Mr. EVANS: I, as well as other honourable members, consider the Woods and Forests Department to be an efficient and effective organization. That being so, as the member for Glenelg has said, there is no need to fear competition. However, if we make the department a protected organization, it will become inefficient. We should not fear competition from other States or overseas. This department is effective. As an illustration, a small firm at Meadows was put out of existence, because the department decided to establish a depot at Gepps Cross for creosote posts, and the Meadows firm could not compete with it. Previously the Woods and Forests Department may have had a competitive advantage over Softwood Holdings, but as we have an effective industry we should not cause it to become inefficient by protecting it.

Mr. CORCORAN: It has not been suggested that the Woods and Forests Department should be protected to the extent that no firm can compete with it but, apparently, the honourable member has that impression. The department must compete with other firms, but an instruction was given to the Housing Trust that its contractors should purchase radiata pine from the Woods and Forests Department, in order to assist the department. These contractors are not the only people in this State or in Australia using radiata pine. Obviously, a Government or semi-government utility should be used to the fullest extent, particularly as the Woods and Forests Department has a stock-pile of over \$2,000,000 worth of this material. This department should compete but, where possible, the Government should enable it to have an advantage. More than \$2,000,000 has been repaid by this department into general revenue, and that helps to build schools and hospitals, and to provide other necessary Government services. However, last year nothing was repaid by that department to assist general revenue. The Government should give this department some advantage, because it belongs to the people of this State. It is efficient and for many years has given a lead in its field.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: Any private firm would use its own subsidiary.

Mr. CORCORAN: It would be foolish if it did not. This department must compete on the open market, but the member for Onkaparinga said that we should not take the competition away and so reduce efficiency which results from competition. Who suggested that? We

should give the advantage to the department in such a way that this State receives the revenue it received in the past.

Mr. EVANS: I heard plainly earlier today that the value of timber stocks held is \$2,000,000, but there has been no statement regarding the value of stocks held by private enterprise—it may be an equivalent amount. The Housing Trust competes against private enterprise and lets out contracts to private builders. It is unfair if these builders are compelled by the trust to buy softwood timber from the Woods and Forests Department. They should be permitted to buy the timber on the best terms possible as long as it is of good standard. The department is efficient, so there is no need to protect it. I am sure it can compete against private enterprise. Whose fault was it that the Woods and Forests Department did not pay back into revenue as much as it had paid back in the past? The blame should not be laid on the present Government. Similarly, this Government should not be blamed for the decline in the building industry, because that was the fault of the Labor Government.

Mr. HUDSON: I admire the very great private enterprise of the member for Onkaparinga in speaking on this line, because Government-controlled members cannot do so. I wonder whether the honourable member realizes that Softwood Products has tie-ups with the following timber merchants: Globe Timber Mills Proprietary Limited, Walter and Morris Proprietary Limited, Lloyds Timber Mills Limited, Wadlow Proprietary Limited, Reid Bros. Limited and Charles Geddes & Company Limited. Does the honourable member really want to suggest that, when these timber merchants receive an order from a builder that does not specify a particular company, they do not give the business to Softwood Products? The honourable member did not say anything about a private firm with a nice little tie-up which firm can specify only its parent company's product. He knows full well that what we have in Australia and in South Australia is one of the highest degrees of monopolistic organization of any country in the world. What mainly exists in this country is not free enterprise but private enterprise.

Mr. Virgo: Monopoly capitalism.

Mr. HUDSON: I agree with the member for Edwardstown. Government members do not really believe in free enterprise, and they do not want restrictive trade practices legislation in order to promote free enterprise: they

want private enterprise, and the more private it is, the better. Over the last year there have been substantial imports of New Zealand radiata pine at low prices, and there is a suspicion of the possible dumping of this timber. We have to protect the Woods and Forests undertaking, as a Government undertaking, from any possible rapacious desire of the L.C.L. Government to sell it.

Does the Government plan to allow the department's profits to deteriorate to such an extent that the people may be told that, as the department is no longer profitable, it will be sold to private enterprise? I well remember what happened at the Commonwealth level regarding the plan to sell Trans-Australia Airlines to Australian National Airways (as it then was). The former organization was deliberately prevented from raising its air fares at one stage in order to ensure that it made a loss. The plan was that, once T.A.A. made a loss, it would have to be sold to private enterprise. Is that this Government's plan for the Woods and Forests Department?

Mr. RYAN: It amazes one to see the representatives of capitalism trying to destroy something that has been created for the benefit of the State. It would appear that the Government intends to see the Woods and Forests Department become a liability to the State rather than an asset, and then to sell it. The present Premier detests everything the Labor Government has done: his whole purpose in political life is to try to destroy the good done by that Administration. Often we have thrown in our faces by members opposite what was done by Sir Thomas Playford, who is held up to us as a political knight. Not often did we agree with him but occasionally

he was right. One such occasion occurred 12 months ago, on August 8, 1967, when he said:

Another even more disappointing feature is that in some of our Government departments activity is slowing down—for instance, in the Woods and Forests Department. We are proposing to plant less; we are not selling the timber we are milling; and we are losing a substantial part of our market for the timber. Although I could not today get the figures of employment in that field, I have no doubt that the number of employees in that section of the department's activities has decreased in the same ratio as the department's sales have decreased. It stands to reason that if a product is not being sold it will not be manufactured and people will not be employed to manufacture it. The market for that timber is being lost to timber imported from the Philippines. We have lost this internal market because we have not seen fit to take active steps to develop it. In answer to a question, the Minister of Forests said the State was still importing enormous quantities of timber; yet we are not selling the products of the forests in this State. This shows that something is lacking in this field of management. We should take every opportunity to advance the State's economy.

The last two sentences are extremely important. Where is the management of the Woods and Forests Department now? It is vested in a Liberal and Country League Government and the criticism made by Sir Thomas 12 months ago is more relevant than ever. The Government, by its actions, has interfered with the State's economy. Are we in such a healthy position that we can allow the stockpiling of a State asset at the expense of the State's economy?

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.46 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, September 3, at 2 p.m.