

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, October 3, 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:

Advances for Homes Act Amendment,
Advances to Settlers Act Amendment,
Homes Act Amendment.

QUESTIONS

ROADS PROGRAMME

Mr. VIRGO: This morning's *Advertiser*, which we read in the early hours of this morning, reports that the Minister of Roads and Transport has announced a roads improvement programme, costing \$125,000,000, for the next five years. Included in the report is a list of the roads in the programme. Will the Attorney-General obtain from his colleague a breakdown of the roads in the programme under the headings of main and trunk roads and rural roads other than main and trunk roads as determined by the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will ask the Minister whether he can supply that part of the information for which the honourable member asks and which is not already publicly known.

Mr. VIRGO: I refer to the statement in this morning's newspaper about the rural roads programme, particularly this section:

The proposed expenditure represented 62 per cent of the total funds available to the Highways Department over the five years. The rest of the money would go to metropolitan works and other commitments.

As the balance of 38 per cent is much less than the amount expected to be available in the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study Report, will the Premier say whether this indicates that the Government does not intend to proceed with the M.A.T.S. plan for at least five years?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I take the question to be whether the Government will proceed with the M.A.T.S. plan.

Mr. Virgo: No.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am not able to answer hypothetical questions.

Mr. Corcoran: It's not hypothetical.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Is a direct answer required to the question whether the M.A.T.S. plan work will be started in five years?

Mr. Virgo: Within five years.

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

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: I noticed in a Sydney newspaper of this morning that the New South Wales Cabinet would urgently seek Commonwealth approval to borrow an additional \$5,000,000 in 1968-69 to build more schools and classrooms. In this State, too, there is an urgent need for additional schools and classrooms to be provided. However, the matter does not rest there, because many extremely old schools should be replaced. The Minister of Education has inspected the Nuriootpa Primary School, some of the buildings at which are 90 years old. This and other schools of ancient vintage should be replaced at a very early date. Therefore, will the Premier take action similar to the action that has been taken by the State Cabinet in New South Wales, seeking an extra Commonwealth loan to enable extra schools to be provided and very old schools of the type to which I have referred to be replaced?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The disbursement of Loan raisings, supported by the Commonwealth, throughout the Australian States for the State works programmes was agreed upon at the Loan Council meeting in June last. This is a formal procedure, every State being fully represented and the representatives making ardent and urgent representations about the needs of the particular State. I have not read the report referred to, and I do not know the details of Mr. Askin's move in this field. Possibly I will find out more about this tomorrow at the conference of State Premiers in Sydney, if this matter is raised then. The question involves the whole matter of Loan allocation, and I should want to consider fully all aspects of the reopening of these allocations at this stage. Certainly, whatever action is taken, South Australia's interests will be fully safeguarded in relation to any other application.

RURAL ADVANCES

Mr. CORCORAN: According to the annual report of the Lands Department, the number of applications made under the Rural Advances Guarantee Act declined substantially

last year compared with previous years. I think about 28 applications were received, 15 of which were approved. Doubtless, this decline was due mainly to seasonal conditions. However, the Treasurer will recall that the State Bank, as a matter of policy, decided about two or three years ago that the upper limit for loans under the Act would be fixed at, I think, about \$30,000, although there had been no limit when the scheme was introduced. I recall criticism of this limitation, because people might require more than \$30,000 (indeed this amount could be less than 85 per cent of the capital value on a Land Board valuation basis) in many cases. Will the Treasurer say whether he has reviewed this matter and, if he has, whether the upper limit of loans is to remain at \$30,000? If he has not done so, will he consider whether the loans can be increased in order to encourage the number of applicants under what I consider to be a very good scheme?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: This matter has not been submitted to me until now, and I thank the honourable member for raising it, because important points flow from it. The honourable member referred to the State Bank. The Rural Advances Guarantee Act is not restricted to any institution, as I am sure the honourable member knows. The applicant has an obligation to find an institution willing to make the loan.

Mr. Corcoran: But it is commonly known that the State Bank and Savings Bank are the only banks that will do this.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes, and that is a matter for some regret.

Mr. Corcoran: I agree.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: This is a perfectly good Act that completely safeguards the lending institution in every way, as the loan is fully guaranteed. I regret that we have not had more applications from people sponsored by lending authorities over a much wider range. However, that seems to be the position. Perhaps, if some publicity is given to my reply, useful information will be available to applicants who may now be customers of other banks or institutions and who may seek to make their requests to other lending institutions for support. I may have heard of a limit of \$30,000, but I am not consciously aware of it or when it was imposed. In common with many other lending institutions, the State Bank, in its desire to assist as

many clients as possible, has possibly set its own limit on individual loans. I know that some life insurance offices and the Savings Bank do it and, no doubt, other banks do it. The motive behind this practice is that each institution allocates in a general way what proportion of its total funds it is prepared to make available for this sort of business. I will consider this matter but, unfortunately (and I think that is the right word), the price of land is going up and up and the cost of establishing worthy people—and this Act is intended to assist them—is growing all the time. Now that this matter has been raised, I will be glad to consider the implications of the question. Young men who are capable, competent and of good repute and who are unable from their own resources to finance themselves into farming activities should receive all the assistance we can give them.

SUPERPHOSPHATE

Mr. EDWARDS: Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport to ascertain from the South Australian Railways Department whether bulk superphosphate unloading facilities can be provided at staffed sidings such as Lock, Warrambo, Yeelanna and Wudinna?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will discuss it with the Minister.

WINNING BETS TAX

Mr. BROOMHILL: Has the Treasurer a reply to the question I asked earlier this week about the tax on bookmakers' turnover and stamp duties on betting tickets levied in the Eastern States?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The general rate of tax on bookmakers' turnover is 2 per cent in New South Wales and Victoria, and 1½ per cent in Queensland. In South Australia it is at present 1½ per cent. The stamp duty on betting tickets in each of the three States is 2c in the enclosures and 1c elsewhere, compared with .4c in South Australia.

DAYLIGHT SAVING

Mr. LAWN: I wish to quote from part of a letter I have received, as follows:

Having regard to the widespread newspaper reports that the South Australian Parliament would in the near future consider the suggestion that South Australian time would change to Eastern Standard Time as a permanent arrangement, this company—

which, by the way, is a world-wide organization with a branch operating in South Australia—wishes to register its strong opposition to such introduction. With South Australian time already ahead of natural time, the deviation from the daylight period provided by the sun would be greater if Eastern Standard Time were uniformly adopted. I am sure you will readily appreciate that there would be many practical difficulties facing picture exhibitors; for example, in the summer months, all programmes particularly in drive-in theatres are determined by the onset of darkness.

The letter states also that since the introduction of daylight saving in Tasmania there has been a drop of 50 per cent in drive-in theatre attendances and a 30 per cent drop in hard-top theatre attendances. Can the Premier say whether the Government intends to introduce legislation on this matter?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: No firm decision has yet been taken on the matter. I am having a report compiled for me so that I can assess the various problems associated with a change of this nature. The honourable member has raised possibly one of the greatest difficulties commercially, I think, of altering our time set-up. He has referred to drive-in theatres, the patronage of which is governed largely by the time at which a programme may commence. I think the honourable member has probably chosen the prime example. However, I will assess the matter and take it to Cabinet, which will then consider it.

KYBYBOLITE EXCHANGE

Mr. RODDA: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked last week about the Kybybolite automatic telephone exchange?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I have received the following information from the Director, Posts and Telegraphs, in South Australia (Mr. J. R. O'Sullivan):

The new exchange to be installed at Kybybolite will be brought into service during December, 1968, and, as is our practice in such cases, the new automatic numbers have been shown in the 1968 telephone directory issued in August last. However, when the new directory was distributed in the Naracoorte area, the interim arrangements concerning calls to Kybybolite and Binnun were made known to all subscribers concerned by means of special letters and newspaper advertisements. In essence, these requested subscribers to continue to use the 1967 directory for calls to the two exchanges in question. Arrangements have been made for a further advertisement to be inserted in the Thursday, October 3, edition of the *Naracoorte Herald* again reminding telephone users in the district of the dialling

codes to be used until the new automatic exchange is installed. If necessary, the notices will be repeated from time to time in subsequent editions of the local newspaper.

BRIGHTON BOYS TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the development of the oval area at the Brighton Boys Technical High School, a matter that has been hanging fire for a considerable time?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I am happy to inform the honourable member that it is intended to call tenders for the grassing and reticulation of the oval area at the Brighton Boys Technical High School within two weeks. A contract will be let, and the work will be undertaken as soon as possible.

NORTON SUMMIT SCHOOL

Mr. GILES: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question of September 26 regarding an extension to the playing area at the Norton Summit Primary School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: As the honourable member has said, the Norton Summit Primary School occupies a very restricted site. The provision of additional playing area has been considered by the Education Department for some time, as has the possibility of establishing a school on an entirely new site. The difficulty of finding such a site makes replacement almost impossible. Following a visit to the school in April this year by a departmental officer, a proposal was made for closing part of the road on the school boundary. Following this, an engineer from the Public Buildings Department also visited the school. Two plans have now been prepared, but both require that the road between the two sections of the school must be closed. Both plans also require the diversion of Electricity Trust and Postmaster-General services. Because of the difficulty involved, a departmental officer will again visit the school in the near future to discuss the plans with the head teacher and members of the school committee.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question of September 26 about teacher qualifications and classifications?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Education Department circular No. 60 states that the following conditions are to be observed in the introduction of the new system of classification:

(1) The scheme of classification, certification and promotion set out in this circular will come into operation on January 1, 1969.

(2) All existing requirements for classification, certification and promotion will remain in force concurrently with the new requirements until January 1, 1969. Until that date, all teachers in the employ of the Education Department will be classified, awarded certificates and be eligible for promotion in accordance with the scheme that gives them the higher status.

(3) The status of teachers in the employ of the Education Department on December 31, 1968, will be preserved, and on January 1, 1969, each such teacher will be credited with the number of classification units under the new scheme that he actually holds.

Thus, it is obvious that no teacher will receive a lower salary as a result of the recent award, and also that all teachers who are now classed as Assistant B (Sec.) will remain on the Assistant B (Sec.) scale under the new award. Consequently, it will be only newly appointed Secondary Assistants with fewer than the four classification units required for Assistant B (Sec.) who will be classed Assistant C (Sec.).

FLUORIDATION

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question of September 18 about communities or countries that have rejected the fluoridation of their water supplies or that have commenced such a scheme and later discontinued it?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: When the question was asked, I said that I would obtain this information for the honourable member but that there might be some difficulty in obtaining all the details. The following details have been obtained. Substantiated evidence concerning communities that have discontinued the practice of fluoridation indicates that this has occurred only in the United States of America. It has not occurred in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or Canada, and there has been no report in any English-language journal that it has occurred in any of the other 21 countries where fluoridation has been implemented. This is not to deny that an odd community of the many on the continents of Europe, Asia and South America that have introduced fluoridation may have since discontinued the practice, but none has been reported in the usual news media or scientific journals. The United States Public Health Service has published the following census data on fluoridation in that country:

(1) Communities instituting fluoridation between 1945 and 1966, 3,252.

(2) Communities discontinuing fluoridation between 1945 and 1966, 208.

(3) Communities re-instituting fluoridation between 1945 and 1966, 54.

(4) Net number of communities fluoridating at January, 1967, 3,098.

There are three reasons why communities have discontinued fluoridation:

(1) Court injunctions have been taken out against State water boards and State boards of health that have implemented fluoridation on the basis of administrative regulations without legislation. Although a local water board may be deemed to possess administrative expertise in providing wholesome water to the community, and to be appropriately supervised by a State department of health, it appears that in most American jurisdictions the decision to fluoridate is regarded as a political one, and to be determined by legislation. Several actions of this type have occurred, but following the necessary legislation fluoridation has been re-instituted.

(2) Following a change of Legislature the regulations have been rescinded.

(3) Also, following a change of Legislature the question of fluoridation has been thrown open to referenda, a number of which have resulted in the discontinuance of fluoridation, although many referenda have been won, including six in the State of Massachusetts, where a referendum is mandatory.

There has been no instance of the discontinuance of the practice of fluoridation on the grounds that it is ineffective or unsafe. Furthermore, the United States Supreme Court has refused to recognize that questions of religious freedom, illegal practice of "mass medication", or *ultra vires* police action are involved in fluoridation cases, and will not admit petitions on these grounds.

Mr. WARDLE: Can the Minister of Works say whether an ordinary domestic water softener dilutes fluoridated water?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I understand that the ordinary domestic water softener does not affect the quality of fluoride in the water. The main purpose of such a water softener is to soften water, by removing certain salts, to enable us to enjoy softer water than this State is normally blessed with. However, I am advised that domestic water softeners do not affect the efficacy of fluoridation.

Mr. HUDSON: In his reply to the member for Barossa, the Minister said that in cities in the United States of America court injunctions had been taken out to prevent fluoridation being brought about administratively. As the

U.S.A. is one of the common law countries, I think that the possibility of such action being taken here as the result of an administrative decision to provide fluoride should be investigated. Will the Minister of Works examine this matter to see whether there is any possibility of a legal challenge being made by those opposed to fluoride should fluoridation be introduced merely by administrative action? If there is such a possibility, will he consider introducing amending legislation, as this would enable all members of Parliament to make up their minds on the matter and to give the seal of Parliamentary approval to the Government's proposals?

The Hon. J. W. H. COURCE: I welcome the honourable member's question. He would realize that the legislative processes in this State are somewhat different from those in the U.S.A., although certain common law practices are the same. I refer the honourable member to the Lower Hutt case in New Zealand, a copy of the report of which is available in the Parliamentary Library. This is one of the cases in which the matter has been fully discussed. In reply to an earlier question by an Opposition member about the authorities that have reported on this subject, amongst other things I referred to the famous Irish case, which the Leader of the Opposition cited at some length last evening, and also to the Lower Hutt case in New Zealand. Regarding the authority and ability of the Minister of Works in this matter in South Australia, our laws are somewhat different from even those in Tasmania, which are touched upon in the Commissioner's report that was recently available to honourable members. I had this matter investigated by the Crown Solicitor, who intimated to me that there was no doubt whatever about the ability of the Minister of Works to do what has been suggested: he has the right. In fact, the Lower Hutt case was referred to as the authority in that instance. This matter has been discussed in the Privy Council. Towards the end of my reply to the member for Barossa, I dealt with another matter sometimes raised (people who oppose fluoridation on moral grounds) and gave the U.S.A. Supreme Court ruling on this. There is no doubt that in South Australia, where the laws are slightly different from laws in other places, the Minister of Works has this authority. When this matter was announced initially by the Premier, he said that he would welcome members raising it in questions and debate. I subsequently repeated that statement and that is why, yesterday, I took the adjournment on the motion,

moved by the member for Barossa, so that I could address the House on this matter next week and give the information sought.

Mr. HUDSON: I (and, I hope, other honourable members) look forward to the Minister's reply next week, and I hope that he will deal particularly with some of the scares and worries which have been raised about fluoridation and which need effective answers.

The Hon. J. W. H. COURCE: I didn't raise them.

Mr. HUDSON: No, but they are being raised in the community and need to be answered, so I hope that the Minister will do that. I raised the matter of the efficacy of the debate that will take place during private members' time regarding fluoridation. As the Minister knows, he will reply next week and there will be one or two other speeches, and, if we have successive adjournments, the debate may take five or six weeks.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is not in order in anticipating the debate.

Mr. HUDSON: I am not anticipating the debate: I am asking the Minister to take up with the Premier the possibility of dealing with this matter in one sitting, by extending to some extent into Government time. After all, fluoridation is a matter of Government policy and involves a change.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is debating the question now.

The Hon. J. W. H. COURCE: What is the question?

Mr. HUDSON: Will the Minister of Works take up with the Premier the possibility of having the debate on fluoridation take place on one day and being completed then, rather than having it extend, as is normal with private members' business, over a period of weeks?

The Hon. J. W. H. COURCE: Apparently, the honourable member does not realize that the control of this debate is in the hands of the mover, the member for Barossa (Mrs. Byrne), not of the Government or me. This is a private member's motion and I am merely participating in the debate. Wednesday afternoon will be available, and the honourable member could co-operate in this regard, if he wished further debate to ensue on that day, by not asking such long questions as he is prone to ask. The honourable member is hardly setting an example that would allow debates on Wednesday afternoons to proceed with any rapidity, because,

as I said yesterday, the honourable member spoke on two consecutive Wednesday afternoons to explain himself regarding one motion.

Mr. Broomhill: Are you complaining about this?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: No. I have said that I welcome the debate. However, the control of the debate on a motion, as all honourable members should realize, is in the hands of the mover: the Government has no control over business on Wednesday afternoons. The remainder of Wednesday's business is governed by Standing Orders.

Mr. HUDSON: In view of the Minister's unfortunate answer to the previous question I shall have to ask a supplementary question. Are we on this side to understand that, if a motion is moved elsewhere, Government time will be provided in another place to debate this matter, but it will not be provided in this Chamber?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: Once again I am trying to help the honourable member and put him straight. First, I will not answer hypothetical questions on what is happening in another place. Secondly, the Government intends that all of next Wednesday afternoon will be available to debate this matter, subject to members who already have other business on the Notice Paper. The control of Wednesday afternoon is in the hands of private members: they have undoubted rights and privileges, and I would be the first to ensure that these rights and privileges are upheld. The control of business on that day is in their hands, and I do not wish to interfere with it in any way. The honourable member is now waxing righteously indignant over this matter. Last July the first announcement was made by the Premier in this House, the place in which it should be made, and subsequently, as Minister of Works, I made a further statement. Both the Premier and I said that opportunity would be available for members to move on this matter.

Mr. Broomhill: It is not what you said, really.

Mr. Hudson: You are ducking for cover, I think.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: The member for Glenelg has another failing in this regard: he asks a question and tries to reply to it as well. When a Minister is trying to reply to his question he interrupts. I was trying to make the point that, although this matter had been referred to in questions and in the Estimates debate (and rightly so), it was only yesterday (October 2) that the first motion

was moved by a member in this House, following the announcement in July of the opportunity to which I have referred. Now, having waited for two or three months the member for Glenelg is becoming petulant and impatient because I will not interfere with the rights of private members next Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. HUDSON: In order to explain the basis of my question I indicate to the Minister that I, for one, do not at this point of time consider there is a strong case for holding a referendum on a matter which is, to a significant extent, a public health question. At the same time I believe that members should be given the opportunity to indicate whether they approve fluoridation, because this is not a question on which it can be said that the Government had a mandate at the last election and, therefore, the elected representatives of the people—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is debating the question. He must ask the question.

Mr. HUDSON: In view of the points I have made, does the Minister intend to give Parliament the opportunity to approve of fluoridation or will that opportunity be given only if a vote demanding it is taken in this House?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: There seems to be a worry in the mind of the honourable member that there will not be sufficient time to debate this matter in the House. I take it that that is the tenor of his question. I assure him, however, that the Government has more legislation to introduce than is shown on the Notice Paper at present, and the House is expected to sit well into December and probably close to Christmas. If the business of the House is not then finished it will probably return at the end of January and continue to sit. The Government does not intend to limit this session or to curtail debate, except when necessary towards the close of the session when, as is normal, the time for private members' business is curtailed. There will be no immediate ending on Wednesdays of private members' business, certainly not within the future so that this debate will be affected. Ample time will be available for all members to express an opinion. Obviously, some members have used much more time in debate than is necessary in order to express an opinion. This may not be a popular thing to say—

Mr. Langley: It has been done by both sides.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Of course. Who said anything about sides? I did not name any member or Party. I believe that plenty of time will be available for all the debate required even if a member wants to speak for two hours on fluoridation. The Government intends that the House shall sit as long as necessary in order to consider a full legislative programme, even if it sits until the end of this year and probably continues next year.

Mr. HUDSON: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I asked the Minister of Works a specific question. However, the Premier replied instead of the Minister of Works, with the result that my question has not been answered. Is the Minister of Works now in order in replying to my question? Can that be done? I am prohibited under Standing Orders from asking the same question again today, and the fact of the Premier's getting up in his place and not answering the question impinges on the right of members to ask questions—

The SPEAKER: Order! The point of order is not sustained. The question was addressed to the Minister of Works and really related to the time of debating a certain matter. As the Premier is the Leader of the Government, he is in charge of the business of the House, and I think he is entitled to reply when a question is asked.

Mr. HUDSON: Mr. Speaker, on a further point of order—

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: Don't be ridiculous!

Mr. Langley: You used to do the same thing.

The SPEAKER: Order! When a member is raising a point of order he must be heard in complete silence. If there are any further interruptions when a member is raising a point of order, I shall have to take the necessary precautions to ensure that the member concerned is heard in silence.

Mr. HUDSON: The question I asked was whether the Government would seek the approval of Parliament in relation to fluoridating the water supply. That question has not been answered, although it requires only a simple "Yes" or "No". However, it was not answered by the Premier. The Premier went on in his reply with much material about not restricting private members' time.

The SPEAKER: What is the honourable member's point of order?

Mr. HUDSON: I want an answer to the question, but I have not received one, because

the Premier jumped in on the Minister of Works and did not bother to answer my question. I just wanted a "Yes" or "No".

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has raised an interesting point of order concerning who should answer a particular question. I took the honourable member's previous question to relate to the time that would be made available, and I repeat that I believe it is the function of the Leader of the Government to reply. However, on the second point of order the honourable member is raising, surely it is in the hands of the Ministry as to who should answer the question, and it must be within the rights of the Ministers whether they answer the question correctly. If they do not answer it correctly, I think that is the honourable member's bad luck.

Mr. HUDSON: Mr. Speaker, on a further point of order, can the Premier be given an opportunity to add to his previous answer?

The SPEAKER: No. The honourable member is out of order. He is raising a point of order but, if he wishes to ask a further question, he will be in order. He is now raising a point of order, which I have answered. Does he desire to ask the Premier a further question?

Mr. HUDSON: I desire to ask the same question.

The SPEAKER: I cannot allow the honourable member to ask the same question. I will call on the member for Burra and, if the honourable member wishes to ask another question, I shall call on him later.

Mr. HUDSON: Do you rule that I am out of order in asking a further question?

The SPEAKER: The honourable member is quite in order in asking a further question.

Mr. HUDSON: Well, I am going to ask the same question, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: No, the honourable member is not.

Later:

Mr. HUDSON: On July 30 last the Premier made a Ministerial statement, in which he said—

The SPEAKER: Order! Is this a statement or a question?

Mr. HUDSON: I am directing my question to the honourable Premier, and I am asking permission to make a statement to explain my question. I will quote from one of the Premier's major statements, which we are not able to ignore. At page 294 of *Hansard* the Premier is reported as saying:

As the necessary preparations for the addition of fluoride will take some time, it will be probably all of 12 months before the plan becomes effective. Members will realize that they will therefore have the opportunity to ask questions of the Government about this matter or debate it in the House if they so desire.

Will the Premier organize the debating arrangements of this House so that members will be given an opportunity to approve the Government's plan to introduce fluoride?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am pleased that the honourable member is now on the right track and quoting the correct passage. I have already indicated that the Government will provide plenty of time in the House for discussion of all relevant matters.

Mr. Hudson: "Yes" or "No"!

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Government has the power to add fluoride to the water supply of South Australia, and is relying on the provisions of the Waterworks Act. I have said publicly that it is open to any member of the House to move a motion disagreeing with the proposal. In other words, all members, including the member for Glenelg, have the right to support the Government's action by moving a motion accordingly, or to oppose the Government's action by so moving. That is quite clear cut.

Mr. Riches: When can a member do that?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member may do that next Wednesday. I have publicly referred to the provision on which the Government is relying in this matter. It has the power to do what it proposes, but it will take note of any action taken by the Assembly within a reasonable time, for instance, this year, if members wish to have an indication of the time factor.

Mr. Riches: We can only pass a resolution calling for a referendum.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Government is not interested in side-stepping the issue: it is interested only in hearing expressions by members for or against the proposal. If the honourable member cares to commend the Government for its action, I am sure he will receive the Government's thanks (although I do not know in what practical way), but if he disagrees with the Government's action he may move accordingly in this House and, if such a motion is carried, the Government will not fluoridate the South Australian water supplies. Therefore, the responsibility for any action that the member for Glenelg may wish to take is his, and I think he is a sufficiently responsible member to make up his mind one way or the other. If he wishes

to test whether the House approves the proposal, I suggest that he move a motion so approving but, if he disagrees with it, I suggest that he move accordingly. Either way a clear indication will be given the Government. The Government will assume, if no motion is moved disagreeing to the proposal, that the House does not, in fact, disagree to the Government's action. I believe that that is a proper decision. I understand that the previous Government had the power to fluoridate the water supplies, but did not use that power. This Government is using the power provided in the Waterworks Act and, until otherwise directed by the House, the Government will proceed with fluoridation.

YUNTA SPECIAL RURAL SCHOOL

Mr. CASEY: As I understand the Minister of Education has a very prompt reply to my recent question about the Yunta Special Rural School, will she now give it?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The Education Department views favourably the Yunta school committee's proposal for the reticulation of water to the school from an overhead tank in the main street for the purpose of creating grassed areas, etc., in the school grounds. However, additional details are required and the headmaster will be asked to discuss the matter with the committee so that these details can be obtained, when further consideration will be given.

FOOTBALL DESCRIPTION

Mr. RICHES: I am concerned about the broadcasting of the football match to be played between Sturt and the Victorian premier team on Saturday next. Not all the people interested in South Australia's national winter sport can attend the Adelaide Oval on Saturday, so that throughout the State many will wish to follow the game by means of a broadcast. Therefore, some dismay has greeted a rather ambiguous public statement made today which seems to indicate that the only broadcast on Saturday will be from the national station and that this description will be mixed with racing descriptions. Although a station in Melbourne will broadcast a kick-for-kick description of the match from an Adelaide station, only scores will be broadcast in this State. People living in my district believe they deserve as much consideration in this regard as is given to people living in Melbourne. As I understand the Premier has offered to meet representatives of organizations who are involved in another matter concerning the Adelaide Oval, will he use his

good offices, for the sake of the country people interested in this football match, to see that an adequate radio coverage is provided?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: As I have not heard about or seen the ambiguous statement to which the honourable member referred (although I accept his reference to it), this is the first time I have been aware of the problem. Although I will leave the State this evening and will naturally not be here tomorrow, as soon as the Secretary of my department arrives here with various dockets at the end of Question Time I will raise the matter with him immediately and ascertain the exact position. I will see whether I can do anything to help the honourable member hear a description of the entire match.

CITRUS

Mr. BURDON: Has the Minister of Lands obtained from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my recent question about the citrus industry?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The honourable member referred in his question to a meeting held in the Waikerie Town Hall on Thursday, September 19, and my colleague informs me that he was present at the meeting and listened with like interest to the suggestions of the growers present. Referring to the resolution that a similar organization to the Citrus Organization Committee be set up in other States with the ultimate object of establishing one citrus marketing board, my colleague has, over a period of years, advocated this policy. Any move in other States, however, must come from the producer organizations in those States. He spoke at the annual conference of the Citrus Growers Federation held in Adelaide last week, and stressed the need for uniform action by producers in all States. If this procedure were adopted and all State Ministers of Agriculture approached, then representations to the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry would be feasible. I stress, however, that any scheme proposed must, under my Government's policy, have the endorsement of the producers, indicated by means of a roll of growers.

PORT BROUGHTON ROAD

Mr. McKEE: Recently I asked the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, about plans for the construction of the Port Pirie to Port Broughton road. As I notice that this work is listed in the roads programme for this financial year reported in today's *Advertiser*, will the Attorney-

General ask his colleague whether this year's grant will be sufficient to enable the sealing of this road to be completed this financial year?

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

EGGS

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Minister of Lands obtained from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my recent question about the price of eggs?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Chairman of the South Australian Egg Board points out that, as this State produces such a large surplus of eggs in relation to local sales, allowance must be made for lower export income when fixing the prices to be paid to producers. Variations in supply create surpluses or shortages in particular grades of eggs from time to time, and these conditions are reflected in the prices paid to producers. Each State board is responsible for fixing the advance price to producers for eggs delivered to that board, and the two principal factors involved in determining the price are, first, the percentage of exportable surplus eggs in relation to intake; and secondly, the Council of Egg Marketing Authorities of Australia basic price on which the authority reimburses State boards for the surplus eggs or egg products exported. Figures for income, production sales, surplus and base prices and rates of reimbursement on which State boards determine base prices to producers are constantly under review by C.E.M.A. However, other States enjoy a much higher percentage of local sales and thereby have a much higher price structure, resulting in a higher advance price to producers, than obtains in South Australia.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to my question of September 24 about poultry farmers who have, because of financial hardship, fallen into arrears in payment of bird levy?

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

Under the Commonwealth legislation, the South Australian Egg Board acts merely as an agent for the Commonwealth Government, and does not propound policy in relation to the collection of the hen levy. Under the terms of its arrangement with the Commonwealth, the board administers, on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, the Poultry Industry Levy Act, 1965-1966, the Poultry Industry Levy Collection Act, 1965-1966, and the Poultry Industry Assistance Act, 1965-1966, none of which gives the board any discretionary power to remit or defer the payment of hen levies. When the amount of

levies payable falls into arrears, the board, after giving the producer reasonable opportunity to liquidate the debt, must accordingly furnish relevant information to the Deputy Commonwealth Crown Solicitor for any action he may deem necessary.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Has the Minister of Lands received a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to the question I asked supplementary to one asked by the member for Angas, concerning the number of producers unable to pay the C.E.M.A. levies and the present total amount of unpaid levies which has been caused by the serious economic position in which some poultry farmers have been placed?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Chairman of the South Australian Egg Board reports that as at September 16, 1968, 110 producers were withholding payment of the hen levy on the grounds of economic hardship, and the total sum involved was \$66,000.

TAX EXEMPTION

Mr. LANGLEY: I have received from a constituent a letter stating that two beneficiaries of a will, Meals on Wheels and the Methodist Children's Homes, are each to receive \$500 under the will. Both organizations are doing excellent work and deserve every help. However, although the \$500 received by the Methodist Children's Homes is exempt from tax, Meals on Wheels will receive only \$450, an amount of \$50 having been deducted for tax. As the Government has subsidized Meals on Wheels, will the Treasurer consult with the appropriate authorities on the possibility of exemption from tax of benefactions to that organization?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am not clear from the question as to what form of taxation the honourable member refers to but, if he gives me the details, I shall examine the matter and let him have a reply.

MEAT PRICES

Mr. RYAN: On September 24 the Treasurer, replying to a question asked by the member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney) about control of retail meat prices, said in the last paragraph of his reply that he was looking into the matter closely and would refer it to the Prices Commissioner to see what action could be taken, in the public interest. A few days later the Secretary of the Meat and Allied Trades Federation said that, although lamb was at its best and cheapest for years, prime yearling beef prices were unlikely to drop. Will the Treasurer say whether he considers Mr. Sneddon's statement satisfactory or whether the

matter should be referred back to the Prices Commissioner, because it seems that there has been no appreciable drop in the retail price of meat although the wholesale price has dropped considerably?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I read the comment by Mr. Sneddon and I think I referred to it in replying to a question asked of me after I had replied to the question asked by the member for Stirling. I think that Mr. Sneddon also said that the drop in price of cattle on the hoof was largely in respect of export or manufacturing animals, and I think I said that, as that statement had been made by a responsible person, I was inclined to accept it as being correct. However, my research did not end there, and the Prices Commissioner is continuing to watch the prices. Because of comments made to me, not by the Prices Commissioner but by private individuals, I think that there has been a tendency for the prices of certain classes of meat to fall somewhat. As the honourable member has now raised the matter again, I will ask the Prices Commissioner to report his findings to me officially, and I will then reply to the honourable member.

THEBARTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. LAWN: On August 27, when replying to my question about the rebuilding of the Thebarton school the Minister of Education said, amongst other things, that planning of the new school had commenced in February, 1965, and the Minister went on:

It has, however, been included on a list of schools that it is considered should be replaced, but it is not possible at this stage to say when the new building will be erected. Priorities at this time can be only tentative, as Thebarton's claims must be considered in relation to the demands for new schools in rapidly expanding areas.

Although since I have been a member of this House the Public Works Committee has always been extremely busy (in fact, over-worked), at present the committee has no projects before it, and is not sitting (though I understand there may be a short meeting next week, possibly regarding the Dry Creek railway line). Will the Minister take advantage of the fact that, apparently, the Government has no other projects before the committee by submitting to it this school project?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: As this matter concerns both the Minister of Works and me, I will discuss it with my colleague and try to obtain a report for the honourable member.

RAILWAY SERVICES

Mr. CASEY: Has the Attorney-General received from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about rail services between Peterborough and Quorn, particularly in regard to inconvenience caused to Orroroo people?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: My colleague has informed me that following the proposed cessation of railcar services between Peterborough and Quorn it is intended to rearrange the freight services so that on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays passengers will be able to connect at Peterborough with the passenger train arriving in Adelaide at 9.18 a.m., while in the "down" direction on Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays passengers will be able to depart Adelaide at 6.10 p.m., connecting at Peterborough with a train to Orroroo. These proposals will permit a return movement from Orroroo to Adelaide on Wednesdays.

KIMBA WATER SUPPLY

Mr. EDWARDS: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked recently about the Kimba water supply?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The present total storage in water conservation district No. 3 is 85,458,000 gallons, made up of 12,418,000 gallons in the Kimba township storages and 73,040,000 gallons in surrounding country storages. With water stored on the properties, no problems in regard to stock water can be foreseen for the coming summer.

SEACLIFF INFANTS SCHOOL

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question concerning grading and terracing of the grounds at the Seacliff Infants School, on which work has been greatly delayed?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The contractor who is undertaking work on the site-works at the school has several other contracts and is experiencing problems in maintaining a satisfactory rate of progress, partly because of the inclement weather. The contractor resumed work on September 23, and every effort will be made to ensure that the contract is completed as soon as possible.

MEASLES

Mr. HURST: I understood that measles was a notifiable disease under the Health Act, but I have received a circular that has been published by a large industry in this State with a warning to parents attached to the circular emphasizing the dangers to young children of the side effects of measles. The circular states:

At present, measles is not a notifiable disease in Australia, that is, doctors do not have to report cases to the medical authorities as they have to do for hepatitis, polio, etc.

Will the Premier ascertain whether the position as stated in the circular is correct and, if it is, will he ask the Minister of Health to consider making measles a notifiable disease the same as other dangerous diseases, because of its possible side effects?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will ask my colleague, first, whether measles is a notifiable disease at present and, if it is not, what the position is in other States. Secondly, I will inform him as to the Government's policy on this matter.

PENOLA CROSSING

Mr. RODDA: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Minister of Roads and Transport to my question of last week about the Penola crossing?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Consideration has been given to the question of automatic protection at the level crossing over the Kalangadoo Road at Penola, but it is not included in the current list setting out priorities, as prepared by officers of the Railways and the Highways Departments. In the circumstances described by the honourable member the pall of smoke would, in all probability, obscure the vision of flashing lights, if such in fact were installed. My colleague suggests that a solution may lie in seeking to remove the cause of the smoke. The council should be encouraged to use the provisions of section 540a of the Local Government Act to minimize the smoke nuisance.

ABORIGINAL RESERVES

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: In the *West Coast Sentinel* of July 31 appeared a report of a Liberal and Country League conference held at Minnipa at which, apparently, there was considerable discussion concerning the Koonibba Reserve, and from which emanated certain resolutions suggesting that the Government investigate the running expenses and management of Aboriginal reserves. It was also suggested that an investigation be made into the Aboriginal Affairs Department regarding the employment of mainland Aborigines on West Coast building projects and the cost entailed in same. Mr. Hans Gaden is reported as complaining that the Government had spent \$140,000 on 130 natives. That is how it is reported in the newspaper, and I deplore the reporting of Aboriginal matters by which Aboriginal people are referred to as natives.

This is done in Western Australia, and it shows that people who report matters concerning Aboriginal people in this way still regard them as a sort of sub-species of the human race. I put that down to editorial ignorance. After complaining about the Government expenditure, Mr. Gaden went on to say:

Give me two years and I will straighten it out, and it won't cost you \$10,000.

I have looked to see whether there has been any reply in the paper from the Minister and, so far, I have not observed one. I think it is important that this sort of statement should be answered because, when the Government took over the Koonibba Reserve, 54 were on unemployment relief (in other words, the Commonwealth Government was paying to keep 54 of the people there), and about eight to 12 were employed when the Lutheran people ran that reserve. Now, there is full employment for every able-bodied Aboriginal man on the reserve, and the Minister knows as well as I that valuable mechanical and carpentry work is being done there by the people. Aboriginal labour was paid about \$40,000 last year, and I think the Minister would agree with me that it is desirable that Aboriginal people should have full employment on the reserve and be paid wages rather than be on unemployment relief.

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

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These are important matters in Aboriginal welfare. Will the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs have a reply published in the *West Coast Sentinel* so that the people concerned may understand the situation and not be misled by such statements as have been made?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I am surprised that the honourable member did not raise this on the line in the Estimates last night, when we could have had a discussion—

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: It was late enough.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I took it, from the fact that there was not one question on this line, that members opposite as well as members on this side were entirely satisfied.

The SPEAKER: The Attorney-General is not in order in referring to a previous debate.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I was referring to the absence of debate.

The SPEAKER: The Minister is still out of order.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I defer to you without hesitation, Mr. Speaker. All this happened well over two months ago, and since

then I have discussed the matter with my departmental officers. I have also had a discussion with Mr. Hans Gaden, and we canvassed the points which appeared in the *Sentinel*. I had not considered that it was necessary to have anything published in the *Sentinel* in reply. After all, this was the report of discussions and of a resolution, or resolutions, at a Liberal and Country League meeting.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The people were left with an entirely wrong impression.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I have been to Ceduna since the article was published, and I did not get that impression when I was there (and I was there to discuss these very matters). However, if the honourable member has been to Ceduna since and knows better than I on this, I accept what he says. I am prepared to consider his request. I do not undertake to accede to it, but I will consider it. One other matter he raised during the course of his long explanatory statement to the question was the nomenclature: he referred to the use of the word "native". I assure him that I and the department do not use this word.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I'm sure you don't.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: We prefer (and I think the honourable member will know this) to use as a noun the word "Aborigine" or "Aboriginal", in either of those forms. I prefer "Aborigine" as a noun (but they are alternatives) and "Aboriginal" as an adjective. We also prefer that when those words are written they should begin with a capital letter.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The city press has agreed on this.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The city press has not agreed on it; the honourable member's memory is at fault here. One of the two city papers has agreed but the other has not. I took up the matter with both papers and received the same reply as I am told the honourable member received when he was Minister. I am sorry that both papers do not use the capital letter, because I think that is the proper way to refer to the Aboriginal inhabitants of Australia. However, concerning the main matter which the honourable member raised, I will consider publishing statistics and information in reply to the article.

CHANDLER HILL ROAD

Mr. EVANS: Several weeks ago I asked the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, whether advisory signs could be placed on a corner of Chandler Hill Road right opposite Mr. Nicolle's property,

and I was told that this would be done. However, to date the only sign that has been erected is about half a mile back from the corner, and it is a normal 35-miles-an-hour sign for built-up areas. Will the Attorney-General ascertain whether that is the only sign to be erected at or near this corner?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will inquire.

HILLS FREEWAY

Mr. GILES: The construction of the Hills Freeway has necessitated the blocking of several roads in the Stirling-Crafer-Aldgate area, and has caused the overloading of some roads that enter the freeway. I refer to the Carey Gully Road, which will be left open to the freeway. Will the Attorney-General ascertain whether it is the policy of the Minister of Roads and Transport to assist councils by making grants to them to re-form these overloaded roads?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will discuss the matter.

HOUSING LOANS

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Housing a reply to my recent question about the fall-off in the rate of loan approvals by the Savings Bank of South Australia?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Savings Bank, in common with the rest of the banking system in the southern areas of Australia, has felt the effects of the 1967-68 drought in a reduced volume of deposit funds available for new lending. Notwithstanding this, it managed throughout 1967-68 to keep up the flow of new funds into housing loans at record levels, and as a consequence it reduced substantially the waiting period for such loans. During the past two or three months the bank has not found it possible to lend at quite the same rate, but nevertheless it has kept up the flow of funds so that the waiting lists have not shown any net increase. However, now that the 1968-69 rural season is regarded as practically assured so that in the new year the volume of new deposits may be expected to improve, the bank is immediately resuming lending at the 1967-68 rates, and further reductions in waiting periods are confidently expected.

The Savings Bank some years ago operated extensively under the Homes Act in insuring high-ratio loans. (This part refers to an ancillary matter that the honourable member raised at the time.) However, latterly the bank has decided that it can properly carry

itself the risks that may be involved in high-ratio loans, and it now makes very little use of either the Homes Act guarantee arrangements or the Housing Loans Insurance Corporation. The bank is continuing to make available in appropriate cases a considerable volume of high-ratio loans, particularly within the field of relatively low-cost housing.

WUDINNA SCHOOL

Mr. EDWARDS: While at Wudinna recently I was told that some boundary fencing was needed between the school and blocks Nos. 149 and 140 and around the agricultural science block in section No. 59. Can the Minister of Education say whether this work has been proceeded with?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I cannot give a reply now, but I will refer this matter to the department for report.

SWIMMING POOLS

Mrs. BYRNE: On August 28, when speaking in the debate on the Loan Estimates, I said that concern had been expressed to me because some people had built swimming pools on their properties but had not erected fences around their properties or the pool and that the parents of young children were worried because water, as everyone knows, attracts children, who may accidentally tumble into a pool. I stated that I had made inquiries last February and had been informed that this situation was not covered by the building section of the Local Government Act. The Local Government Act Revision Committee has been in operation for some time, but it has not yet brought down its report, and it is impossible to find out when it will be brought down. Will the Minister of Housing refer this matter to the Building Act Advisory Committee and ascertain whether this point has been brought to its attention? Will he also consider the advisability of introducing an amendment to the Building Act to rectify this situation, which I consider to be very dangerous? If he considers an amendment is necessary, will it be introduced into the House this session?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I do not know whether it is proposed to introduce an amendment to the Building Act this session. Whether or not it should be a requirement under the Building Act that swimming pools be fenced so that it is not possible for young children to get into the area of the pool is a matter of some concern requiring consideration, not only because of the danger

of children inadvertently tumbling into a pool but also in respect of the cost and complication involved in preventing them from so doing. I shall be happy to refer the matter to the committee for its consideration and report.

EUDUNDA AREA SCHOOL

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Some time ago I made representations to the Minister of Education on behalf of the Eudunda Area School committee regarding the sealing of an area of land immediately west of the school to improve conditions for students and teachers during the summer months. Will the Minister say how far this matter has been processed by her department?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I recall this matter being referred to me some months ago. I think it involved a turn-round area for buses, which I think involved the district council. To the best of my knowledge, the department has written to the council but has not received a reply. I will make inquiries and let the honourable member have a report on this matter.

SOUTH-EASTERN DRAINAGE

Mr. CORCORAN: Has the Minister of Lands replies to the series of questions I asked on September 3 regarding the future of the South-Eastern Drainage Board?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Chairman of the board reports:

Eastern Division: The South-Eastern Drainage Board is investigating two additional drainage proposals in the Eastern Division, as follows:

- (1) A new drain in the hundred of Killanoola immediately east of the old station drain, known as the Diagonal drain. The drain would discharge into Drain C.
- (2) An improvement and extension of the existing Mount Burr to Heath drain into the Baker Range drain.

The preliminary plans of these proposals are well advanced, and the board intends to arrange a meeting with the landholders concerned to determine whether they desire the works to be undertaken.

Western Division—Northern Area: Landholders in the Avenue Flat in the hundred of Minecrow have made firm requests for the construction of several additional subsidiary drains into the Jacky White drain and the Blackford drain. The works would form part of the scheme for the drainage of the northern area of the Western Division, which has already been approved by the Government.

Western Division—additional works: The South-Eastern Drainage Board is currently investigating three proposals in the northern

area of the Western Division. The works proposed are outside of the existing boundaries of the Western Division, and an amendment of the South-Eastern Drainage Act would be required before the works could be undertaken. The works under consideration are:

- (1) Drainage of the part of the Reedy Creek Flat from the Kingston railway line to the Blackford drain.
- (2) Drainage of portions of the Ardune and Joyce Flats between the Kingston railway line and the Robe-Naracoorte road to the Jacky White drain.
- (3) Portions of the hundreds of Woolloomool and Minecrow situated between the Baker Range and the Ardune Range into the Blackford drain.

The proposals have been discussed with the landholders, most of whom are in favour of the works being undertaken.

Position in regard to the present workmen: It is expected that the present work force will be fully employed until the latter part of this financial year on approved works. The workmen are the employees of the construction branch of the Engineering and Water Supply Department, and their future employment rests with that department.

WHEAT

Mr. VENNING: Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture to contact the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry to ensure that we maintain the first advance of \$1.10 for wheat delivered in the coming harvest period? The House will soon be considering the new stabilization plan. There has been a variation in the existing stabilization plan, and it is to be hoped that when the \$1.10 first advance is considered it will be maintained for the benefit of the industry.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will take up the matter with my colleague.

TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Mr. HUDSON: I refer to the recommendations of the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study Report relating to the division of Highways Fund moneys, over the years until 1986, between metropolitan and country areas. Will the Attorney-General ascertain from the Minister of Roads and Transport the percentage allocation of Highways Fund moneys recommended under this proposal in each of the years to 1986 for, first, the metropolitan area, and secondly, the country area?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

PENSIONER CONCESSION FARES

Mr. ARNOLD: I understand that pensioner concession fare certificates enable pensioners to travel at concession rates on South

Australian Railway trains, on trams and buses operated by the Municipal Tramways Trust, and also on authorized privately-operated bus services. It appears that in some areas privately-operated country bus services are authorized but that in other areas they are not. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport to investigate this matter with a view to seeing that all pensioners have similar privileges?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: As I understand the position, country operators are under no obligation to give this concession—some do and some do not. In the case which the honourable member has in mind, I think that sometimes the concession is given and sometimes it is not given by the same operator or his staff. I will certainly discuss the matter with the Minister to see whether it is possible to extend the present arrangements or at least to make them uniform.

JUVENILE ABSCONDERS

Mr. RODDA: The *News* last week reported that a youth aged 16 years absconded while being transferred from the McNally Training Centre to Struan Farm. The report states further that the youth was travelling on trust on a train from which he alighted at Murray Bridge, where he took a nearby car, and, after crashing it, was apprehended. As I know boys travel on trust at times and as I do not think this is the first case of a boy's running away, can the Attorney-General say what will be the future policy regarding the transfer of these young people to Struan Farm?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: As I anticipated that this would be a matter of some interest, yesterday and the day before I had from the department a report which I had sought immediately I saw the newspaper report. Unfortunately, I have not brought it with me today, because I imagined that after three days I would not be asked a question on the matter. However, the position is much as the honourable member has outlined it. This boy was travelling to Struan on his own because he was regarded as trustworthy. From memory, I think he had four convictions for offences in the last few years but, because of his good conduct, it was considered that he could be relied on to travel on his own to Struan. Apparently, temptation got the better of him and he jumped the train and committed further offences. We would not send boys down on their own if we had available the staff to accompany them, but one of the facts of life, as all honourable members know, particularly after the Budget

debate (to which I will not refer) is that we have not enough money in the Social Welfare Department to employ all the staff that we would like so that we would have sufficient escort officers to accompany boys. Therefore, sometimes it is necessary to take a risk. I am pleased to say that in most cases this is justified: unfortunately, in this case it was not. If the honourable member likes, I will get the report again and show it to him so that he will know the details of this case.

SCHOOLTEACHERS

Mr. HUGHES: Can the Minister of Education say whether the services of any unclassified teachers have been terminated by the department since the present Government has been in office?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will obtain a report for the honourable member on this matter.

DISTRICT ALLOWANCES

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Many years ago I took up with the then Minister of Education the matter of district allowances for schoolteachers at Andamooka and Coober Pedy (of course, the allowances applied also at Woomera), and the allowances were increased at that time. I have now been told by a constituent who lives at Woomera that the State Government district allowance, which applies to all State public servants, apart from school teachers, is \$104 a year, whereas the Commonwealth allowance is \$280 a year. Will the Premier have this matter investigated by the appropriate Minister (I think it would be a matter for the Chief Secretary, but I am not sure) to find out whether this position can be rectified? I suggest to the Premier that this is another instance of the Commonwealth's being so affluent that, apparently, it can pay district allowances more than double what the State can afford at this juncture.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member, in reminding me of the affluence of the Commonwealth, also reminds me of the conference tomorrow, the objective of which is the sharing of that affluence to a much greater degree than applies to the States today. I shall be pleased to obtain an up-to-date report for the honourable member.

KANGAROO CREEK RESERVOIR

Mr. GILES: Can the Minister of Works say whether the extremely wet winter has adversely affected work on the Kangaroo Creek reservoir?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: There has been some slight delay from time to time, partly because of rain and also because of the amount of water coming down the Gorge. The honourable member will realize that the construction of a dam of this nature necessitates putting in a coffer wall and providing a diversion channel so that the water normally coming down the river is diverted from the works. When Millbrook reservoir has overflowed, the diversion channel has taken away some of the extra water. However, this has not proved to be a major problem, and I assure the honourable member that any delays have been fairly minimal and are not unduly worrying the department, nor are they expected to delay the work unduly. The work is planned so that, if we have good rains next winter, we will be able to impound some of the water behind the wall, which will then be partially completed, so that some of it can be used for the following summer.

WHEAT

Mr. FREEBAIRN: South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited, of which I think every wheatgrower in South Australia is a member, has built many silos in country areas, and I think most of the wheatgrowing areas in the State will soon be within reasonable range of a silo. There are silos at Robertstown, Eudunda, Saddleworth, Tarlee, and Hamley Bridge. As honourable members know, the wheatgrowing areas of South Australia seem to be facing such a prolific harvest that the silos may not be able to cope with it. Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture whether the wheat silos in each of the centres I have mentioned will be able to cope with the harvest and, if they will not, will the Minister find out what proportion of the estimated harvest it is expected can be contained in existing silos?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will ask the Minister of Agriculture for that information.

RAILWAY REBATES

Mr. VENNING: Some time ago I asked the Minister of Agriculture to discuss with superphosphate companies the extension of rail freight rebates from the end of the year to, say, the end of January, in order that the largest number of rail trucks possible would be available to move grain during the harvest delivery period. Unfortunately, I have not received a reply to this question. As I consider that this is a most important question

and one that could not be ironed out overnight, and as the season is progressing, will the Minister of Lands ask his colleague to give this question his earnest consideration?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I regret that a reply has not been furnished to this question. A reply was received by me from the Minister's office, but when I read it I realized that, because of an error in that the question had gone to the wrong place, the reply was not a correct one. I have discussed this matter with my colleague, who agreed with me that the reply did not apply to the question asked by the honourable member, and he undertook to have the matter attended to, but I have not spoken to him for a few days. However, I am sure that he will furnish a reply soon.

CEDUNA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. EDWARDS: Recently, while visiting the Ceduna Primary School I was shown land adjoining the school that would make an excellent site for a new school. As I was told that the land could be purchased for this purpose, can the Minister of Education say whether this site has been purchased for a new school?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will obtain a report on the matter.

GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I recently asked about the delay in payment of accounts by the Public Buildings Department?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: The delay in making payment for repairs to a heating stove at the Spalding Primary School has been investigated. When the head teacher of the Spalding school reported the choke in the flue of the room heater, arrangements were made for the head teacher to initiate action in arranging for the work to be undertaken by a local contractor. Authority exists for payment for these urgent minor works to be met by the Education Department upon certification of the accounts by the head teachers. It was assumed that this action had been taken in respect to payment for work undertaken at the Spalding school. It was not until July, 1968, when an account was received by the department's district building office at Port Pirie that it was realized payment had not been made. A local order was issued immediately and payment was subsequently made on August 27, 1968. The circumstances in which the payment of this account was delayed are regretted,

the matter has been brought to the attention of departmental officers concerned, and a similar incident is not expected to recur.

ROAD TAX

Mr. CASEY: The Premier has indicated (it is reported in the *Advertiser* this morning) that he is going to Sydney this evening to consult with the other Premiers regarding the Financial Agreement to be placed before the Commonwealth Government. I draw the Premier's attention to a question I asked about six weeks ago relating to a statement appearing in the *West Coast Sentinel* about a meeting at Minnipa at which the Minister of Agriculture claimed that the Government would ask the Commonwealth Government to take over the ton-mile tax. The report is as follows:

The Minister interpreted the tax as a penalty for the State's free road system, and said the State was attempting to convince Canberra that it should take over this taxing field.

In view of the Minister's statement, will the Premier take up this matter with the Commonwealth Government while he is in the Eastern States?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: No.

DAIRY CATTLE IMPROVEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second reading.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Lands): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The Dairy Cattle Improvement Act requires all bulls connected with certain dairy farms to be licensed if they are over the age of six months on July 1 or January 1 in any year. The object of this Bill is to eliminate the licence in respect of bulls over the age of six months on January 1. The Bill makes the necessary provision by clause 2, which re-enacts subsection 6 (2). This amendment has been recommended by the Advisory Committee for Improvement of Dairy. Licence fees are credited to the Dairy Cattle Trust Fund, and the fees derived from licences in respect of bulls over the age of six months on January 1 have been about \$100 annually. It is considered that this amount does not warrant the work required to be undertaken by members of the Police Force, departmental officers and dairymen. Clause 3 of the Bill makes a drafting amendment to section 10 of the Act, subsection (2) of which appears to be inconsistent with subsection (1). Subsection (1) states that every licence shall be an annual

licence and may be issued at any time, while subsection (2) says that every licence shall expire on June 30. The amendment simply makes it clear that all licences expire on the same date, namely, June 30. Clauses 4, 5 and 6 of the Bill convert references to the old currency in sections 13, 14 and 15 to their equivalents in decimal currency. Clause 7 of the Bill repeals the First Schedule and enacts a new schedule in its place that omits the fee for a licence in respect of any bull over the age of six months on January 1 and converts references to the old currency to their equivalents in decimal currency.

Mr. CASEY secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADELAIDE TO GAWLER RAILWAY (ALTERATION OF DRY CREEK TERMINUS) BILL

Second reading.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE (Attorney-General): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill enables the South Australian Railways Commissioner to alter the position of the Northfield terminus on the Adelaide to Gawler railway line. Under section 60 of the South Australian Railways Commissioner's Act, an express limitation is placed on the powers of the Commissioner, preventing him from altering the position of any railway terminus. Consequently, when a terminus is to be altered, express legislation is necessary to invest him with the requisite authority. Honourable members will observe on the plan exhibited for their perusal that under the provisions of the Bill, the terminus, which is at present situated at the point marked "B" on the plan, is to be removed and a new terminus is to be established at the point marked "A". The portion of the railway to be removed is no longer in use, and its removal will enable the Highways Department to improve the intersection of Briens Road with South Terrace. I might add that the proposed alteration conforms with the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study Report.

Mr. LAWN secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.1 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, October 8, at 2 p.m.