

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, September 19, 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:

Evidence (Affidavits) Act Amendment,
Motor Vehicles Act Amendment,
Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act
Amendment.

PETITION: TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Mr. VIRGO presented a petition signed by 5,679 electors. It stated that the adoption of the recommendations of the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study in so far as it related to the building of the Noarlunga Freeway and the Goodwood-Edwardstown rail rapid transit was opposed by a majority of citizens whose properties would be acquired or affected, as the acquisition of properties would be an unwarranted intrusion into the peaceful living of citizens. It sought that the Government immediately reject the M.A.T.S. recommendation to build the Noarlunga Freeway and re-site the railway from Goodwood to Edwardstown. It further sought that the Government immediately cause investigations to be made to determine a more suitable and practicable plan for the development of metropolitan Adelaide consistent with the rights of citizens living a peaceful existence and consistent with the financial means available to the State.

Received and read.

QUESTIONS

WALLAROO INDUSTRY

Mr. HUGHES: On July 23, I asked the Premier a question about the American syndicate that had purchased 1,000 acres of land at Wallaroo on which to build a nitrogenous fertilizer plant in the event of natural gas being piped to Wallaroo. At the time the Premier said that he would contact the syndicate to see whether it was still interested. As I have received no report from the Premier, will he say whether he wrote to the firm concerned and, if he did, what its reaction was?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I think it was about six weeks before I left for overseas that I wrote to the firm, but I have not received a reply. I have subsequently spoken

to the Mayor of Wallaroo about the vacant land concerned and about the possibility of an industry being established on the land by the company which owns it and which contemplated establishing a particular industry in the initial stages. Present indications are that there is little likelihood of the industry to which the honourable member has referred being established on the land. However, I will ascertain the current situation for the honourable member and let him have a reply. If further correspondence is necessary, I will initiate it.

Mr. HUGHES: I am becoming very much concerned over the replies the Premier is giving to the House. It was evident this afternoon that, when he replies to a member, saying that he will write to someone or that he intends to meet someone, he then proceeds to forget all about it. This afternoon I asked a question regarding the building of a nitrogenous fertilizer plant at Wallaroo. In *Hansard* of July 23 the Premier is reported as saying:

Soon after coming into office, I wrote to the principals of the firm concerned in order to ascertain whether they were still interested in this project in South Australia. As yet I have not received a reply, unless it came during my absence, but it certainly did not come before I left for overseas. As my overseas trip was completely taken up with interviews, I did not have time to divert to see this firm. I shall again write to the principals of the firm to find out whether they have any interest whatsoever.

When, earlier this afternoon, I reminded the Premier of his statement of July 23 and asked whether he had written to the syndicate in the United States of America, he said again that he had written to it about five or six weeks prior to his departure for overseas. However, he did not touch on whether he had written, as he promised on July 23 he would do. Will the Premier say whether he wrote a letter to the syndicate after July 23?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member puts his own time table on industrial development in this regard. As far as I can remember, I have not yet written to this company again. As I have said, I spoke to the Mayor of Wallaroo about the time the honourable member asked his question. Again from memory, I understand that the Mayor was going to take action, and so was I. I will check with the Mayor to see whether he has done this. The Government considers these matters at Executive meetings.

Mr. Jennings: What has the Mayor got to do with it? Why didn't you consult the member for the district?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: If the member opposite does not want an answer, he need not listen. The member for Wallaroo knows that I have worked with him previously and have done my best to help him on district matters.

Mr. Hudson: Ha, ha!

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The member for Glenelg may guffaw in his beard, as he usually does, and try to take over other members' questions. He likes to speak at length and does not get—

The SPEAKER: Order! The matter cannot be debated.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will immediately take up this matter the honourable member reminds me about. I cannot remember whether I have or have not written, because it is two or three months ago. If the honourable member thinks that the number of letters that go through my office enables me to remember each one, he is completely underestimating the quantity of work that goes through the office. I will see whether it is my mistake and, if it is, I will rectify it immediately.

LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: In his policy speech earlier this year the Premier said that this Government would embark on a programme of law reform and would set up a law reform committee. Can the Attorney-General say whether any action has yet been taken to set up such a committee and, if it has, what the functions of that committee will be?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I am happy to be able to inform the honourable member and other members of the House that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, in Executive Council this morning, issued a proclamation constituting a Law Reform Committee of South Australia. This is, as the honourable member has said, in line with the policy of our Party as enunciated by the present Premier prior to the last election. The committee will be charged with the task of advising the Government on matters of law reform (matters that will be referred to it by me as Attorney-General). The committee will also be empowered to initiate inquiries on matters, subject to an overall direction from the Attorney-General concerning the precedence of its business. No community can afford to allow

its legal system to get out of date. In the view of the Government, a systematic attack on this problem is necessary. We believe law reform should be undertaken systematically, and not haphazardly as it has been undertaken in the past in this State. We hope this committee will be of significant assistance—

The Hon. B. H. Teusner: Who are the members?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The committee will have five members, two of whom will be appointed on the recommendation of the Attorney-General or the Government, one to be the Chairman, who is to be a senior practitioner in private practice, and the other to be either the Crown Solicitor or a member of his department. The third member will be nominated, I hope, on the recommendation of the Law Society of South Australia. The fourth member (and I put these members in no particular order) will be an academic lawyer from the Department of Law at the University of Adelaide. The fifth appointee, I hope very much, will be a nominee of the Opposition. I hope, and the Government hopes, that there will be a balance in this committee of academic and practical lawyers of the Crown and those in private practice and of both sides of the House. I have today written to the President of the Law Society, to the Dean of the Faculty of Law and to the Leader of the Opposition asking whether those three gentlemen would arrange to recommend the names of those appropriate for appointment on their respective recommendations. I hope this will be a matter apart from Party politics. I think it most important that the committee should have the confidence of both sides of the House. Of course, it will be expected to make recommendations not on matters of policy but rather on what we could call lawyers' law.

Mr. Corcoran: Will it be able to initiate something it considers should be done or will it do only what you direct it to do?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: It can initiate—

The SPEAKER: Order! Only one question can be asked at a time.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I had better make this clear again. The committee will have the power to initiate consideration of matters but will be subject to a direction as to the order in which it considers the various matters it has before it.

Mr. Corcoran: You have power to direct it to investigate matters, though.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I hope that the Opposition will not take its tone from the Deputy Leader and will be prepared to co-operate in this matter, because I think it is of great importance to South Australia that we get this on a systematic basis with the support of all members of Parliament and of the whole community. I hope, too, that the Opposition and those in the community will be prepared to make suggestions to the Government as to matters which could be considered by this committee. As I say, regarding it of great importance to keep our legal system up to date, we believe this is the most satisfactory way to do that. I hope the committee will get under way with the full support of both sides of this House.

TREES

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I noticed in this morning's *Advertiser* a fine and pleasant photograph of the Minister of Works planting a tree. The accompanying article explained that trees of this type were being planted so that there would be no damage done to sewer mains, etc. I am pleased at the publicity given to this matter. When I was Minister of Works, the *Sunday Mail* contained an article setting out the trees that should and should not be planted. I believe that if another article of this type were published it might help people, particularly those building new houses, to select the right type of tree and thus avoid having affected sewer pipes in their backyards. Will the Minister try to arrange this?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: I thank the honourable member for his pleasing reference to my photograph in the newspaper, and I also appreciate his interest in this matter. One of the purposes of the exercise was to give prominence to a problem that has been experienced by the Engineering and Water Supply Department for many years. I understand that the problem came to a head about 13 or 14 years ago, with the intrusion into the sewers system of many unsuitable types of tree and shrub that had been planted in streets. The problem created has been costly to solve. At that time the then Minister appointed a committee to investigate the problem and, if honourable members wish to see the results of experiments carried out at that time, they should go down the Port Road past where the circus is usually held each year. There they will see a plantation of a fine batch of trees, deliberately planted over the sewers

system, some pipes being purposely broken, so that the effect of the trees on the sewer system can be observed. The exercise yesterday was designed to give publicity to the matter so that nurserymen, local government authorities, private landowners and garden lovers could see what was being done. Of course, prohibited trees and plants, as listed in a schedule, cannot be planted in public streets without the permission of the Minister and I shall be pleased to obtain this list for the honourable member so that further publicity can be given the matter. I may say that the department appreciates the co-operation of the Adelaide City Council, the Burnside City Council, and other local government bodies in the planting and nurturing of trees that will, at the same time, provide beauty in the respective streets.

REGISTRATION OF BULLS

Mr. ALLEN: At a meeting of the Stud Beef Breeders of South Australia on September 12 (during show week) concern was expressed about a suggestion that the Government might impose a registration fee in respect of beef bulls. Will the Minister of Lands say whether the Government intends to introduce such a measure?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: This matter is fully explained in a Bill at present before the House, and the position is not quite as the honourable member has put it.

EASTERN STANDARD TIME

Mr. BROOMHILL: This morning's *Advertiser* contains a report about the adoption in South Australia of Eastern Standard Time, and part of that report is as follows:

The Premier (Mr. Hall) believes it is inevitable that South Australia eventually will have to go over to Eastern Standard Time. "South Australia cannot afford the luxury of being out of line with the Eastern States, he said.

Does the Premier intend to take action in the immediate future for the adoption in this State of Eastern Standard Time?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: In that report I was expressing a personal view. The matter has not yet been discussed by Cabinet, but I will initiate that discussion soon. I shall then be better able to indicate the opinion of the Government as a whole. However, I stand by my initial remarks that, in this time of greatly increased efficiency in transport and the many more contacts in all facets of private and business life, particularly in business, South Australia cannot afford to waste another hour of contact time in each day.

PARAMEDICAL SERVICES

Mr. McANANEY: As a private member, the Minister of Education often showed an interest in occupational therapy training, or the lack of it, in South Australia. As I understand action has been taken to set up a paramedical school, will the Minister of Education indicate the nature of such action?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: No action has been taken to set up a paramedical school, but I have announced the appointment of an expert committee that will investigate the paramedical courses already available in South Australia and the matter of whether the ancillary systems of occupational therapy and speech therapy should be provided here. It has been evident for a long time that we can draw only on graduates who are the extra graduates from colleges teaching these two disciplines in other States and, though we have tried to meet the position by means of cadetships in occupational therapy, our demand is much greater than the supply. I was Chairman of the committee that brought this matter to the notice of the previous Government, but no action was taken. One of the first things I did on assuming office was, with the Minister of Health and the Director-General of Health, to investigate the matter of the appointment of an expert committee that could go into these various matters. From the point of view that we are contemplating additions to our medical services and hospitals, it is useless to do this unless we have the ancillary medical staff necessary for the staffing of extra hospital facilities. For the purpose of investigating the whole position, the appointment of this committee, under the chairmanship of the Director-General of Medical Services, was announced last Monday. The committee will meet, and I hope it will be in a position to report on its investigations by December 15.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I understand that a vacancy on the Council of the Institute of Technology is being held open until such time as this paramedical school is formed. Has the Minister of Education nominated someone to fill that vacancy?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: There were two vacancies on the Council of the Institute of Technology caused when the Minister of Works and I retired on our appointment to Cabinet. One of these vacancies was filled, I am happy to say, by the appointment of the member for Albert himself. I intend to make an announcement regarding the second vacancy.

However, out of courtesy to the President of the Council of the Institute of Technology, I cannot name the person until I have informed the President of the appointment. I understand that a council meeting is to be held next Monday, and the details of the appointment will be in the President's hands before that time.

TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Attorney-General a reply to my question of last Tuesday regarding the refusal by the Minister of Roads and Transport to permit an officer of the Highways Department to be on the same platform as the member for the district at any meetings being held to discuss the M.A.T.S. Report?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: As I undertook to do when the member asked the question, I took the first opportunity to discuss this matter with the Minister of Roads and Transport because, naturally, I was perturbed at the suggestions in the question. The Minister has now supplied me with a statement that will show that the situation is not as the member suggested. The Minister states:

Following on the publication of the M.A.T.S. Report, the Minister invited metropolitan councils to convene public meetings, to be addressed by officers of the Highways Department, in order that the general public may be fully informed on the M.A.T.S. proposal. This involves the officer attending the meeting giving as complete a description as possible in the time available of the report's proposals in a factual and unbiased fashion. It naturally follows that he would, after completing his explanations, be available for a considerable period of time, to answer questions from persons attending the meeting, with no restrictions on the types of question, and anyone attending could fully express his views. However, it is not appropriate and, indeed, is contrary to established Public Service procedures, for a public servant to participate in what may be a political meeting.

The whole purpose of these meetings is to explain the report, and no good purpose would be achieved by conducting a debate from a public platform. Dealing with the particular meeting referred to by the member for Glenelg, the position is that the Marion council arranged with the Highways Department for an officer to attend a meeting in the Pioneer Hall, Sturt Road, Seacombe Gardens, on Thursday, September 12, to explain the provisions of the report, in accordance with the arrangements already outlined, which had been quite successful at a number of similar meetings previously conducted.

Subsequent to these arrangements being made, a notice issued by the president of the Seaview Downs Progress Association advertising a meeting to be held at the same time and in the same place as the official council

meeting came into the hands of the Highways Department. This notice included the following statement:

The Mayor, Mr. R. Keen, will be accompanied by our local Parliament representative, Mr. Hugh Hudson. Also present will be a representative from the Highways Department, who will be able to answer any questions asked of him. The officers of the department interpreted this notice to mean that the meeting would now be held in circumstances where a public servant and a politician would be publicly debating the merits or otherwise of the M.A.T.S. Report. In fact, the extract of the notice I have read seemed to indicate that the member for Glenelg would address the meeting in lieu of the departmental officer, who would then be required to answer questions arising out of the speech of the member for Glenelg. The Highways Department officers in these circumstances acted correctly in indicating to the Marion council that the departmental officers could not be involved in the meeting publicized by the Seaview Downs Progress Association and under the circumstances as suggested by the notice.

I think all members must agree that it would be inappropriate for Public Service officers to participate in a public debate with members of Parliament. The Minister's statement continues:

The member for Glenelg did attend the meeting. He spoke at some length from the floor of the meeting and certainly the Highways Department officer did not and, in fact, could not endeavour to restrict the comments of the member for Glenelg.

Mr. Jennings: Even we can't do that.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I am sure that all members on this side would echo the sentiments expressed in that interjection from the member for Enfield. My colleague's statement continues:

The chairman of the meeting, who was the Mayor of Marion, permitted the member for Glenelg to speak at length. With regard to the member for Edwardstown and meetings intended to be held in his district, the same arrangements will apply for the reasons that I have stated. This does not in any way restrict public discussion of the M.A.T.S. Report but is a necessary protection for public servants to ensure that they comply with Public Service procedures.

Those procedures were enforced during the whole of the time of the previous Labor Government and, I think, were not altered in any way during those three years. They are merely being carried on under the aegis of the present Government.

Mr. HUDSON: I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr. HUDSON: I make this explanation because of the reply given by the Attorney-General, presumably reading from a report given to him by the Minister of Roads and Transport, concerning a meeting held last Thursday at the Pioneer Hall. First, I point out that the meeting was organized by the Marion council and that any notice that may have appeared under the auspices of the Seaview Downs Progress Association could no more be taken as an accurate guide than could a notice appearing in the local paper. Also, I take it that the nature of the Minister's reply implies that the department instructed the Marion council that if I were allowed on the platform at the meeting the Highways Department officer had to be withdrawn. I am particularly concerned with the untruths in the reply.

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: What untruths?

The SPEAKER: Order! It has already been pointed out that when a member has leave to make a personal explanation he must be heard uninterrupted.

Mr. HUDSON: At the meeting I asked one question of the speaker and amplified another question asked from the body of the hall. I did not address the meeting from the floor. The question I asked of the speaker related to the fact that it would be at least another five months before any indication was given by the Government of what it intended to do in relation to the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study Report, and that if the Government's proposals at that time involved an amendment of the Adelaide Metropolitan Development Plan a further six months would be necessary to consider objections. In view of that position, I asked the officer of the Highways Department (Mr. Clements), who addressed the meeting, whether he would inform the people at the meeting not to be hasty in making decisions to sell property or to buy another block of land in order to build another house, because several questions addressed to him indicated that people were already considering such action, and one person said that he had already purchased another block of land.

That was the question I asked, and it took as long to ask as it has taken me to explain now. The answer given to me was "Yes". I amplified one other question which was asked by a member of the audience and which put Mr. Clements in a most unfair position, because it required him to give a guarantee that compensation would be paid in relation to a matter involving indirect adverse effects

from freeway development. He was completely unable to answer the question and was put in a false position. The first untruth in the reply by the Minister is that I spoke at some length, and it was repeated later by the statement that I spoke at length. The time for which I spoke at the meeting, which took over three hours, was no more than I have taken already in making this explanation. The point about the meeting is that the Highways Department officer was put up as an aunt sally to take rubbishing on behalf of the Government from critics of the M.A.T.S. Report and of the Government's actions in relation to it. In fact, about 50 per cent of the people at this meeting were occupying houses at Darlington Heights that they had purchased through the agency of C. Murray Hill and Company, and some of these houses had been purchased only a few months previously. I assure you, Mr. Speaker—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member's time has expired. He may continue only by obtaining further leave of the House. Does the honourable member have leave of the House to continue?

Several members: No.

The SPEAKER: An objection having been taken, the honourable member cannot proceed.

Mr. HUDSON: Government members expressed indignation at an explanation I gave when I said that a number of houses in the Darlington and Darlington Heights areas had been sold by C. Murray Hill and Company Limited. At the meeting last Thursday night, whenever the Minister's name was mentioned very vocal indignation was expressed in the form of hisses, boos and catcalls. In order to clear the air, will the Premier ascertain how many houses have been sold by that firm over the last two years in the area I have referred to, and also how many have been sold since April of this year?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I would appreciate it if the honourable member would put that question on notice, because I do not intend to start a witch-hunt, although I am quite happy to obtain information that will indicate whether there is any real basis for the views he has expressed. I note that he said that people attending the meeting were somewhat upset, and I hope that the honourable member himself did not in any way lead the meeting on to this state. One of his colleagues has already made baseless and uninformed imputations in this House concerning an un-named member of the Liberal and Country League. I will

remember that the member for Glenelg becomes quite political at some of these meetings and that during a meeting at Berri about the Chowilla dam he did so in a most uncalled for manner. I will, however, obtain the relevant information requested by the honourable member if he places his question on notice.

POWER BOATS

Mr. WARDLE: The Minister of Marine will recall that several weeks ago I asked him a question concerning the registration of power boats and the licensing of their drivers and, in reply, the Minister said he would further discuss the matter. Can he say whether this matter has been further discussed and has he additional information?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: After examining the Power Boat Committee's report, which was produced earlier this year, I am now preparing recommendations to be submitted to Cabinet. I indicated earlier that these controls would not be ready for the coming summer season, because an entirely new Bill would be required and this could not be introduced, debated, and passed by this House until later this year, after the summer season had commenced. Subsequently, as the regulations would have to be prepared and promulgated and the administrative organization set up, it would be physically impossible to introduce these controls until next year. However, the Government desires to introduce legislation on power boating following many requests it has received from boat owners and users, particularly in the interests of water safety. Many requests have been made to the Government to introduce this type of legislation as a result of boating fatalities that have occurred in gulf waters and on the Murray River. Although the Government wishes to introduce a Bill it will be physically impossible to do so before the coming boating season.

STUDENT TEACHERS

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: My questions arise from what the Minister of Education said last evening in the Budget debate about students' claims for travelling expenses. The Minister said that these claims had to be submitted every month, but I understand that they are submitted only once each term. Is this correct? Later, the Minister said that incorrect claims had been made in respect of sporting functions and that students could go to sporting activities in connection with colleges on a Saturday morning, claim for this travel, and no-one would know whether it was claimed for

travelling in the course of their studies. I understand, however, that the claim form has an appropriate section for each day of the week, including Saturday, and that the itinerary of the student on a particular day has to be entered against that day. As there are no classes held on a weekend, can the Minister say how a student can claim travelling expenses for a sporting fixture when, if the details were shown on the correct day, Saturday, the group lecturer would immediately discover it and challenge the information? Also, I understand that Government auditors have inquired and that 20 letters have been sent to students at the Adelaide Teachers College questioning certain claims that have been made. Concerning Western Teachers College, although students travel more, proportionately, there does not seem to have been ground for suspicion in the same way as at Adelaide Teachers College. As the Minister has given considerable weight to these matters (and I think rightly so) and as they are being advanced as an important aspect of this discussion, will she answer my first two questions now, and obtain a report concerning the approach by auditors in connection with each of the colleges, so that we can get this matter into its correct perspective and see what validity there is in this aspect of the matter?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I am grateful to the member for Whyalla for pointing out the error I made when I said "each month" instead of "each term". When I read the *Hansard* pull I realized that I had made this error, and I appreciate his comment. It is, of course, each term, but the mistake was inadvertent. Regarding the point about sport I am sorry that I do not have a form with me at present (although I have seen one) so that I cannot refer to it. I will find that out for the honourable member and, as in the case of the third matter he raised in his question, I will obtain a report and bring it down to the House next Tuesday.

Mr. LANGLEY: Last evening the Minister of Education said that student teachers could obtain employment during holidays in order to supplement their allowances. Indeed, this seems to have some bearing on the new regulation made concerning student teacher allowances, as many student teachers probably obtain employment and, in fact, will have to obtain such employment as a result of the regulation. As the Minister said at the time that the percentage of student teachers thus employed was unknown to her, will she ascer-

tain how many student teachers obtain temporary employment during all or part of their vacations?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Many students obtain employment during their holidays. However, regarding the honourable member's latter remarks, I do not know where and how he expects me to obtain this type of information. Perhaps he could give me some idea of how to obtain it.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Last evening the Minister said:

I consider that it was a bad principle to establish that student teachers should be paid for travel from their homes to teachers colleges and from the colleges to their homes in the evening. It is a different matter if they are travelling from a teachers college to a university or to the Institute of Technology, or between craft centres, or from their college to a demonstration class. This I consider right and proper.

I point out to the Minister that, if that is her view, how can an average amount be used for paying for the travel of which she approves, because at Bedford Park Teachers College there is no travel or practically no travel that corresponds to the description she mentioned, and the same applies at Adelaide Teachers College. At Wattle Park Teachers College there is travel to one annex, mainly by walking because it is not on a bus route. At Salisbury there will be no travel of this sort, whereas at Western Teachers College there is travel from the college to the university, the arts school, the woodwork centre, the Institute of Technology, Norwood Adult Education Centre, Thebarton Boys Technical High School, and the three annexes of the college itself. In view of this situation, how can an average payment be made to apply equitably?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I can only repeat what I said last night. I consider it is a very bad principle to have established (and it was established by a Liberal Government) that students should be paid for travel from their homes to college and back home again in the evening. I am certain that this does not apply in any other sphere I know of. It certainly does not apply in any other State, except Western Australia. I think it is proper that the students in the past have received payment in excess of 20c for travel between their demonstration schools and the various places the honourable member has mentioned, and I believe that the granting of a combined allowance to students in South Australia will bring them into line with what is done in other

States. I believe, too, that it is proper that this allowance should be made in a combined manner, as is suggested should be done.

Mr. RICHES: I seek clarification of the statement of the Minister of Education about travelling allowances for student teachers. I assure her that I am asking this question not to embarrass her but because I require such clarification for my own edification. I understood her to say that she considered it a bad thing that the Government should pay allowances for travel from home to college. As a number of young people from the country must find accommodation in Adelaide while studying at teachers colleges, and as they must therefore often incur heavy expenses in travelling from their places of residence to the colleges, can the Minister explain why she considers it a bad thing for this assistance to be given by the Government?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I can only reiterate what I have said several times before: that I consider it a bad principle.

Mr. Riches: But why?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Because it is not done in regard to any other category of person employed or in training anywhere else in Australia. Regarding the second point raised by the honourable member, students from the country are paid a boarding allowance in the city which, I think, ranks third when considered with the living allowance provided by the other States in the Commonwealth: only Victoria and Western Australia provide more. I believe that the same condition should apply to students from the country who board in the city as applies to city students.

RAILWAY REBATE

Mr. VENNING: Last year a rebate of 25 per cent was made concerning two rail trucks of sheep (or lambs) in this State, and I understand that on September 1 last a revision of that concession was to be considered. Can the Minister of Lands say whether such a revision was made? Further, will he ask the authority to consider the consequences of this matter with a view to applying the rebate uniformly throughout the State?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: As this is a question about which I know something but not the full story, I will ask the Attorney-General, or the Minister of Roads and Transport direct, to obtain a report for the honourable member as soon as possible.

KALANGADOO KINDERGARTEN

Mr. RODDA: Some time ago an application was made by the kindergarten committee at Kalangadoo (a member of the Kindergarten Union of South Aust Inc.) to use the old primary schoolbuilding and land in that town but, for one reason or another, the building could not be made available. As I understand the building is still empty, and as the Kalangadoo kindergarten is still functioning, will the Minister of Education ascertain whether the building concerned cannot be made available for use by the kindergarten?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: As I am not conversant with this matter, I shall be happy to obtain a report from my officers, and I will bring it down as soon as possible.

GAUGE STANDARDIZATION

Mr. McKEE: Has the Premier a reply to the recent question I asked about Commonwealth money being made available for survey and planning work on the standard gauge railway line between Adelaide and Port Pirie?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Minister of Roads and Transport has provided me with the following report from the Railways Commissioner:

A sum of \$30,000 was provided in the Commonwealth Budget Estimates for 1964-65 to cover preliminary work in connection with the provision of a standard gauge railway into Adelaide. A considerable amount of work has been done by South Australian Railways forces. This work includes a detailed study of traffic flows and the preparation of preliminary estimates of costs; the relocating of pole lines during the course of their reconstruction in such positions as would be clear of standard gauge tracks (and in this connection small parcels of land have been acquired); and the up-grading of survey plans in and around the metropolitan area, upon which detailed standard gauge designs can be based. As this work has been undertaken within the compass of ordinary departmental operations, it was not considered appropriate to raise any debit at this point of time. When Commonwealth approval for this standard gauge project is obtained, the cost of planning work done to date will become a charge against that project.

Mr. VENNING: An article appears in this morning's newspaper under the heading, "Questions Asked on Tenders", part of which states:

Senator Cavanagh also claimed that the Commonwealth had refused to allow the South Australian Government to accept various tenders for construction of rolling stock for the Port Pirie-Broken Hill standardized line. He said the South Australian Railways had originally been granted the contract, but tenders were

reopened later at the insistence of the Federal Government. Then it was awarded to the Perry Engineering Company.

Will the Premier explain the complication in relation to allowing these contracts to remain with the South Australian Railways?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be happy to obtain a report from the Minister of Roads and Transport.

GOVERNMENT CAR

Mr. VIRGO: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked him yesterday about a Government car stationed at Port Lincoln for use by the Treasurer?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: In order to avoid the cost of taking his Ministerial car and driver the 800 miles to fulfil engagements, as of course all Ministers and the Leader of the Opposition are entitled to do, the Treasurer suggested that a small car be available for Port Lincoln. The car in question is a second-hand Holden, standard manual model without extras, and was available as surplus to a department's requirements. A driver is not supplied. It is garaged and serviced at the Engineering and Water Supply Department depot at Port Lincoln, and the Treasurer has insisted that it be available for that department to use when he does not require it. Meantime his Ministerial car and driver are available for other duties.

FISHING EQUIPMENT

Mr. GILES: I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Agriculture. Two of my constituents have licences to fish in the reaches above Mannum, at Younghusband. Recently a man was observed pulling up drum nets belonging to one of those constituents, although there were no fish in those nets. Another case was reported to me this morning to the effect that at Purnong seven nylon nets had been cut so that the fish could be extricated. Although whoever did this was not observed, the results of his work were. The Commonwealth Fisheries Act provides:

A person shall not, in an area of proclaimed waters, use a boat, net, trap or other equipment for the taking of fish, or have a boat, net, trap or other equipment for the taking of fish in his possession or in his charge, unless that boat, net, trap or equipment is licensed or registered under this Act, in his name or in the name of a person on whose behalf he is acting, for use in the taking of fish in that area. No provision is made for an offence if a person interferes with fishing equipment. Will the Minister ask his colleague to consider

amending the Act so that it will be an offence to interfere with private property on a fishing reach?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: If I were asked to give a legal opinion, I should say that interference with private property, whether a fishing net or not, was an offence. Merely because this is not an offence under the Fisheries Act does not necessarily absolve the miscreant. However, I will raise the matter with my colleague and give the honourable member an answer as soon as possible.

WATER STORAGE

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the use of a sand pit as a water storage at Highbury East?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: A departmental officer has conferred with Mr. Duhne of W. Duhne and Sons Proprietary Limited and an inspection was made of the sand pits at Highbury East. The area of excavation is very approximately 25 acres and up to 40ft. deep. The site in its present state would be completely unsuitable for a water storage. The supply of water at this locality would have to come from the Torrens River which will be fully developed with the completion of the Kangaroo Creek reservoir, which is expected later this year. Another problem would be pollution from nearby residential and industrial properties. This is a real problem in the Torrens River at present. It is considered that it is not practical to develop a water storage in this area. I thank the honourable member for her interest in the matter.

WINKIE BASIN

Mr. ARNOLD: When water from the Winkie evaporation basin is released into the river, it must travel down Eckert Creek and Katarapko Creek to enter the river. The Engineering and Water Supply Department always notifies private irrigators along these sections of the creek before releasing the water. It is departmental policy not to release the water unless the flow in the river is about 10,000 cusecs. This is in order to disperse the salinity. I believe water was released on Monday, September 9, and, with the river flowing at about 16,000 cusecs, this has caused the saline water released into the two creeks to be bottled up, because the flow of water will not let it out. This has meant that the saline water in these creeks

is about 3,000 parts a million, making it impossible for private irrigators to use the water. As soon as this flow in the river drops to about 10,000 cusecs, the water will be able to get out of the creek again, but the point is that it depends—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is starting to debate the question.

Mr. ARNOLD: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister of Works see whether this problem can be solved and the interests of private irrigators in the area safeguarded?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I thank the honourable member for drawing the matter to my attention. As I am aware of the problem, I will certainly have it investigated immediately, and I will bring down a reply as soon as possible.

LAND TAX

Mr. CORCORAN: I direct my question to the Premier, as it concerns a matter of policy. I notice in today's *Advertiser* that Sir Henry Bolte has abolished land tax on all land used for primary production in Victoria and that the loss in revenue will be made up by increasing land tax on industrial and commercial land worth more than \$25,000. This policy will mainly hit big business in Melbourne, an average rise of about 12½ per cent being expected. The concession made to farmers to aid their recovery from last season's drought amounts to about \$2,000,000, which is equal to 10 per cent of the total income received from land tax. Of course, the Premier is aware that South Australia had a serious drought last year. The move made by Sir Henry Bolte in Victoria would be in line with the professed support given by members of this Government to primary producers in this State. As the Premier and his Government have seen fit to follow the lead given by Sir Henry Bolte by imposing a receipts tax in South Australia (albeit not to the same extent as that in Victoria), will the Premier consider introducing a similar proposal to that of Sir Henry Bolte in regard to land tax?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: There are two implications involved in South Australia: we had a drought last season, but we have also had a financial drought.

Mr. Ryan: We are having one now.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. R. S. HALL: In the light of the financial situation the Government has inherited, it is difficult to provide the type of concession the honourable member has asked

about this afternoon. The concession he referred to is only one of the moves made by Sir Henry Bolte: in the last year, Sir Henry has also imposed a tax on wages and salaries. Therefore, one cannot view certain parts of a Government's financial policy in isolation. If the honourable member desires to advocate the taxation policy followed in Victoria, that is his business. However, this Government has introduced its Budget, which is now under discussion and which clearly indicates that the Government is continuing, without increasing rates, the land tax policy that has been followed in the past.

FLINDERS RANGES

Mr. RICHES: Has the Minister of Immigration and Tourism a reply to my suggestion that the Tourist Bureau might profitably engage in filming the Flinders Ranges while the wild flowers are in colour?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: As I indicated the other day, arrangements have been made for a two-man photography and filming team to work in the Flinders Ranges during the week commencing September 23. Pictures and movie film will be taken of the mountains during the wildflowers season. The bureau released a new 16mm. film *Flinders—Ranges of Legend* earlier this year, using material obtained last spring. Movie film obtained this month will be stored for a future production and still pictures used in folders, displays and other publicity as opportunities occur. It has also been arranged for a photographer from the Australian Tourist Commission to visit the Wilpena area for about seven days from September 22. His pictures will be used by the commission in its work of publicizing Australia's tourist attractions overseas. The film *Flinders—Ranges of Legend* is available for showing, and there would be no difficulty about showing it for honourable members in the Tourist Bureau theatre.

LIQUOR PRICES

Mr. EDWARDS: At the recent Royal Show my colleagues and I gave a real service to the public at our caravan. We received many and varied inquiries. One person was most irate about the charge of 48c for a bottle of beer that was not refrigerated. The price of a bottle of beer over the hotel counter is 38c, and the charge for a dozen bottles is \$4.56. As the charge of 48c seems to be a case of extraordinary fleecing of the public, will the Treasurer, as Minister in charge of prices, have the matter investigated?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: As the honourable member knows, the control of liquor prices is not now directly under the aegis of the Prices Commissioner. However, somewhat similar complaints to this have been made in respect of the charge for wine in hotel dining rooms, as well as in country districts. It is being alleged that the additional charges in some country districts are justified on the basis of the freight charges from the breweries to the country districts. This matter has been under discussion with the Australian Hotels Association for some time and, as I recall, at the last discussion the association undertook to inquire with a view to ensuring that the prices charged were not more than reasonable, having regard to the freight charges. I have not had a complaint similar to the one that has been brought to my notice by the honourable member but I will ask the Prices Commissioner to inquire. One of the valuable services that the Prices Commissioner renders to the community is that, although the item concerned may not be under price control, he inquires into complaints of overcharging for any commodity or service.

SOLDIER SETTLERS

Mr. CORCORAN: As the Minister of Repatriation knows, for about five years litigation concerned with the rents that should be applied to zone 5 settlers under the war service land settlement scheme in this State has been proceeding. Some settlers in this area have signed leases, whereas other settlers have not. Because of the drop in market prices for wool and stock, as well as the bad season last year, there is a requirement for carry-on finance on the part of many settlers. They cannot obtain this finance from the normal lending institutions, because they have not signed their leases and, therefore, have no security to offer to the lending institution in respect of the mortgage. It may be said that these settlers can overcome this difficulty by signing the leases, and I know that the question is somewhat hypothetical, because we do not know what the outcome of the case will be. However, can the Minister say whether, upon the determination of the case, settlers who are forced to sign leases, because of the circumstances I have outlined or because of other reasons, will be treated in the same way as those settlers who have not signed their leases?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The question is partly hypothetical, partly a matter of policy, and very much *sub judice*. Therefore,

beyond saying that the whole matter of zone 5 rents was a problem for many years before I became Minister, and that I and my colleagues have done everything possible to expedite the hearing in order to get a conclusion—

Mr. Corcoran: I am not complaining about that.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I know that. I am merely saying that this matter is *sub judice* and that I cannot reply to the question, although I want to stress that we are doing everything we can to have the case resolved.

Mr. CORCORAN: I have referred to some of the difficulties experienced by *bona fide* war service settlers in obtaining carry-on finance, necessitated by difficult seasonal conditions and consequent falling incomes, etc., and also by the fact that they have not, because of the pending case, signed their leases. Of course, they do not desire to sign them until the case is finalized (it has now been going on for five years). Will the Treasurer investigate, and establish if possible, ways and means by which the people affected in this way may obtain sufficient carry-on finance without having to present a signed lease as security to the State Bank or other lending institution?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will examine this matter.

COACH BOOKINGS

Mr. EVANS: Can the Premier say whether instructions have been issued to Government departments that, when they wish to engage passenger coaches, they should make their bookings through the Government Tourist Bureau?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will ask the Minister of Roads and Transport whether any such instruction has been issued.

RAILWAY EXPENDITURE

Mr. BROOMHILL: Has the Treasurer the information that I sought during the Loan Estimates debate regarding the Railways Department item "Plant and Sundries"?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Railways Commissioner reports:

I have to advise that although the amount provided for plant and sundries in 1967-68 was \$30,000 more than that allowed for 1968-69, the full allocation was not used in the last financial year, and it is considered that the figure for 1968-69 will provide funds sufficient to maintain the same level as that achieved during 1967-68.

GUMMOSIS

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Has the Minister of Lands asked the Minister of Agriculture whether research work is being continued into the effect on apricots of gummosis, the ravages of which have been making the growing of apricots in the non-irrigated areas of South Australia increasingly uneconomic?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Director of Agriculture reports that, following the return to South Australia of Dr. W. J. Moller at the end of last year, the gummosis research programme was resumed. The formulation and general direction of the programme are the responsibility of an advisory committee, which comprises two members of the department's research staff and two representatives of the Australian Dried Fruits Association. The research programme in progress is placing emphasis on the protection of wounds from gummosis infection and on fundamental studies of the mode of infection of wounds. These projects were commenced this year, and to date no results are available.

TEROWIE RAIL SERVICE

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a reply to my question of September 5 regarding the Terowie rail service?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: My colleague reports that on three nights a week the Adelaide-Terowie train provides a connection to Broken Hill, and sleeping car bookings between Terowie and Broken Hill are accepted right up until train departure time. Any passenger wishing to occupy a sleeping berth from Terowie is entitled to a reserved seat from Adelaide, and seats 1 to 4 are held until departure time to accommodate late bookings of sleeping car passengers. Unfortunately, on the occasion referred to the reservation cards were not removed from the seats after train departure. Action has been taken to obviate a recurrence of this circumstance. With regard to seats 25, 31 and 32, the car plans indicate that tickets were sold to passengers holding these reservations and travelling to Broken Hill. An explanation for these seats being taken could possibly be that passengers do not always occupy their allotted seats, this being brought about by the fact that upon entering the car a passenger often meets friends and decides to sit with them if there is a vacant seat nearby.

MOTOR VEHICLE CONSTRUCTION

Mr. GILES: I thank the Premier for his reply last Tuesday to my question about structural weaknesses in motor cars, in which he said:

Inquiries of the two major car manufacturing firms in this State disclosed an awareness of the need for incorporating safety in vehicle body design, and experiments are being continually carried out. These experiments include the "front to side" collision.

Can the Minister assure the House that these features will be included in all motor cars built in South Australia in the near future, because this is a most important problem in modern cars?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I cannot give that assurance, but I assure the honourable member that I will discuss this matter with the technicians in my department, have it investigated, and bring the honourable member's question and any findings made to the notice of the motor car manufacturing companies in this State. Further than that I cannot go, because the Government has no power to order alterations to the construction of motor vehicle bodies. However, I assure the honourable member that the Government is concerned (as are all members and the public) at the number of serious motor car accidents.

HOPE VALLEY SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: On August 28, during the Loan Estimates debate, I said that the Hope Valley Primary School consisted of an old stone building and about five timber frame buildings, interspersed with shelter sheds, that the school was in a poor condition and situated in a dangerous position, being surrounded by roads, including Grand Junction Road and Barracks Road, and that, for these reasons, it should be replaced. The Minister of Education will be aware that the Education Department owns a site for a primary school near the southern end of Payne Street and near the bend at the eastern end of Beckman Avenue, Hope Valley, about a quarter of a mile from the existing school. Can the Minister say whether the department has plans to replace this school and, if it has, what is the order of priority? Also, can she say whether at any time the Education Department had plans to replace this school but because of the order of priority being altered, or for some other reason, the project was not proceeded with at that time?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I remember the honourable member speaking about this matter, and I am sure that it would have been referred to officers of my department for a report. However, like other people many officers in the department are suffering from the current bout of influenza, and that may be why I have not received the report. I will seek it and ensure that it contains replies to the questions asked by the honourable member today.

SEDAN-KEYNETON ROAD

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Has the Attorney-General received from the Minister of Roads and Transport information about whether the Highways Department has plans for a new road between Sedan and Keyneton that would by-pass the steep Sedan hill and, if there are no such plans, whether the department intends to seal the present road over the Sedan hill?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The construction of the Sedan-Keyneton section of the Nuriootpa-Loxton main road is scheduled to commence in 1971-72. There is no present planning to deviate from the existing alignment at the Sedan hill. However, the matter has not yet been investigated and all aspects of improvement will be studied in due course.

RAILCARS

Mr. VIRGO: Yesterday the Treasurer was good enough to provide me with a reply, which I take it was direct from the Railways Commissioner, in relation to the matter I raised during the Loan Estimates debate concerning railcars, and said:

The cars will be quite suitable for conversion to diesel-electric traction.

I again draw the Treasurer's attention to page 152 of the M.A.T.S. Report, which states:

Existing railcars in South Australia are diesel-hydraulic with a single torque converter. They are not capable of conversion to electric power without serious reduction in the power/weight ratio. It is recommended, therefore, that diesel-electric motive power, capable of conversion to electric power, be specified for all future cars and for all engine replacements.

In view of the obvious conflict between the opinion expressed by the Railways Commissioner through the Treasurer on the one hand and that contained in the M.A.T.S. Report on the other hand, will the Treasurer examine the matter further, so that this House may know which one of the two contradictory statements is correct and which one is false?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I read a report to the honourable member yesterday which, as he correctly stated (and I said so at the time), was a report to the Minister from the Railways Commissioner. I cannot enlarge on that report, because I am not an engineer or an expert in these matters. I am aware of what is contained in the M.A.T.S. Report, and I was aware of the relevant information at the time the honourable member raised the matter on the second occasion, after he had read the M.A.T.S. Report.

Mr. Virgo: Re-read it!

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: After he had read it! The matter he raises is of some interest and, as he has requested, I will take it up again with the Commissioner to confirm what is, I presume, the Commissioner's latest view on the matter as expressed to me in the report which he gave me and which I read to the House yesterday.

LANGHORNE CREEK WATER SUPPLY

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about a water supply for Langhorne Creek?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: The Director and Engineer-in-Chief reports that, following a request to the Mines Department for comment on the possibility of obtaining an underground supply source in the area capable of delivering between 4,000 and 5,000 gallons of water an hour, the Director of Mines reports that the area is being over-pumped and, accordingly, it is unlikely that the amount of water specified could be pumped at a sustained rate without serious depletion of the aquifer. As the rate specified in the inquiry represented a maximum and not a constant demand, the matter will be referred back to the Director of Mines for further consideration, especially as it is understood that further pump testing in the area is likely within the next two or three months.

BANK HOLIDAY

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I have been informed that West Coast bank officers, at special meetings arranged at Port Lincoln and Whyalla, have strongly condemned the State Government's attitude in refusing to grant a bank holiday on December 31 this year. Will the Premier therefore take this matter to Cabinet with a view to having the request reconsidered?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I understand that members representing Eyre Peninsula districts have received telegrams from bank officer

representatives expressing concern that the Government has not been able to grant this holiday. The honourable member may recall that when his Party was in office it made a similar decision. At the time, I made representations on behalf of the bank officers but there was not at that time any special day on which the holiday would fall. I think that the holiday had previously been granted once every six years or whenever the cycle occurred. The member for Whyalla, who was a member of the then Government, will recall that it granted not a specific bank holiday but a holiday for the whole community. The Government does not believe it can repeat that circumstance now, because the present circumstances are not identical. This year the days fall in a different cycle from that which occurred when a previous Liberal and Country League Government made a decision on this matter. Consequently, the Government does not think it can add the burden of a general holiday to the industrial costs of the community.

ALDGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. EVANS: The Aldgate Primary School, an old school, is situated on the crest of a hill and it has always lacked recreational facilities. The Education Department and the school committee have been put to considerable expense in forming the present playgrounds. As the population in the area is increasing and as there will soon be insufficient accommodation at the school, will the Minister of Education consider purchasing land in the Aldgate area for building a new school soon?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I shall be happy to obtain a report for the honourable member on this matter.

DERAILMENTS

Mr. WARDLE: Members will be very much aware of the recent derailments that have occurred on the main Melbourne railway line, particularly the derailment that occurred last Saturday week. These derailments disturb the railways staff. Many reasons have been advanced for them: the lack of people qualified in track laying, single empty trucks in the middle of a long train, speed, the length of the train and the power of the engines. Will the Attorney-General obtain from the Minister of Roads and Transport a report concerning the cause of these derailments?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes, I shall ask my colleague for a report.

LABOR GOVERNMENT'S RECORD

Mr. VIRGO: I wish to refer to a newspaper report of a few weeks ago about the Le Cornu Furniture Centre, which was opened by the Premier. The report states:

The Premier unveiled a plaque and released hundreds of balloons into the air—

Mr. Langley: Hot air.

Mr. VIRGO: The report continues:

He told official guests that Le Cornu's new building demonstrated their faith in South Australia's economy.

Since the decision to rebuild and the major part of the rebuilding operations took place during the Labor Government's term of office, will the Premier say whether his statement that the new building demonstrated faith in South Australia's economy is an admission by him that his pre-election claim that South Australia had a run-down economy because of the Labor Government's policy was false?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The management of Le Cornu's have a declared policy of starting their expansion projects in times of recession. Consequently, their expansion programmes in the future will not be so closely spaced, because they will take place only during the time of a Labor Government.

TARLEE ROAD

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about his policy on the reconstruction of the Tarlee road?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: There is no provision in the foreseeable future for construction of the Owen-Alma-Tarlee road. Traffic counts taken on the road are low and general priority is not high. The road is not a main road.

HOARDINGS

Mr. NANKIVELL: Recently the Highways Department has implemented a policy to remove all hoardings from highways and main roads. However, in many cases, where railway lines parallel highways or main roads, space is now being let by the Railways Commissioner for the erection of similar hoardings. As hoardings have been removed to prevent any unnecessary distraction of motorists, it seems to me most extraordinary that the Minister of Roads and Transport, in his capacity as Minister in charge of the Highways Department, as well as Minister in charge of the Railways Department, should approve such a practice. Will the Attorney-General ask the

Minister of Roads and Transport whether he will arrange with the Railways Commissioner to have the hoardings that have been erected on Railways Department property removed in a similar way to the removal of hoardings erected on Highways Department property?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will draw the matter to my colleague's attention.

RENMARK RESERVOIR

Mr. ARNOLD: The sign appearing on the bridge over the Renmark reservoir at Renmark Avenue, Renmark, refers to the reservoir as "Salt Creek", which is incorrect and misleading. As official maps of the district show that the correct title is the "Renmark reservoir", will the Minister of Works see whether the correct title can be placed on this sign?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: Yes. In fact, this apparent anomaly was drawn to my attention by the Chairman of the Renmark Irrigation Trust when I visited Renmark about two weeks ago. Now that the honourable member has raised the matter, I will certainly undertake an inquiry.

SNAKE GULLY RESERVOIR

Mrs. BYRNE: In 1966, I wrote to the then Minister of Works asking him to examine the possibility of constructing a new reservoir on the Little Para River in the Snake Gully area. Snake Gully is on the road between Golden Grove and the Para Wirra National Park. At the time, the Minister replied that no firm decision had been made on the exact site of any dam that might be built on this stream, and that the only likely activity within the next two or three years would be where further topographical and geological surveys might take place. I point out to the Minister of Works that 2½ years has elapsed since I first raised the matter, and that I dealt with it more fully when speaking in the Loan Estimates debate on August 28. Has the Minister a report on the subject?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I am aware of the matter to which the honourable member has referred. Obviously I do not have the information with me, but now that she has raised the matter I will obtain the information next week and give it to her by way of an answer to a question.

WHARMINDA RAILWAY COTTAGES

Mr. EDWARDS: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about railway cottages at Wharminda?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: My colleague tells me that new fencing has recently been erected around the three departmental cottages at Wharminda.

FREE VOTE

Mr. RICHES: This morning's *Advertiser* contains a report about the debate that took place in this House yesterday afternoon, when Adelaide City Council by-laws were disallowed. According to the report, the vote taken was described as a "free vote". In view of protestations by members of the Government Party on several occasions this year that they are free to vote as they think best in the interest of the State, can the Premier say whether the report in the *Advertiser* means that there has been an alteration in the practice of his Party? Are members opposite still free to vote or is this freedom restricted to special occasions?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: There has been no change in the policy of the Liberal and Country League in this regard. I am surprised to hear that I am reported as saying that there was a free vote on the matter yesterday.

Mr. Riches: No, you were not reported as saying that.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am glad to hear the honourable member say that, because I did not say it was a free vote. All votes made by members on this side are free. I should think that the same practice as has always applied in this House applied yesterday, because in the vote taken Labor Party members voted in one block as they were told to vote, and L.C.L. members were divided on the issue and voted according to their conscience.

DRIVING PERMITS

Mr. GILES: During the school holidays many younger children, who return from school to rural properties owned by their fathers, help in the work on those properties, and as part of the work they often drive tractors and other vehicles on the properties. In some instances public roads cut across these properties. Will the Premier see whether these younger students, after doing a test, can be granted a permit to drive trucks, tractors and so on within the confines of these properties and across such public roads?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I believe the minimum age at which driving licences are granted in South Australia is the lowest in Australia, although I am not certain of the

minimum ages that apply in all the other States. I realize that in some ways we must defend the age of 16, which applies in this State and at which age I thoroughly approve of licences being granted. I believe that to reduce this age, even in special circumstances such as those referred to by the honourable member, would raise serious doubts as to the wisdom of such a move amongst people in the community who might use roads across which these younger people might drive. Of course, in the legal sense more than just the matter of driving across a road is involved: matters of insurance, liability and so on arise. Although I will make inquiries for the honourable member, my first reaction to his question is that what he suggests would not be possible in the present circumstances.

LUCINDALE ROAD

Mr. RODDA: The state of Main Road No. 295, which is in the Lucindale area and extends into the District of Millicent, has for a long time been the subject of complaint by people using the road. It is in fairly rough condition, consequent upon the extremely wet winter that we have had in the South-East. Will the Attorney-General inquire of the Minister of Roads and Transport whether this road can be brought within the ambit of the Highways Department's plan for sealing soon?

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

WHYALLA HOUSING

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The Minister of Housing will remember that earlier this year I drew his attention to the fact that about 640 applications for Housing Trust houses in Whyalla were outstanding. The Chairman of Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited said in his address at the annual general meeting of the company:

The efficient operation of the Whyalla shipyard was for most of the year impeded by shortages of key types of labour.

Doubtless these shortages arise mainly from the insufficiency of houses for skilled workmen to occupy when they arrive in Whyalla, and I am told that employment would be available for hundreds of men at Whyalla if accommodation were available. In these circumstances, as the additional productivity of the B.H.P. Company's works would generate much employment both outside and inside its own works, as well as in the building industry, will the Minister examine this matter carefully to find

out whether the building programme at Whyalla can be speeded up further? I realize that the programme is fairly large now but, nevertheless, this is an opportunity to do much in the field of employment and productivity.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: As I think I have said previously, the General Manager of the Housing Trust and I have discussed the problem at Whyalla, and there is real difficulty regarding the trust's stepping up the building rate. A short time ago there was a problem about getting additional contractors and additional labour in the building trade to do this. The General Manager is aware of the honourable member's representations, because I have discussed them with him. However, I shall do so again, because I am in accord with the honourable member's opinion that every house that can be built at Whyalla ought to be built. I am sure that the General Manager agrees with that, but I shall discuss the honourable member's representations with Mr. Ramsay again.

MOUNT BOLD ROAD

Mr. EVANS: The approach road to the Mount Bold reservoir is unsealed, although this road, which is in the Meadows District Council area, is used by many tourist coaches and private motorists. I understand that the council has not made any request for the sealing of the road, which is the responsibility of the Highways Department. Will the Attorney-General ascertain from the Minister of Roads and Transport whether the Highways Department intends to make a grant to the council to have the road sealed?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I know the road in question. As the honourable member says, it is a very narrow road and it carries much traffic, especially people going to the reservoir. I shall certainly be pleased to discuss the matter with the Minister.

WHEAT

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Has the Minister of Lands a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to the question I asked a fortnight ago about harvest prospects for wheat in South Australia and the potential capacity of silos to hold the harvest?

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

The SPEAKER: Call on the business of the day.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD BILL

Second reading.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE (Minister of Education): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its purpose is to establish a statutory body to control public examinations. As honourable members are no doubt aware, public examinations are at present controlled by the Public Examinations Board of the University of Adelaide. With the progress of education in South Australia and, in particular, the establishment of the Flinders University, it has now become necessary to establish an autonomous public examinations board, guaranteeing adequate representation for all major interests in secondary education. There has been some modification in the membership of the board as compared with that of the Public Examinations Board of the University of Adelaide, a modification made necessary by the passage of some 30 years since the representation on that board was determined. During that time the public schools have assumed a much greater relative importance, and the proposed composition of the board to some extent reflects the changed character of South Australian education. Nevertheless, the Bill ensures adequate representation for the various interests in secondary education, and hence public examinations.

Undoubtedly, the most important task that the board is to perform, apart from the conduct of examinations, consists of the preparation of examination syllabuses. The board cannot itself devote its time to the specialized task of preparing these syllabuses and the Bill therefore provides for the appointment of subject committees for each subject, or group of related subjects, in which the board is to conduct examinations. These subject committees are to submit to the board syllabuses upon which, in their opinion, examinations should be based, and the board may decide either to approve the syllabuses or to vary them as it thinks fit. The Bill does not attempt to take away from the universities their right to control Matriculation, and consequently it contains a provision that any syllabus upon which a Matriculation examination is to be based must conform with the statutes and regulations of the universities. A chief examiner is to be appointed for each subject. It will be his function to prepare the examination papers and to assess the results of candidates. In the case of a subject upon which

Matriculation candidates are to be examined, the chief examiner is to be a member of the academic staff of one of the universities.

The board is a body corporate and is invested with general powers to hold property and to appoint and dismiss servants. There is, however, a provision that those persons who are at present engaged by the University of Adelaide solely for the purposes of the Public Examinations Board of the University of Adelaide are to become, upon the commencement of the Act, officers or servants of the board. The board may require the university to transfer property at present held by the university solely for the purposes of its Public Examination Board, to the board. Moreover, the university at present holds certain funds in trust for the purpose of establishing or endowing scholarships and prizes awarded on the results of public examinations, and the university is empowered to transfer these trust funds to the board. The board is further invested with powers to make rules governing the conduct of public examinations and other matters incidental thereto.

The provisions of the Bill are as follows: Clause 1 is merely formal. Clause 2 deals with interpretation. Clause 3 establishes and incorporates the board. Subclause (4) provides that the board is to comprise 32 members appointed by the Minister, of whom (a) 10 are to be members of the teaching or administrative staff of the Education Department, nominated by the Director-General of Education; (b) six are to be persons engaged as teachers in, or in the administration of, private schools in South Australia, two of whom are to be nominated by the Director of Catholic Education in South Australia, two by the Independent Schools Headmasters Association, and two by the Independent Schools Headmistresses Association; (c) two are to be members of the academic or administrative staff of the South Australian Institute of Technology, nominated by the council of that institute; (d) seven are to be members of the academic or administrative staff of the University of Adelaide nominated by the council of that university; and (e) seven are to be members of the academic or administrative staff of the Flinders University of South Australia nominated by the council of that university.

Clause 4 provides for the conditions upon which members are to hold office. Clause 5 provides for the appointment of a chairman and deputy chairman of the board. Clause 6 provides that 16 members shall constitute a

quorum of the board and provides for the manner in which the board is to conduct its business. Clause 7 provides that the Minister may determine allowances and expenses to be paid to the members of the board.

Clause 8 establishes the duties of the board. The board is obliged, first, to conduct annually such Matriculation and supplementary Matriculation examinations as may be prescribed by the statutes or regulations of the universities. Secondly, it is to conduct such examinations and supplementary examinations as may be approved by the Minister on the recommendation of the board. It is required to prepare and supply as soon as practicable to the respective councils of the universities, and of the South Australian Institute of Technology, lists of the candidates who presented themselves for any Matriculation examination conducted by the board, and the results obtained by them in that examination. The board is required to publish the results of candidates in all examinations conducted by it in such manner as it may determine. The board is required to consider the syllabuses prepared by subject committees and to approve them or vary them as the board thinks fit. Subclause (2) provides for the manner in which the results obtained by candidates in an examination are to be assessed and the manner in which those results are to be indicated in the lists published by the board.

Clause 9 provides for the appointment of subject committees by the board. In the case of a subject upon which candidates for a Matriculation examination are to be examined the chairman of the subject committee must be a member of the academic staff of one of the universities. The subject committee is to prepare and submit to the board for its approval the syllabus upon which the examinations are to be based, to report to the board upon examinations previously conducted by it in that subject, and to advise the board generally on matters in which the board may request advice, or to which the subject committee may think it expedient to direct the board's attention.

Clause 10 provides that a syllabus that is to be the basis of a Matriculation or supplementary Matriculation examination must conform with the statutes and regulations of the universities. Clause 11 provides for the appointment of a chief examiner in each subject. The board will appoint such examiners to assist him as the chief examiner and the board think necessary. The duty of the

chief examiner is to prepare the examination papers and the other kinds of examinations that he thinks necessary properly to examine candidates, and to assess the results of those examinations. Clause 12 empowers the board to make rules upon certain subjects pertinent to public examinations. Subclause (2) provides that section 38 of the Acts Interpretation Act, 1915-1957, shall not apply in relation to rules made by the board under this clause.

Clause 13 provides that the board may make recommendations to the respective councils of the universities in relation to the Matriculation of students, the nature and conduct of Matriculation examinations, and any matter or thing incidental thereto. Clause 14 provides that where there are not sufficient candidates for an examination in any subject to justify the appointment of a chief examiner in that subject, or there are not sufficient qualified persons in this State to act as examiners in that subject, the board may make such arrangements as it thinks expedient with authorities in other States for the examination of candidates for examination in that subject. Clause 15 provides for the publication of a Public Examinations manual, and sets out the information that it is to contain.

Clause 16 empowers the board to appoint and dismiss officers and servants. Subclause (2) provides that those persons who were previously employed by the University of Adelaide solely for the purposes of its Public Examinations Board shall, at the commencement of the Act, become employees of the board. Clause 17 provides for the transference of property, held by the University of Adelaide solely for the purposes of its Public Examinations Board, to the board. Subclause (2) provides that the university may transfer certain trust funds to the board.

Clause 18 provides that the board may conduct special examinations, not falling within the ordinary ambit of its activities, by agreement with the universities or other bodies that may require those examinations. Clause 19 deals with appropriation. Clause 20 requires the board to keep proper accounts of its financial transactions. Clause 21 empowers the Governor, either upon the recommendation of the board or in his own discretion, to make regulations for the purposes of the Act. In particular, the Governor is to prescribe the fees to be paid upon entry to public examinations. I commend the Bill to honourable members.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY secured the adjournment of the debate.

THE BUDGET

The Estimates—Grand total, \$295,284,000.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from September 18. Page 1246.)

THE LEGISLATURE

Legislative Council, \$41,494.

Mr. LAWN (Adelaide): Like honourable members on both sides of the House, I rise to speak to the Budget but not in support of it. The honourable member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney) could find nothing in the Budget with which he could be pleased. The "member for darkness" referred not to the Budget but to speeches and actions of the late Hon. Ben Chifley, a former Prime Minister of Australia, and concluded his address by saying that he supported the Budget, but with regret. I understood him to say during the course of his remarks that in regard to complementary legislation he might cross the floor to vote against the Government.

Mr. Langley: That will be the day.

Mr. LAWN: We will see. I doubt very much whether he would vote against the Government, but he made that statement and we will put him to the test when the time comes. Between 1965 and 1968 we on this side of the Chamber proudly said (and I remember repeating this only last session) that people were living better with Labor. Members opposite are very silent today, but during the last three years they howled us down and ridiculed us when we said that the people would live better with Labor.

All sorts of promises were made by the present Government at the election this year but, more significantly, it is not doing what it said it would do. Indeed, the then Premier (Hon. D. A. Dunstan) said that the policy speech of the little tin shed (the then Leader of the Opposition) was a brown paper parcel which, when opened after the election, would be full of nasty surprises.

Mr. Hughes: How true he was!

Mr. Clark: It is not completely opened yet.

Mr. LAWN: No, it is not, but I doubt whether even the Leader when he made that statement thought that this Government would go as far as it is going. Only last evening we saw the weakest member of the Cabinet get up following the former Minister of Education to reply to some of his remarks.

Mr. Rodda: You are being very unkind.

Mr. LAWN: No, I am being truthful. I will tell the Government Whip something.

When the member for Whyalla, the former Minister of Education, was listed to speak, the Government Whip had the member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Evans) listed to follow the member for Whyalla, and I was to follow the member for Onkaparinga; but, during the course of the remarks of the member for Whyalla, the Premier went and sat alongside the Minister of Education, and we can only assume what transpired: he said to her, "Now, listen! This statement is harmful and damaging to us. You had better follow the member for Whyalla."

The Hon. Joyce Steele: You are not assuming correctly.

Mr. Rodda: You are kidding yourself.

Mr. LAWN: The two Whips can tell me whether I am being factual, whether I am right or wrong. The Government Whip came across to the Opposition Whip, took out the name of the member for Onkaparinga and substituted that of the Minister of Education; and I was told I would be following the Minister of Education and not the member for Onkaparinga.

Mr. Rodda: That was merely a normal arrangement.

Mr. Clark: Perhaps it was a mistake.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. LAWN: When I was told I was to follow the Minister of Education, it was not a mistake they could have made. The Minister of Education, the weakest link in the chain in the Cabinet, could not possibly answer the former Minister of Education on the issue of education; he made a magnificent job of his speech last night.

Mr. Rodda: The Minister of Education did very nicely.

Mr. LAWN: I know that members opposite always like to howl me down, but there was not a murmur from them just now when I said the former Minister made a magnificent job of his speech on education last night. I drew the attention of my colleagues to it and I said, "Look! The Minister of Education is going to follow the member for Whyalla!" When she got up she was as red as a turkey cock. She said she could not answer the speech of the member for Whyalla: she would have to get a report. Then she made some comments, because she had been asked to by the Premier.

The Hon. Joyce Steele: I did nothing of the kind.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. LAWN: Would you mind if I took part in this discussion Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member must address the Chair. If he takes no notice of interjections he will get along better.

Mr. LAWN: Yes, but I do not think I should have to "holler" to drown out members opposite.

The CHAIRMAN: I ask the honourable member to address the Chair.

Mr. LAWN: I am addressing you, Mr. Chairman. I could not hear all the address of the Minister of Education last night, and the report is not available on the table. I have looked for copies of it.

The Hon. Joyce Steele: Please be clear about it.

Mr. LAWN: It appears from the Minister's reply that it has to be corrected. However, I read part of it this morning in the *Advertiser* and was struck with the matter referred to in Question Time by the member for Stuart (Mr. Riches)—that it is wrong to pay someone to go to work and to come home again.

Mr. Virgo: I do not think it is wrong to pay people to go to work.

Mr. LAWN: I think people should be paid to go to work, and I can give some good reasons for that. The member for Stuart asked a question about this earlier today, but the Minister has refused to answer the question why it is wrong to pay someone to go to work and to come home again, except to say it is not done in the other States. Let us be consistent. If we are to follow what is being done in the other States—and that is the inference—it means we shall never lead but always follow in anything. What is wrong with following in electoral matters and in other things too?

Mr. Corcoran: In this case it is taking away something that is already established.

Mr. LAWN: All the Minister could say was that it was not done in other States, but everyone 21 years of age and over gets a vote in the elections for the Commonwealth Senate and House of Representatives. This Government is copying Victoria in many respects. I do not know whether it will accept the suggestion of the member for Millicent about land tax, but it is accepting other taxation formulae of Sir Henry Bolte. Western Australia and Victoria, like the Commonwealth, grants equal adult franchise for both Houses of Parliament. If we

are to follow the other States, why is the Party opposite not prepared to grant our people a similar right to vote for the Legislative Council? The Minister of Education last night criticized previous Liberal Administrations. Sir Thomas Playford always held the view that he was not concerned about what the other States did—for instance, in the field of workmen's compensation covering people going to and coming from employment. That is something that was never introduced in South Australia when he was Premier. He did not act in that matter, although it was in operation in the Commonwealth and all the States except Tasmania and Western Australia. Members opposite are not being consistent when they say it is wrong because it does not happen somewhere else and it is right because it does happen in other States. Let us be consistent.

The Minister was pitiful last night—and I am being generous when I use the word "pitiful". Why did members opposite not tell the people before the last election what they proposed to do about these travel allowances? The last time the Liberal Party adjusted them was in 1955 and we had to wait 10 years until the advent of a Labor Government before these allowances were readjusted. One of the first things the former Minister of Education did in 1965 was to recommend to Cabinet that these allowances be increased, the figure being something between \$250,000 and \$500,000.

Mr. Clark: They should be increased now.

Mr. LAWN: Yes. In every other sphere of life, the Arbitration Court is increasing salaries, wages and allowances. Even the Parliamentary Salaries Tribunals in other States have increased the salaries of members.

Mr. McAnaney: You would not take a rise, would you?

Mr. LAWN: I would. I always like to accommodate the member for Stirling by replying to his interjections, if I can hear them. Such cutting of people's salaries, wages or allowances these days could come only from a Liberal Party Government. It is something it did not have the intestinal fortitude to tell the people it was going to do, before the last election. It did not tell the people it was going to increase hospital charges—but it criticized our Government when it did that. Oh, yes—it even discussed the motion, That the Speaker do now leave the Chair, which was moved by the Treasurer before I spoke—that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply. It exercised its right to make all

sorts of complaints against our Government, including hospital charges, but it did not say it would do this. When the present Leader of the Opposition was Premier he told the people that the Government would increase taxes and how they would be levied, but never during the last election campaign did the Liberal Party mention that it would increase taxes if it were voted into office. I commend the students for the action they have taken in protesting: it is the only way they can protest against the Government's actions in reducing allowances in days of prosperity, which it is claimed we have. This afternoon the member for Edwardstown asked the Premier a question regarding the building programme started by the Le Cornu Furniture Centre when the Labor Government was in office.

The Premier replied, by trying to be facetious, that the company has a policy of commencing building operations in a time of recession. What he did not say, but what he knew to be true, was that the company has a policy of opening in times of further depression. Industry, commerce and trade are at their lowest ebb in years. Only last weekend, I read a statement in the press by the Commonwealth Minister for Housing (Dame Annabelle Rankin), who stated in Adelaide and quoted figures to show that building in South Australia from December to February was low, but that since February it has been well on the up-grade. Her statement referred to building, other than house building. However, the figures she quoted were not in accordance with the Commonwealth Statistician's figures that were released this week.

In keeping with some members opposite, I cannot find anything good in the Budget. The Treasurer has said that following the Budget complementary legislation will be introduced to give effect to increased charges amounting to an increase of \$8 a head, yet this Government criticized the Labor Government for increasing taxation last year. When the Labor Government went out of office taxation was only about \$41 a head, whereas the present Government proposes to make it over \$49 a head, as a result of the new receipt duties. That is an increase of \$8 in only one year, and then there is a further promise of more to come.

Mr. Broomhill: There's a definite promise.

Mr. LAWN: Yes—not only the taxes that the Government has promised will directly flow from the Budget into other Bills, but also a salaries' tax and other taxes of a like nature. How much more increased taxation

will be inflicted on the people by this Government, which told the people only a few months ago that it would reduce taxation, give them a better life, and wipe out the deficit? When in Opposition this Government criticized the Walsh and Dunstan Governments for increasing taxes.

Mr. Broomhill: What about the other increases—haircuts, cool drinks, etc?

Mr. LAWN: We have seen several price increases that normally flow from a Liberal Government.

Mr. Hudson: We'll all have to grow long hair now!

Mr. LAWN: There is no doubt that the South Australian people lived better with Labor. Government members are full of apology for the Budget, which they are getting up and speaking to but not supporting.

Mr. Broomhill: What will happen at the next election?

Mr. LAWN: I would not be surprised if the next election is fought on the present electoral boundaries.

Mr. Rodda: Is that a threat?

Mr. Ryan: It's a promise.

Mr. LAWN: I have every reason to believe that when the commission's recommendations come back next year they will be voted out, but I shall have more to say on this subject later when I speak to the Bill. There are other things in the Budget I could complain about, but if I were to talk about all the things I dislike in it, of the actions of the Government that were not contained in the policy speech or the Budget, and the other matters I wished to complain about, I would be speaking for three or four weeks. The Premier told the House yesterday that the House will rise for one week in October and then sit until later in the year, provided that all the legislation complementary to the Budget is passed by the end of October. If I were to speak till the end of October members would be here until Christmas, and I would not mind that. We told the Playford Government, which used to like to rise in October, that we did not mind sitting during Christmas, if necessary. The Liberal Party was in Government for 30-odd years prior to Labor coming into office. Under the Frank Walsh Government Parliament sat for so long day and night that four *Hansard* volumes were filled compared with two volumes under the Playford Government. Although the House sat until a quarter to nine one day and a quarter to twelve another day, we could not catch up with all the bad laws of the Playford era.

I now refer to an incident that will astound Government members as much as it did me, because possibly they might not think it would be possible for this sort of thing to happen in this State. The incident concerns a land and estate agent, and the practice of buying and selling houses. Last year a constituent of mine told me a story about a property transaction. He had reported it to the Land Agents Board, and a police officer had called at his home for a statement. My constituent made a statement to the Police Department and to me. I shall read the statement, and then I will inform members of the contents of a letter that I have received from the Attorney-General. I am not blaming Mr. Millhouse: it probably was not brought to his notice previously. I did not expect the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. D. A. Dunstan) to become familiar with these things in the three years he was Attorney-General, and I do not blame the present Attorney-General. However, I am pointing out what can happen and what has happened, and I hope that the present Government (although I do not have much faith in it in some things) will do something in this regard. I shall read a copy of a letter that I sent to the then Attorney-General (Hon. D. A. Dunstan). It is dated November 17, 1967, and gives my constituent's name and address. The first paragraph refers to my constituent's calling on me and making a statement, which I forwarded to the Attorney-General in letter form. The letter continues:

His property is situated at 50 Wainhouse Street, Torrensvile, and in about August of this year he asked Mr. W. H. Hann, Land and Estate Agent of Henley Beach Road, Mile End, to sell this property for \$8,000. About six weeks later, he noticed on Military Road, Henley Beach, a block of land for sale by Mr. W. H. Hann. He interviewed Mr. Hann and found the price required was \$5,900, and considered that amount too high. The next evening he called on Mr. Hann again, and made a suggestion that he would purchase the block of land, providing he could dispose of the house at the same time, and suggested he would give Mr. Hann \$1,000 cash and his house, if he (Mr. Hann) would take over the mortgage already on this house, and transfer the block of land to my constituent. Mr. Hann agreed to this.

Mr. Hann said he would make out a contract there and then, and on the contract he put down \$6,000 for the block of land and \$5,000 as the value of the house. My constituent queried this, and Mr. Hann replied, "We will do it this way to save you money on duty stamps." My constituent said, "If you say it's all right, it's all right with me." At this stage my constituent thought that his house had been sold, that Mr. Hann would pay for

the mortgage remaining on the house, and that he had purchased instead a block of land. That evening Mr. Hann called to obtain my constituent's wife's signature, because it was in joint names.

About a week later Mr. Hann came around with settlement papers, the contract and transfer for my constituent to sign, showing \$1,000 cash to go to Mr. Hann, plus \$165.00 transfer fee. That same night my constituent asked Mr. Hann, "Is that all I owe you?" He said, "Yes." My constituent said, "Don't I have to pay you any commission?" Mr. Hann said, "No, it is included in the price." My constituent signed the papers, and Mr. Hann went away.

A couple of weeks later my constituent received a letter from Mr. L. J. Weston, accountant in the city, telling him that he had made a mistake, and they wanted him to pay \$4,295 in addition to what he had already paid. My constituent said he understood that as soon as he paid this money, the block would be registered in his name. The following day he went back and saw Mr. Hann, and asked him what this was all about. He told him he could not expect to buy a block so cheap. My constituent said to him, "If I had known I had to pay all this, I would not have gone through with it, because I could not afford it."

Having a house and land in a valuable area of Torrensvile, he told Mr. Hann that if Mr. Hann took over the mortgage he would give Mr. Hann \$1,000, and he would then possess a block of land. He had been asking \$8,000 for his house, but finished up owing \$4,295 to a land agent.

Mr. Clark: And had no house.

Mr. LAWN: That is so. The letter continues:

But Mr. Hann would not do anything. My constituent then saw his solicitor, Helen Devaney and Co., 90 King William Street, and took his contract and all papers. She has not yet done anything about this: she has had about six to seven weeks. My constituent asked Miss Devaney whether, whilst she was working on it, it would be a good idea to go up to the Land Agents Board and tell them about it. She said, "Yes." He went to the Land Agents Board, and they said they would write a letter to the head of the Land Agents Board for the next board meeting, which is every Friday night. They said my constituent could not get an answer under a couple of weeks, because the board met only every Friday, but they would write and tell him what they could do. This was only a couple of weeks ago. My constituent has had a letter from the board advising they had received his report, and they would go ahead and investigate it.

My constituent then saw Mr. C. R. Cameron, M.H.R., on Tuesday evening, November 14. He rang Mr. Hann and Mr. Hann told Mr. Cameron that my constituent did not owe any money. On Wednesday Mr. Hann came into Mr. Cameron's office in the city and advised Mr. Cameron that he did owe \$4,295. On

Wednesday morning, November 15, a policeman called at my constituent's place, presumably investigating on behalf of the Land Board, but he said he had no time then to make a statement, and had been asked to call later at the police station.

He did this and took along a statement similar to the one I am reading. The letter continues:

On Wednesday of this week, Mr. Cameron advised my constituent to see Mr. S. J. Lawn, M.P., and Mr. Joe Mittag made an appointment for Thursday, November 16, at 3 o'clock, and brought my constituent in to Parliament House, where this statement was made. It would be appreciated if you could have this matter thoroughly investigated, to see if this contract which my constituent has made can be fulfilled in the terms as he understood it in the first place.

Mr. Ryan: What's the date of that?

Mr. LAWN: November 17, 1967. It was sent to the Hon. D. A. Dunstan, who was then the Attorney-General. The police have made inquiries, and their report has been forwarded to the Crown Solicitor's Department. I followed up the matter by writing a letter to the present Attorney-General, from whose Secretary I received the following reply:

I am directed by the honourable the Attorney-General to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo and to inform you that the completion of this case has been delayed owing to the exhaustive inquiries carried out by the Land Agents Board, the police, and the Crown Solicitor. If eventually it is decided—

apparently the Crown Solicitor's Department has not yet made up its mind—

that sufficient grounds exist to hold an inquiry under section 78a of the Land Agents Act, this would enable the Land Agents Board to take any disciplinary action considered necessary against the agent but it would not obtain for the constituent the civil redress to which he feels he is entitled. When the constituent appeared before the Land Agents Board early this year, the Chairman advised him to obtain legal advice concerning his civil rights, as the board could not do anything about getting his money back or changing the transaction.

Mr. Ryan: Why?

Mr. LAWN: I should like to know. The board is apparently able to discipline an agent but not able to do anything about an illegal contract drawn up by that agent. What is the good of a board of this description? My constituent has to get a solicitor to take the action to court in order to try to get back his own house. There is no doubt that some justification must exist for these charges, otherwise the police would have become disinterested long ago. However, the matter is now being held up because of an investigation being conducted by the Crown Solicitor's Department.

I wish now to make a request of the present Government regarding a certain controversy: I am perturbed at the present dispute between the South Australian National Football League and the South Australian Cricket Association on the future use of the Adelaide Oval. I, like thousands of others, am interested in sport and go to the Adelaide Oval to watch football and cricket. I will not take sides on the matter, because I am not in possession of all the facts concerning the dispute. However, as a result of statements that have been made in the press, I know that the South Australian National Football League may build its own football oval some miles north of Adelaide. A statement to this effect has been attributed to the league's President (Mr. Brebner).

I see no reason why football supporters living in the metropolitan area should have to go to a site north of Adelaide to watch football, particularly when the Adelaide Oval is public property. Parliament has vested the control of the oval in the Adelaide City Council which, in turn, has let the oval under an agreement to the S.A.C.A. Not wishing to debate the matter further, I merely ask the Government to use its good offices either with the City Council or with the parties concerned (the S.A.N.F.L. and the S.A.C.A.) so that agreement may be reached, and so that football patrons may continue to watch the sport at the Adelaide Oval instead of having to travel north of Adelaide.

I refer now to an administrative action taken by the Government which was not announced prior to the election. It concerns the Minister of Works and the decision to poison Adelaide's water supply. Fluoridation was not announced as part of the Government's policy, and it is greatly disturbing to know that we shall have our water supply treated in this way. Although I am not an authority on fluoridation, I have examined many references on the matter since the Government's announced intention and particularly since it has become evident that the Government will not make an opportunity available to members to debate the matter. No legislation is necessary, and the Government does not intend to provide an opportunity for debating the matter, although, of course, members may refer to it during this Budget debate.

If I wish to know something about health matters, I go not to a dentist but to a member of the medical profession, and my remarks concerning fluoridation are based on information I have obtained from the latter. I do

not think it can be claimed that I am being unfair when I rely on a medical officer's opinion in order to oppose fluoridating our water supply. Part of an American publication headed "Why Some Stopped Fluoridation" (bearing the stamp of the Parliamentary Library as late as September 16, 1968—last Monday) states:

Syracuse, N.Y., Bureau of Municipal Research looks into the background and reasoning that caused a few cities to cancel their fluoridation programmes.—Across the nation, roughly 1,100 municipalities now add fluorides to their public drinking water to help keep the teeth of their young people from being pock-marked with decay. However, also across the nation, reports have trickled back that 42 cities tried the fluorides for a while and then stopped.

We are told that some American cities have stopped using fluoride, and I will give plenty of reasons, as I proceed, why we should not use it. I now wish to quote from an article in the journal of the American Waterworks Association which is headed "Defluoridation of Drinking Water in Southern California". It was received by the Parliamentary Library on September 16. The journal states the following about this article:

A contribution to the journal by Judson A. Harmon, Consulting Engineer, Engineering-Science, Incorporated, Arcadia, California, and Samuel G. Kalichman, District Engineer, Bureau of Sanitary Engineering, Division of Environmental Sanitation, State Department of Public Health, San Bernardino, California.

The article is as follows:

Disfigurement and discolouration of the teeth of children less than 10 years of age can result from their drinking of water high in dissolved fluorides. This condition is technically referred to as objectionable dental fluorosis. The board declared in the statement and resolution adopted August 22, 1958, and since amended, that it had been demonstrated that with proper amounts of fluoride the occurrence of dental decay will be materially reduced, but that excessive amounts of the fluoride ion may result in objectionable dental fluorosis and are detrimental to health.

The number of defluoridation plants in Southern California has increased in the past several years. Table 3 contains descriptive data about operative and planned defluoridation works in Southern California.

Arrangements in making available a low-fluoride water vary considerably. At Fort Irwin the defluoridated water is served through a separate piping system to 340 homes on the base. In addition, the defluoridated water is available at a number of outside taps for those residents of 90 trailers on the base who wish to use it; it is also available at one drinking fountain at the school.

It is most difficult to take out completely the fluoride once it has been added to the water.

To defluoridate water completely, one would have to use different taps so that one could use pure water instead of poisoned water. I will now quote from a book entitled "Are we Safe?" by Dr. John Polya, of Tasmania. The authorities I am quoting go into this matter in detail, but I am not reading their views in full. I am reading only extracts, but they will be sufficient to show that these authorities are opposed to fluoridating our water supply. Dr. Polya is well qualified: his academic qualifications are D.Sc., F.R.I.C. and F.R.A.C.I. He says:

Fluoridation is the treatment of communal water supplies so as to increase the concentration of soluble fluoride to a certain level, e.g. 1 part in 1,000,000 parts of water (abbreviated to 1 p.p.m.). Fluorine is a pale-green gas, difficult to handle and extremely dangerous: exposure to it is thought to have shortened the life of its brilliant discoverer, Henri Moissan. Fluorine reacts violently with water: nobody in his right senses could advocate its use for fluoridation. Fluorides are compounds of fluorine, and are relatively easy to handle. Hydrofluoric acid is a fluoride that corrodes glass and some metals. Its use for fluoridation is not practical because of the expense, difficulties of transport and appreciable health hazards, but it is present in very low concentrations when water is fluoridated by safer means, and is partly responsible for the high rate of corrosion in municipal pipelines that carry fluoridated water. Copper or nickel piping could overcome this difficulty as a matter of engineering technique, but the cost of such pipes could be afforded by oil sheiks only, not to mention health hazards accompanying their use.

I do not know whether the Minister is really conversant with the eventual cost. The article continues:

The grocer can replace rancid bacon, the tailor can cut a new pair of trousers if he spoils the first pair, but it is impossible to compensate a medically or dentally harmed person for loss of health and limbs or for the birth of defective children. The offer of free hospital services to those who can prove ill-health from compulsory mass-medication is a little more honest but still unsatisfactory.

There is less to be seen of scientists than of enthusiasts; Sir Arthur Amies, one of the leading Australian dentists, has a word of wisdom to say of them: "The passion to regulate the lives of others is deep seated in many individuals. When this is based on political expedience it is bad, and when it is inspired by an idealism which wishes to inflict benefits on others, it can become dangerous." We are being overrun by suburban do-gooders, their prehistoric logic, classical contempt for experiment, mediaeval miracle-mongering and modern totalitarian hatred of individuality.

Yesterday evening the member for Hindmarsh (Hon. C. D. Hutchens) referred to the Select Committee of this House that was appointed in

1964 to consider this matter. It was only when listening to the honourable member last night that I learned that the committee's decision was arrived at on the casting vote of the Chairman, the present Attorney-General. Before hearing the member for Hindmarsh last night I had not read the report, and I still have not read it in full. The Select Committee consisted of three members of the present Government Party, two members of the present Opposition Party, and the present Attorney-General was the Chairman. The two members of the present Opposition were not voting against the members of the present Government: one of the Government members was voting with the Hon. Mr. Hutchens and on other occasions the present Leader of the Opposition was voting with the other member, but it was only on the Chairman's consistent casting vote that the committee brought in a report favouring fluoridation. The member for Hindmarsh referred to the number of witnesses called from inside and outside the State, and I believe he said that only two South Australian witnesses supported fluoridation and all the other witnesses opposed it. Therefore, how the committee could conclude that fluoridation was good for us (other than in the way referred to by Doctor Polya in relation to do-gooders) is past comprehension. Looking through the report of the Select Committee, I notice that Sir Stanton Hicks, who during the Second World War was appointed a dietitian to serve the people in the armed forces and at home, gave evidence. He could not be alleged to be politically involved. At page 46 of the report, he says:

We do not know what the cause of caries is. Caries is not a disease due to the deficiency of fluoride. When that is proved, I am prepared to eat my hat. Take chlorine, which again is in the same chemical family as iodine and fluorine.

I have other authorities to support Sir Stanton Hicks's contention that fluoride does not cure dental caries, but that, on the contrary, it causes mottled teeth. The report continues:

Furthermore, it is impossible to ensure that all children will drink the same quantity of water to ensure the correct doses. The talk of "one part per million" conveys a completely spurious idea of accuracy.

Mr. Broomhill: Do they drink more in summer?

Mr. LAWN: People would drink more in summer than they drink in winter. A blacksmith would drink more than I drink both in summer and winter.

Mr. Clark: Water?

Mr. LAWN: I do not drink water.

The Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe: Do you put ice in it?

Mr. LAWN: I do not drink water except as ice. I drink water in other drinks. I suppose there is some water in Berri orange juice. There would be water in soft drinks, and I drink water with whisky (in fact, I suppose there is a little bit of water in whisky itself).

Mr. Clark: You drink tea.

Mr. LAWN: Yes, I drink tea and coffee, but I do not drink water from a tap. When I worked in a blacksmith's shop I consumed much water as I did when I carried timber on my back at General Motors-Holden's at Woodville. When I worked there and the temperature was over 100 degrees in the shade I used to rush to the water-bag. However, the statement that only one part per million of fluoride is placed in water, as Sir Stanton Hicks says, conveys a completely spurious idea of accuracy. I am inclined to agree with him. At pages 47 and 48, Sir Stanton states:

My next point is that it is irrational. Less than 1 per cent of the fluoridated water is taken as a beverage, and only 20 per cent of the population that drink it get any benefit from it. This is fantastic. These figures were supplied to me by Mr. Dridan. You will have them in the letter that I propose to leave with you. When I say "Less than 1 per cent", it must be very much smaller because he estimated that 1 per cent as water used for domestic purposes. It only works for this 20 per cent up to the age of 11.

That is fantastic. Incidentally, Mr. Dridan was the Director and Engineer-in-Chief of the Engineering and Water Supply Department. The fact that the 1 per cent of water referred to includes "domestic purposes" is remarkable, because "domestic purposes" would include showers, washing clothes, watering gardens, and so on. That is why Sir Stanton Hicks maintains that less than 1 per cent is drunk.

Mr. Clark: Many people do not drink water at all.

Mr. LAWN: I do not know about that, although I have heard people say they drink only rain water. It would be more sensible for the Government to install a filtering plant to clean the water. Over the last two or three weeks, when I have made tea in the morning I have had to use rain water because I have had to run our taps for quarter an hour or more to get the filthy water out. On occasions, in Parliament House the water has come out muddy from the taps. Many people have told me that any time during the day one can fill

a glass of water from the tap and, if one allows it to stand for a day or two, one can see the dirt in the bottom of the glass. Sir Stanton Hicks continues:

Finally, it is undemocratic, because the people are intentionally confused as to the true nature of the case. They are led to believe that their children will be free from caries. On the other hand, they must not be consulted. What a curious contradiction!

The people here were not consulted even to the extent of the proposal to fluoridate the water supply being included in the Government's policy speech at the election. Sir Stanton continues:

The whole of the dental profession was told this by a United States Department of Health dental authority in this town. I sat with Sir Arthur Amies and listened to him address a dental congress here in this city. He said that in no circumstances were they (his audience) to permit this to become a matter for public discussion, let alone a referendum; they should do their best to get their actions carried through by municipal authorities and by government. This was a representative of a so-called democratic country here paid by a department of his government, telling Australian citizens what they must do to avoid the processes of democracy. It was a preposterous situation. Then he added, "If they did allow them to do that, that would become a matter for public discussion and then, of course, it would be thrown out because of the influence of cranks."

I suppose I am a crank, according to this dental authority from America to whom Sir Stanton has referred. Sir Stanton continues:

As an arch-crank sitting listening to him, I thought that in a world where we are struggling hard to maintain individual freedom—and I have fought in two world wars for this particular point I am making—surely the individual is entitled to his opinion and to freedom to express it. I felt that this was making it a bit thick, that someone paid by another Government should come here and tell us the way we should act in order to avoid the ordinary process of democracy.

Mr. Clark: The American Government has followed this advice.

Mr. LAWN: Yes. Our Government is following the advice of the Government dental authority, despite the protestations of Sir Stanton Hicks. On page 48 of the report, Sir Stanton was asked, "Why is it bad?", and he replied as follows:

Because it is going to lessen the alert attitude as to what is actually the cause of dental caries. Supposing dentists who claim that dental caries is due to excessive use of sugar somehow work out a campaign to get municipalities or governments to control the supply of sugar. I think this is an impossible suggestion and would not ever come off. However, the suggestion to add fluoride to the

water has, and this completely baffles me. There is no reason that we should not give tablets.

The evidence of Sir Stanton Hicks continues:

The evidence we have is that it is difficult to get parents to administer the tablets regularly and after a certain time the number administering them drops considerably?—I do not suggest parents should administer the tablets. They should be administered in the school by teachers under the control of medical or dental advice.

Mr. McAnaney: What do you do in the holidays?

Mr. LAWN: That is about what one would expect from the honourable member. The report continues:

How could it be done for pre-school children?—The same principle could be used in kindergartens. Parents would come in only in that they could say whether their children should or should not take the tablets and the dental services would be responsible for regular examination of teeth to see that there was no suggestion of fluorosis occurring.

I have already referred to other medical authorities regarding fluorosis. The evidence continues:

And for children below kindergarten age?—I would not be concerned with children of that age and I do not think that is frightfully significant.

You also mentioned that in your opinion the only beneficiaries of fluoridation are the suppliers of fluoride. You mentioned that they are a very tight cartel. Could you give the names of the suppliers?—No, I have not interested myself in that matter. One knows that fluoride is a by-product of the aluminium industry. Enough fluoride is being put in the water for the whole population but only 20 per cent will benefit from it. When it is considered how much water will be used for industrial and other purposes we get down to 1 per cent or less of the water that will be actually effective. This is not commonsense.

Do you know the cost of fluoridation of water?—No, but I have seen it referred to.

Mr. Dunstan: You say that the beneficial effects of fluoride in drinking water would only be for children up to the age of 11?—That is right.

That is clear evidence that Sir Stanton Hicks is opposed to fluoridation. In another part of his testimony, he said that he gave tablets to his own children and that, if he thought the occasion warranted, he could withdraw the tablets: they could be controlled. Someone else (I am fairly certain it was Sir Stanton) said that it would be cheaper to distribute the tablets to children in this manner than to fluoridate the whole of our water supply. Of course, if this Government continues to raise taxation as it is doing at present,

it will have plenty of money to pay for the fluoridation of the water instead of adopting the cheaper means of issuing tablets. I now refer to a report by Dr. F. B. Exner, M.D., and Dr. C. L. Waldblott, M.D., entitled *The American Fluoridation Experiment*. This report is in the Parliamentary Library, and Dr. Waldblott has also written a book regarding fluoridation. On page 3 of their report, these doctors state:

No-one has made a claim that the ingestion of fluoride can be of benefit to the teeth beyond the formative years of childhood. Because of this, and for reasons of safety and economy, this department has proposed that the city distribute fluoride tablets through health stations, free of charge, for parents to administer to children. The cost to the city, ascertained at less than 25c for 1,000 days for each child, would be less than one-fifth of the cost of a fluoridated water programme. Tablets (a pharmaceutical grade in contrast with the commercial by-product used in water fluoridation) would provide an exact procedure, under control, to be taken only by those during the formative period of their teeth.

On page 6 of the report, the doctors state:

If the public health service is genuinely interested in reducing the incidence of tooth decay, not only among children but in the total population, there exists a safe and effective alternative to water fluoridation. It is an educational programme designed to reduce the consumption, especially by children, of sugar and sugar-containing foods and beverages.

This is stated by the doctors on page 7:

The fluoridation thesis which Dr. Arnold was then upholding has remained unchanged so far as the Public Health Service is concerned. Today, as in 1946, it is "easy and simple", as Dr. Arnold then stated, to get one part a million of added fluorine into a child's diet by the use of standard fluorine tablets administered by the parents. Similar programmes, such as the voluntary administration of vitamin A to young children, have prevented rickets in the United States and elsewhere.

One sees that members of the medical profession in the various parts of the world to which I have referred are not only opposed to fluoridation of water but are consistent in their statements that fluoridation will cause fluorosis and is beneficial to children only up to 11 years

of age. They say that the same effect could be had on these children by giving them tablets, which would be cheaper than the fluoridation of water supplies. Dr. Waldblott has written a book entitled *A Struggle with the Forces Behind Fluoridation*. At the commencement of his book he describes how, when he came home one evening, his wife said that she had heard something on the air about fluoridation of water supply. The doctor expressed his astonishment and indignation at what he had heard about the suggestion to fluoridate water, to give fluoride to people. I shall not go into the book at length, but at page 30 the doctor states:

Certain adults have an abnormally high water intake due to occupation, disease and dietary peculiarities. The fluoride intake of this group might become dangerously high. Dr. Molner expressed some concern about whether or not an even flow of fluoride could be maintained throughout Detroit's water system. Indeed evidence published subsequently in the journal of the American Waterworks Association in October, 1957, pages 1268-70, and the *American Journal of Public Health*, December, 1958, testifies to the validity of his doubts.

Many years later, on June 11, 1962, Mr. Gerald J. Remus, Detroit's Water Board Manager, who had made an unusually thorough study on this question, wrote as follows to the Detroit Common Council: "Doubt exists as to whether uniform fluoride concentration could be maintained throughout the more than 6,000 miles of distribution mains in the Detroit system. Data reported in the American Water Works Association Journal reflects this un-uniformity . . . we checked 482 samples of water taken from eight Michigan cities that fluoridate their supply and we found considerable variation in concentrations."

I have also a document that states:

The London Anti-Fluoridation Campaign has always opposed the artificial fluoridation of public water supplies on the ground that it is a violation of human rights.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.28 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, September 24, at 2 p.m.