

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, October 24, 1968

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

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2)

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the Bill.

QUESTIONS**WHYALLA OCCUPATION CENTRE**

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Although the new occupation centre at Whyalla has been completed and is ready for use, advice has not been received locally from the Education Department to enable people to move into the centre. Therefore, will the Minister of Education find out whether the giving of this advice can be expedited?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I shall be very pleased to do that.

STUDENT TEACHERS

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked on Tuesday last about provision being made in the University of Adelaide library for Adelaide Teachers College students?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The Adelaide Teachers College library, in common with all teachers colleges which have students taking university subjects, will have multiple copies of textbooks for university subjects. (Salisbury Teachers College is the only teachers college in which all students take completely internal courses.) Therefore, the effect of having multiple collections of textbooks, set for university subjects, in teachers college libraries will be to decrease pressure by teachers college students on university libraries. Principals of teachers colleges will confer with university departments to ascertain the extent to which each university textbook will be used and, on the basis of this information, decide on student textbook ratios for multiple copies of textbooks. Multiple copies of textbooks will supplement each student's collection of textbooks, which he will be able to buy, in most instances, at greatly reduced prices from existing stocks held at teachers colleges. At Salisbury Teachers College, where students will not be taking university subjects, there will be adequate library space for all students. The library at Bedford Park Teachers College will be completed by May, 1969. The matter of multiple copies has been discussed thoroughly by officers of the Education Department and the teachers

colleges. The principals favour the new system of students buying their own textbooks, with a supplementary source of multiple copies of textbooks. They will ensure that students' needs for textbooks (university or teachers college) are adequately met.

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about possible changes in the bonding arrangements for student teachers, following the removal of travel and book allowances?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I cannot agree to the honourable member's suggestion that arrangements be modified so that the full amount of the new allowances to be paid to teachers college students from the beginning of the next year is not recoverable if any student does not comply with the conditions of his agreement. Considerable concessions are already granted, particularly to women students to the extent that, in the event of resignation to care for a child, the amount of outstanding contractual liability is completely waived. Any student who decides to resign during the first six months in college is not required to repay any of the allowance received during that time. Where money is to be repaid, applications for extended payment are sympathetically considered. The number of cases where repayment becomes due represents a very small percentage of the total which are completed satisfactorily and, of course, there is no burden on the guarantor as a result of the allowances to be paid to student teachers next year except where the agreement is broken by the student teacher.

MOUNT GAMBIER HOSPITAL

Mr. BURDON: I hope that the Premier, despite the rumblings at present going on between the two Houses of Parliament, will be able to refer my question to the Chief Secretary. During the present session I have asked several questions concerning hospital accommodation at Mount Gambier, first, in relation to the possible use of the top floor of the Mount Gambier Hospital (which is at present not used) for patients and, secondly, about setting aside a section of the present hospital for the exclusive use of geriatric patients or building a new hospital for these patients. As I know that considerable investigation and discussion on these subjects have occurred during the last 12 months, will the Premier ask the Chief Secretary whether any decision has been reached and, if it has, what are the proposals?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be happy to refer this matter to my colleague and obtain a report.

NEW RESERVOIR

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked yesterday about a new reservoir on the Onkaparinga River?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: The Engineering and Water Supply Department has for some time considered that a third reservoir on the Onkaparinga may be feasible. The only action taken to date is the establishment of a gauging weir on Baker Creek, which is a tributary of the Onkaparinga River joining that river about two miles downstream of Clarendon. If such a reservoir is built, the headwaters will reach up the Onkaparinga to the Clarendon township and will extend up Baker Creek to within about a mile of the Kangarilla township. Any reservoir at this site will not be proposed before the completion of the Clarendon dam, for which submissions will be made within the next year or so.

EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about a conference between State Ministers of Education and the Commonwealth Minister of Education and Science?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I received a letter from the Postmaster-General in September in common, I presume, with other State Ministers of Education, asking whether a further meeting of Ministers of Education with Commonwealth Ministers in relation to educational television programmes was warranted. The honourable member will recall that he attended such a meeting in Canberra in July, 1966. I replied to the Postmaster-General indicating that, if sufficient State Ministers favoured such a meeting and a suitable date could be arranged, I should be pleased to attend such a conference.

MENINGIE SCHOOL

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I recently asked about paving to be undertaken at the Meningie Area School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I have been informed by the Public Buildings Department that detailed documents are being prepared for the paving works and resiting of the school oval at the Meningie Area School. Tenders are expected to be called this November.

PENSIONER CONCESSION FARES

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

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The position regarding pensioner travel on country bus services is as stated by the honourable member. Any concessions granted are a matter for decision by the bus operator concerned. It should be pointed out, however, that some country bus services operate on a lower fare structure than do railway services for comparable distances. However, the matter will be discussed with the South Australian Road Passenger Association.

TAX EXEMPTION

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Treasurer a reply to the question I recently asked about the exemption from tax of charitable organizations, in particular the Methodist Children's Homes and Meals on Wheels?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Deputy Commissioner of Succession Duties reports:

In the Second Schedule to the Succession Duties Act, 1929-1967, there are provisions under which some institutions are entitled to the benefit of a concessional rate of duty and others are exempted from duty. Paragraph 5 (c) of this schedule provides a rate of duty of 10 per cent to be paid in respect of any property devised, bequeathed, or passing under any non-testamentary disposition to a benevolent institution or benevolent society in this State. Meals on Wheels Incorporated is considered to be an institution entitled to this concessional rate of duty, but not to an absolute exemption. Paragraph 6 (c) of the schedule provides that no duty shall be payable when any property passes to a benevolent institution or benevolent society in the State for the full-time care and maintenance of aged, indigent or infirm persons or of children. If, in speaking of the Methodist Children's Homes, the member for Unley was referring to the Central Mission Homes for Children Incorporated, it is considered that this latter institution is entitled to this exemption.

The honourable member will see from the report that various institutions under the Succession Duties Act qualify for various degrees of exemption. There is no flat rate at all and this probably accounts for the different results when applied to various charities.

ROWLAND FLAT SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the future of the property on which is erected the Rowland Flat Primary School, which has now closed?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: As the honourable member knows, representatives of the Agricultural Bureau acting on behalf of the local community have asked that the Rowland Flat closed school property be made available for the use of the community. The local firm to which I referred previously has also asked that the property be made available to it, and has undertaken to send a circular to the residents of Rowland Flat indicating the conditions under which the school property, if acquired by it, would be made available for community activities. Following distribution of the circular, a public meeting was to be arranged to discuss the whole matter. I understand that this circular has not yet been sent out or arrangements made to hold the public meeting. However, in the meantime, the docket concerning the disposal of this school property is with the Public Buildings Department for a description of the improvements and their valuation prior to the disposal of it. If it is decided to dispose of the property to any private organization or persons, tenders will be called by the Lands Department in the usual way.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Mr. VIRGO: I draw the Treasurer's attention to section 18 of the Workmen's Compensation Act which sets out the weekly sum payable to a married person injured at work. I point out that this sum was last fixed in 1963 at \$32.50. At that time, the State living wage was \$28.30 a week and, as can be seen, a sum of \$4.20 was therefore payable for workmen's compensation in excess of the State living wage (one could describe that as a marginal rate of about 15 per cent). As from next Monday, the minimum living wage will be \$38.40 a week and, to retain the 1963 ratio of the weekly payments to the living wage, the maximum sum payable under the Act for a married person should be \$44.16 a week, whereas actually the sum provided is still only \$32.50. As the sum payable under the Act at present is considerably less than the amount stated by the court to be the minimum on which a married man can exist, and in view of the extreme hardship suffered in various cases referred to me by people who, through no fault of their own, are receiving workmen's compensation payment, will the Treasurer consider urgently introducing an amending Bill to restore the relative value of the weekly payments?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The matter referred to by the honourable member has

not entirely escaped notice but, as he says, the recent wage determination has accentuated the position. I will have the whole matter examined promptly and let the honourable member know what will take place as a result of that examination.

TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Has the Premier a reply to my question of October 15 about trade union representation on the committee to consider matters mostly connected with commercial road vehicles?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Minister of Roads and Transport reports that a Government-industry committee is being established to report to the Minister of Roads and Transport on the following:

- (1) Commercial vehicle speed limits.
- (2) Fitting of brakes on rear wheels of four-wheel trailers over 2-ton carrying capacity.
- (3) Maximum gross axle loads on commercial vehicles.
- (4) The effectiveness of present legislation in relation to roadworthiness of motor vehicles.
- (5) Road maintenance charges on vehicles exceeding 8-ton carrying capacity when such vehicles are being used for sales demonstration purposes or road testing after service maintenance has been carried out.
- (6) Conditions governing the use of general trader's plates.

Items (5) and (6) are of a nature that could not possibly require union representation. Items (1) to (4) are basically matters of a technical and/or administrative nature and, accordingly, the established representation is appropriate. The Government will agree to union representation in cases where it is appropriate.

WUDINNA SCHOOL

Mr. EDWARDS: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question of October 3 regarding the fencing project at the Wudinna Area School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Funds have been approved and plans have been prepared for the fencing requirements at the Wudinna Area School. It has been suggested that the school committee may undertake the erection of the fencing if the Government were to supply the necessary materials. An approach has recently been made by the Public Buildings Department to the Education Department for clarification of this arrangement. If the committee does undertake to erect the fencing, then arrangements will be made to supply

the necessary materials at an early date. However, if the committee is unable to carry out the work, then immediate arrangements will be made to call tenders.

HENLEY SEWERAGE

Mr. BROOMHILL: I noted with approval the announcement made yesterday that the Public Works Committee had recommended additional expenditure on the Henley Beach, Grange and Fulham sewerage scheme. In view of the great interest shown by the residents of the area affected by this scheme, will the Minister of Works provide a report showing the expenditure likely to be incurred and the work likely to be undertaken during the next 12 months and the areas that are likely to be affected?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The report referred to by the honourable member came on to my desk this morning. I will examine it and the department's programme for the honourable member's district and see whether I can give him the required information as quickly as possible.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Mr. GILES: Last Friday, a party of politicians visited the Roseworthy Agricultural College and spent an enjoyable day inspecting the college. Agricultural courses seem to be getting more technical and more academic, and the more practical educational needs of farmers' sons are being neglected to some degree. Can the Minister of Education say whether consideration has been given to the establishment of another agricultural college for the purpose of educating farmers' sons who will return to the farms, rather than educating them to the high standard that the Roseworthy college does?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: A committee is at present taking evidence on and inquiring into the whole question of agricultural education. I think that part of its terms of reference is to try to forecast the requirements in agricultural education for the next 15 to 20 years. The committee is also considering the graduate course in agricultural education as well as the Roseworthy diploma course, and a further added term of reference asks the committee to inquire into the two-year secondary course in Education Department schools. I think a question was asked the other day about this matter, and the Minister of Agriculture has undertaken to try to get from the committee an interim report on the

various matters that are being raised. However, I do not think the information is forthcoming yet. The Education Department is extremely interested in the matter, in view of the fact that many secondary schools already have courses whilst for other schools similar courses are projected. The main difficulty is to attract teachers who will teach these agricultural courses, and the response has been rather disappointing, so we are rather restricted because of this. However, I will get a reply for the honourable member as soon as possible.

HOUSING TRUST RENTS

Mr. JENNINGS: Recently I have received several hundred letters (and I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that that is not an exaggeration) from people in my district, mostly around Kilburn and Mansfield Park, and I assume that most other members have received similar letters. This correspondence refers to the recent increase in Housing Trust rents, which has coincided with the recent increase in age and invalid pensions. The inevitable inference drawn by such people is that the Commonwealth Government has given them an increase in pensions and that the State Government has taken away most of the increase almost immediately. Although we realize that this is not exactly true, the inference is inevitable. Therefore, will the Minister of Housing investigate this matter and give a reply to the House?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

LUCINDALE ROAD

Mr. RODDA: Has the Attorney-General a reply to my question about work on the Lucindale-Furner Main Road No. 298?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: This road, which is maintained by the District Councils of Lucindale and Beachport from main road grants, has not been inspected by the department's District Engineer for some time. It is likely to be in poor condition over the black soil flats because of the recent wet conditions. The District Engineer is contacting both councils and it is expected that it will be restored to a satisfactory condition as soon as possible.

DESALINATION

Mr. McKEE: The September edition of the monthly journal *Economic Partner*, which is published by the Japan Trade Council, contains the following report:

Japan is ideally placed to co-operate fully in the development of fresh water conversion schemes for Australia. A number of organizations has been conducting research for many

years and has reduced the problems to quite manageable proportions. The cost of producing and operating water conversion plants has been minimized and Japan's experts are ready to join forces with Australians to introduce their revolutionary concepts to thirsty industrial and primary consumers. Equipment can be readily supplied which will give a fresh water output of more than 250,000 gallons a day, or as little as 250 gallons a day, at much the same cost as fresh water from normal outlets.

As South Australia is the driest State in the Commonwealth and as it does not seem that the Chowilla dam will be built, at least in the near future, can the Premier say whether he has been informed of Japan's willingness to co-operate in the development of fresh water conversion schemes in Australia?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Doubtless, the Minister of Works would have much more detailed information about the advances being made throughout the world in the re-using and the desalination of water, and I am sure that his department would know of Japan's progress in this field. Therefore, I shall refer the honourable member's question to my colleague and ask him for a report on the matter referred to.

GRAIN SILOS

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a reply to my recent question about the location of grain silos in South Australia?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I ask leave to have incorporated in *Hansard*, without my reading it, a schedule on this matter.

Leave granted.

GRAIN SILOS NEARER A TERMINAL SILO BY ROAD THAN BY RAIL

Terminal Silo, Port Adelaide:	Approx. difference in mileage.
Town	Miles
Alawoona	8
Andrews	5
Apamurra	30
Cambrai	38
Copeville	47
Galga	42
Karoonda	9
Kulkami	6
Loxton	8
Meribah	8
Monarto South	5
Paringa	57
Strathalbyn	11
Tailem Bend	4
Taldra	29
Waikerie	76
Wanbi	8

Terminal Silo, Port Pirie:	Approx. difference in mileage.
Town	Miles
Booloroo Centre	10
Caltowie	11
Gladstone	10
Gulnare	15
Jamestown	11
Melrose	30
Orroroo	25
Quorn	80
Wilmington	28
Wirrabara	11
Yongala	6

Terminal Silo, Wallaroo:	Approx. difference in mileage.
Town	Miles
Brinkworth	5
Blyth	10
Snowtown	5

Terminal Silo, Port Lincoln:	Approx. difference in mileage.
Town	Miles
Buckleboo	18
Darke Peake	4
Kapinnie	6
Kimba	18
Lock	4
Rudall	8
Ungarra	10
Wharminda	18
Yeelanna	4

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Silos have not been listed where the difference between road and rail mileages is three miles or less. The six silos on Eyre Peninsula which are not connected to rail have been omitted.

COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE

Mr. RICHES: A constituent, in a letter received by me today, expresses the belief that Dick Turpin rides again, this time operating from an insurance company's office. This constituent insured her motor car comprehensively and thought that she had insured it against robbery. Recently the vehicle was forcibly entered and goods were stolen, but, when she lodged a claim with the insurance company, she was told by the agent of the company that section (5) of her policy provided coverage for goods stolen, but only those stolen as a result of highway robbery or hold-up. That seems to me to be an extraordinary and misleading provision to have in an insurance policy. Therefore, if I give the Attorney-General the correspondence, will he have the matter investigated to find out whether an injustice has been done?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes, I should be glad to look at it if the honourable

member gives me the correspondence. However, I point out, as I have pointed out previously, and as I think my predecessor also did, that a policy of insurance involves a contract between two parties and that they are able to make what conditions and terms they like. Normally, those terms and conditions are made by the insurer, the company, but once they are agreed to by the client, the insured, the insured and the insurer are both bound. I will certainly inquire about this case.

WALLAROO HOSPITAL

Mr. HUGHES: For some years I have been trying to have air-conditioning installed at the Wallaroo Hospital, with the result that last year the Government placed a substantial sum on the Loan Estimates for that purpose and, in February, this was further increased by Cabinet decision. On October 3 and 10, tenders were called for supplying and installing an air-conditioning system at the hospital, comprising three package-type air-conditioning units and associated ductwork to a total capacity of about 19 refrigerated tons for male, female and maternity wards. As I understand that tenders were returnable last Tuesday, can the Minister of Works say whether any tenders were received and, if they were, when they will be processed?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The honourable member was kind enough to tell me that he wanted this information today. Tenders closed on Tuesday, October 22, and were opened on that day. The length of time for processing tenders before they are submitted to Cabinet for approval depends on the technical details submitted by the tenderers, as these details have to be considered by the department. The procedure is that on closing day the opening of tenders is carried out under the usual process and the appropriate department (in this case the Public Buildings Department) examines the tenders to see whether they are complete in relation to the specifications, the time factor, and the tender price. The honourable member will appreciate that, in the case of a highly technical tender such as this, the processing could take some time before the tender could be forwarded to the Auditor-General for scrutiny. I assure the honourable member that no undue delay will occur, that all normal procedures will be followed, and that, if I can, I will expedite the letting of a tender.

BAROSSA BUS SERVICE

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Minister of Roads and Transport to my suggestion that Bluebird rail passenger cars be used on the Adelaide-Angaston line?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: As the reply does not seem to be here, I will inquire further to see whether I can hasten it.

HUGHES ESTATE

Mr. BROOMHILL: In an area known as Hughes Estate, being developed at Henley Beach by the Housing Trust, I have recently noticed a slackening off in the building programme. Will the Minister of Housing obtain details of the trust's building programme in this area?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will ask the General Manager of the trust for a report.

WHYALLA VISIT

Mr. RODDA: Has the Premier further information concerning the proposed Parliamentary visit to Whyalla?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: A letter I have received from a representative of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited contains the following relevant details:

We are pleased that the Premier has accepted so warmly our invitation, and the date he suggests, Monday, December 2 next, is quite acceptable to us. Precise details of the day's programme depend, to some extent, on the numbers in the party, but the following is the outline we have in mind. We are arranging with Airlines of South Australia to provide special services to and from Whyalla. At this stage, it seems that planes will leave Adelaide between 9.00 and 9.30 a.m. for Whyalla, and on the return trip will reach Adelaide between 5.30 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. At Whyalla, we propose that the party should meet Sir Ian McLennan and other senior officers of the company, and during the morning, see something of our new installations, particularly the pellet plant and the steelworks.

A buffet luncheon will be arranged to enable the members to talk with as many of our people as possible. During the afternoon, there will be visits to the shipyard and to the town. If there are any aspects of the Whyalla operations in which any individual member is particularly interested, we would be pleased to make appropriate arrangements for his interest. It would be helpful, to enable transport arrangements and time tables to be completed, if you would let me have an estimate of the numbers in the party at the earliest opportunity. This would be a good opportunity to see, under the best possible conditions, the improvements and new installations that have taken place at Whyalla in recent years. I would appreciate if the Party Whips could confer today and

obtain an indication of the number of members that would like to make this trip. If members could co-operate with the Whips I would appreciate a tentative indication this evening and a firm indication by November 5.

WATER CHARGES

Mr. RICHES: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on October 17 about reviewing the agreement between the Government and the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited in relation to the supply of water at Whyalla, as a result of the Auditor-General's suggestion that the cost to the company of such water should be reviewed?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am sorry to have inconvenienced the honourable member as, having sent him a note that I had a reply, I now find that the reply has been left at my office. However, I will bring it down on the next day of sitting.

AUBURN ROAD

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Minister of Roads and Transport to my recent question about work on the Auburn Road to be included in the five-year construction programme?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The five-year advance construction programme as published in the daily papers did not include every project envisaged. The Auburn-Clare section of the Main North Road is programmed for commencement in 1970-71 and completion in 1971-72.

RAIL PASSES

Mr. VIRGO: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Minister of Roads and Transport to the question I asked on October 2 about extending the use of rail passes for retired railway employees to include trips to other States and more frequent intrastate trips?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The granting of free interstate passes to retired railway employees has been considered by the Commissioners of the Australian railway systems many times and declined, the last occasion being the Railways Commissioners' conference held in Adelaide in March of this year when the matter was discussed at length and the decision reached that there should be no alteration to the existing practice of not granting such a concession. It would be necessary for agreement to be reached by

all rail systems before either free or concession travel for interstate movement could be granted. With regard to the issue of destination intrastate passes for retired railway employees, during the last financial year 388 retired officers and employees took advantage of the concession and of this number 118 applied for and were issued with two destination passes. It is interesting to note that 87 retired employees applied for privilege tickets but did not use their pass entitlement; only two retired employees used the maximum number (12) privilege tickets allowed each year. It is estimated that 2,200 retired officers and employees are at present eligible for these privileges. After giving the matter careful consideration, my colleague has informed me that at the present time he is unable to agree to increase the annual quota of intrastate passes for retired employees.

Mr. VIRGO: Has the Attorney-General a reply to my question of October 1 about extending the granting of first-class rail passes to railway employees?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The issue of first-class passes to all employees whilst travelling to other States has been the subject of discussion at Railways Commissioners' conferences on many occasions and the request has been declined. The matter was listed again for the Commissioners' Conference held in March of this year, and the decision reached was that no alteration was to be made in the existing practice. Without agreement between the railway systems the honourable member's request cannot be acceded to. However, my colleague has told me that he has asked the Railways Commissioner to list for consideration at the next conference of Commissioners the issue of first-class inter-system passes to weekly-paid employees with more than five years' service.

KAPUNDA DRAINAGE

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Local Government a reply to the question I recently asked about drainage at Kapunda?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Minister of Local Government reports that, under section 427 of the Local Government Act, 21 ratepayers in a district may, by writing, demand that the question whether or not a loan is to be incurred be submitted to a poll of the ratepayers. A number of ratepayers did present such a demand to the District Clerk of the Kapunda council but it did not

comply with the requirements of section 832a of the Act, in that details of the properties in respect of which the signatories were entitled to vote were not inserted in the demand. The demand was referred to the solicitor for the council who gave his opinion that it was not in order. Section 832a (2) states that no notice shall be received by the person to whom it is addressed unless it complies with the requirements of the section. In view of this direction, the District Clerk returned the demand to the ratepayers.

One ratepayer sought the advice of the Minister's department and was given a draft form complying with the requirements of the Act. A form based on this draft was used by the ratepayers for a demand on the council. On receipt of the demand the District Clerk referred it to the council's solicitor who ruled that it was out of order and could not be accepted. This ruling was based on the fact that all of the papers were not verified by declaration by a person who had also signed the notice or writing as required by section 832a(1)(b). The District Clerk acted on the advice of the solicitor and returned the demand. It is pointed out that the advice of the council's solicitor was sought in both cases and, as he had given his opinion that the two demands did not comply with section 832a, the District Clerk could not receive them unless he disregarded the council's legal adviser.

AIR POLLUTION

Mr. McKEE: Has the Premier a reply to the question I recently asked about the findings of the Senate Select Committee on Air Pollution?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Senate Select Committee on Air Pollution has not submitted its findings in South Australia to date. It is expected that an interim report will be available in due course. The South Australian Clean Air Committee will certainly request a report.

SCHOOL WATER CHARGES

Mr. CASEY: There is no doubt about the present financial position of country private or independent schools, a matter that has been forcibly brought to our attention recently. As a result of the increase in excess water charges, particularly in the northern areas of the State, and as many of these schools have

gone to much expense in providing small grassed playing areas (several such areas having been grassed only in the last 12 to 18 months), such schools are experiencing a problem. I am afraid that the increased excess water charge imposed, particularly as it applies in the summer months, will create much hardship for these independent schools. Departmental schools are, of course, better off, because some time ago a special committee considered the use of water in State schools, taking into account such matters as climatic conditions, etc., and a water allowance is received which is payable by the Education Department. In view of the financial position of these independent schools, which represent an asset to the State as they provide education facilities for many children, will the Minister of Works take up this matter with Cabinet and ascertain whether these schools cannot be considered favourably in respect of the excess water charges that have recently been imposed?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: Yes, although I remind the honourable member that, during the term of the previous Government, I moved a motion in this House seeking certain concessions to apply to private schools such as those to which he has referred, but the previous Government rejected those concessions out of hand. However, despite that, I shall be pleased to examine the honourable member's suggestion.

WHEAT

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Has the Minister of Lands obtained from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my recent question about the capacity of the silos in the District of Light to handle the coming wheat harvest?

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

The General Manager of the South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited has informed me that, provided all old season's wheat can be cleared prior to the commencement of harvest, total space in the five silos at Robertstown, Eudunda, Saddleworth, Tarlee and Hamley Bridge respectively will be 1,250,000 bushels. With prospects of the greatest wheat crop on record in South Australia, and deliveries likely to be treble those of last season, it is inevitable that there will be delays in receiving the record crop during the harvest period. Appeals have been made to growers to co-operate in using their barns and sheds for farm storage of wheat for from a few days to a few weeks when C.B.H. silos are filled to capacity and, as deliveries to the five silos are estimated to be of the order of 1,750,000 bushels, growers in the areas mentioned by the honourable member should be encouraged

to make full use of their farm buildings for the temporary storage of wheat, as indications are at this stage that deliveries could exceed silo space by 500,000 bushels at the five silos.

ASCOT PARK SCHOOL

Mr. VIRGO: On Tuesday I asked the Minister a question about an earlier reply I had received about the Ascot Park school.

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: Which Minister?

Mr. VIRGO: As I have referred to the Ascot Park school, I think it is obvious that my question is to the Minister of Education. I understand she has a reply for me, and I know she will be courteous in giving it to me.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I hope I am always courteous.

Mr. Virgo: Yes, and so are most of the other Ministers.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: In my reply to the honourable member on August 8 to which he has referred, I did say that accommodation at this school is especially generous in the special purpose rooms such as library, activity, and art and craft rooms. In explanation of this, I should say that the school has a woodwork centre. When woodwork was discontinued in primary schools, an instruction was issued that the centres were to be used as art and craft rooms for the school, so that it is true to say that Ascot Park school has rooms for art and craft. However, it has been necessary to use this accommodation temporarily for the Glengowrie High School pupils until the new high school is completed. This is expected to occur before the end of the year when the centre will again become available to Ascot Park school. As I also said in my previous reply, proposals were submitted for the conversion of the woodwork centre to a headmaster's office and to classrooms. If this is done, a triple classroom which is sited near Marion Road and which is rather noisy for ordinary classroom activities will then be used for art and craft. No definite plans have been made for re-siting any triple units but, before the conversion of the woodwork centre is carried out, an examination will be made to see if this is necessary in view of the changed use of the rooms.

MYLOR AND ECHUNGA SCHOOLS

Mr. EVANS: In my district there are two class 4 primary schools, one at Mylor and one at Echunga, neither of which has a residence for the headmaster within the town. Can the Minister of Education say how many class 4 primary schools there are in the State, and whether it is a fact that only in relation to the

two schools to which I have referred are residences not available for headmasters in the townships concerned? If that is not a fact, can she say how many other class 4 schools are in the same category?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I commend the honourable member for his persistence in this matter, particularly with regard to Echunga, and I will look into the whole matter he has raised and bring down a reply as soon as possible.

MAIN ROAD No. 30

Mr. McKEE: The Attorney-General has been kind enough to inform me that he has a reply to the question I asked recently about finance being made available to the Port Pirie council in regard to Main Road No. 30. I should appreciate it if he would give that reply to the House.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: In my usual mood of co-operation and courtesy, for which I am noted, I will give the honourable member the reply. Funds to the extent of \$18,500 have been approved for expenditure during 1968-69. It is estimated that the expenditure of this amount will enable the work to be completed.

MODBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the Education Department's plans for the old Modbury Primary School building, which is not now used for education?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: It is correct to say that requests have been made for the use of the old Modbury school property. The Golden Grove branch of the Country Women's Association was given permission to use a room at the school on two occasions a month from early morning until about 2 p.m., but no advantage has been taken of this approval. An inquiry was received from the local kindergarten some time ago but this has not been followed up. A telephone inquiry was made on behalf of the Church of England. A request for the use of the buildings was made by the First Modbury Boy Scouts Troop. Apart from the early inquiries made, none of the proposals for the use of the buildings has been accepted. On September 25, I approved a recommendation that the City of Tea Tree Gully be granted a lease of the school for the purpose of establishing a static library, subject to conditions which have been made known to the council and which are still under consideration.

SEED CERTIFICATION

Mr. FREEBAIRN: At a meeting at Saddleworth last Friday evening I was asked about the certification of seed and a complaint was made that, this year, the acreage to be certified is much greater than in previous years and the staff to handle seed certification is inadequate. Therefore, will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture to check the position with a view to increasing the size of the seed certification staff?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes, I will ask my colleague.

WILLSDEN SCHOOL

Mr. RICHES: The Minister of Education will recall that representations have been made regarding the replacement of the Willsdén school. It is necessary this year that additional temporary classrooms be built at this school, but a request has been made that the department consider effecting a progressive changeover to Samcon construction, that is, that the old buildings, which are almost beyond repair, be replaced by Samcon buildings. The Minister previously said that this matter could be investigated and a report obtained. Although it is realized that the changeover cannot be effected immediately, can the Minister of Education say whether she has yet obtained a report on this school? If she has not, will she have the suggestion investigated at the earliest opportunity?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: As I do not recollect having received a report on this school, I will call for one. I point out that the programme relating to Samcon schools is more or less committed at present, and whether or not the additions to be made at this school are included will necessitate obtaining a report, which I will bring down as early as I can.

SAMCON SCHOOLS

Mr. RICHES: My experience is that Samcon schools have been acceptable wherever they have been built. There seems to be a general request for this type of school, which can be moved as the population changes and which is capable of providing all the facilities required in various localities. As I understand that the total production of this type of school is about six to eight a year, will the Minister of Works examine the possibility of stepping up the construction of Samcon schools, because I believe that this is the only hope we have of improving the standard of schools established at the turn of the century,

and that it is the only reasonable way of providing adequate accommodation in areas where the population is subject to transfer?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I will certainly look into the matter for the honourable member. I completely agree with him that the Samcon school construction has received widespread support; where such schools have been built they have been greatly appreciated. Of course, the honourable member will readily understand that this type of construction is used mainly in connection with primary schools. As yet, it is not possible to use Samcon construction for other types of building, although that matter is presently being investigated. Samcon schools are particularly adaptable and useful in uncomfortable climates, especially in the hotter parts of the North. No doubt members will recall that two or three months ago the Public Buildings Department produced a report on Samcon construction, a copy of which I had sent all members so that they could be completely informed of the latest progress and developments in relation to this scheme.

Mr. Riches: I appreciated that, too.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I will look into the question of increasing the production of these units and let the honourable member know what can be done.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: One of the first Samcon schools constituted in this State is at Saddleworth. This is an excellent school, and it has air-conditioning. Can the Minister of Works say whether the installation of air-conditioning in Samcon schools is still standard policy?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: Obviously, air-conditioning must be an integral part of Samcon schools: they could not be used without it, because, as the honourable member knows, these schools are prefabricated and enclosed. Air-conditioning of these schools will therefore continue to be the policy, irrespective of the climatic conditions in the part of the State in which they are erected.

Mr. Freebairn: Air-conditioning provides both heating and cooling.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I wanted to amplify the reply a little, especially in relation to the question asked by the member for Stuart (Mr. Riches). Many Samcon schools perform an extremely worthwhile function. In many cases, the school needs can best be fulfilled by a solid-construction building, but Samcon is an adjunct to solid construction and in many places it is better to build the Samcon type of school.

Mr. Clark: Especially when we're in a hurry.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: As the Chairman of the Public Works Committee says, the most beneficial aspect of Samcon construction is the speed of erection. Often these buildings can be erected much more quickly than can solid-construction buildings. The short answer is that, in the main, air-conditioning is provided.

WATER CONSUMPTION

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the reading of water meters and the provision of the actual reading on the information given to the householder?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: On August 7, I replied to a similar question by the member for Albert, as follows:

There is no requirement in the Waterworks Act for reading slips to be left at the time meters are read, and this is done purely as a service to consumers. The practice has been discontinued in Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart, and no public dissatisfaction has been encountered. The present system allows consumers to check their water consumption with that of previous periods, and where inquiries are received the full details maintained in the official register are freely made available.

That was the reply I gave to the member for Albert on August 7, but I want to add that the practice of showing the registration of the meter on reading slips was discontinued many years ago, partly because of the additional cost but mainly because of certain practical difficulties in providing complete information. It has been reconsidered many times since, but these difficulties still exist.

The basic problem is that, compared with gas and electricity meters, where meter changes are rare, water meters require much more maintenance and as many as 15 per cent may be changed within a year. What therefore might quickly be considered as involving only a simple operation of subtracting a past reading from a present reading often represents an operation of doing this for two different meters and adding these two consumption figures together with the further addition of an estimated consumption for the period during which the original meter was not recording. Although consumers are informed where such an estimate has been made, it is considered that advices giving full details of all readings where more than one meter has been involved

could lead to confusion. There would certainly be more cost involved, as extra time would be taken and this would have to be recovered in the form of higher charges.

However, the department is desirous of assisting the public, and any consumer who wishes to keep a consistent check on his consumption of water to conserve water or to avoid using excess water will be readily given the registration of his meter on inquiry to the office of the Engineering and Water Supply Department. At the same time he can be further advised on:

- (1) How to read his particular type of meter.
- (2) The variations which he can expect in his consumption of water over the two half-yearly periods.
- (3) The effect of any meter changes on the check he wishes to keep.
- (4) His rebate allowance of water for the current year.

This will prepare him better for reading his meter and keeping a meaningful record.

BUILDERS LICENSING BOARD

Mr. VIRGO: Has the Minister of Housing a reply to the question I asked during the debate on the Estimates regarding the sum provided as fees for members of the Builders Licensing Board?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The sum of \$5,200 shown in the Estimates for 1968-69 covers only the fees of the Chairman, members and Secretary of the Builders Licensing Board. The Chairman receives \$1,300 a year, the four members receive \$800 a year each and the Secretary \$300 a year. The total is \$5,200, because there are 13 monthly payments to be made this year, as a payment due in June, 1968, was delayed until July, 1968. When the Builders Licensing Board was first appointed in February, 1968, it was decided to pay fees from the Premier's Office salaries line and office expenses from the Premier's Department office expenses line, as the board was to operate from the office of the Premier and Minister of Housing. The sum of \$905 was paid as fees in 1967-68, and this is shown separately in the 1968-69 Estimates under Premier's Department. Office expenses were not separately recorded, and probably amounted to \$150 or so. After the portfolios were divided and the sub-estimates were being prepared, the fees of the Builders Licensing Board were shown

initially as a separate line under Premier's Department "salaries", and this was subsequently adjusted and listed under "V Treasurer and Minister of Housing—Miscellaneous". While the board continues to operate from the Premier's Department the day-to-day office expenses will be paid from that department's office expenses. Subsequently, they may be paid from the office expenses line relating to my office as Treasurer and Minister of Housing or accounted for separately, but this has not yet been decided. (This practice is similar to that adopted with the Land Agents Board, where office expenses are not separated from the office expenses of the Attorney-General's Department.)

In regard to the work carried out by the board I draw the honourable member's attention to the first report of the board, which has been laid on the table of the House. The report covers the period up to June 30, 1968. Since that time the board has continued with preliminary work relating to policy, regulations and forms. The board is in a position to recommend regulations covering administrative matters (including forms to be used) almost immediately. Once application forms have been authorized they can be printed and the board will distribute them to persons who have notified their intention to apply for licences and will allow perhaps two months for their return. Some time must then be allowed for assessment and preparation of licences. In relation to the latter part of the question, I am advised that no applications have been received as yet. Some 3,304 notices of intention to apply for either a general licence or a restricted licence have been received. Those received before June 3, 1968, were classified by the Secretary according to length of experience, qualifications and type of trade, and the results provided a basis for the board's deliberations as to policies to be adopted. When authorized and printed, application forms will be sent to persons who have lodged notices.

STRATHALBYN AMBULANCE

Mr. McANANEY: Recently, the Civil Defence Corps at Strathalbyn purchased an ambulance from the hospital board at a cost of \$200 and was surprised to find that it had to pay \$40 registration on it. I understand the volunteer fire-fighting association does not pay registration fees on its vehicles. As the ambulance will be used only very little on the

road, will the Treasurer consider making a registration concession in respect of the Civil Defence Corps?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: There are always good reasons why the Treasurer should make concessions of this or that sort, but this should not be taken as being a refusal of the honourable member's request. I will look into the merits of the matter.

WARRADALE SCHOOL

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question of October 15 concerning approval by the Public Buildings Department of the work proposed at the Warradale Primary School for the levelling and reticulation of the north-west corner of the schoolgrounds?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: A departmental order is now being placed on a contractor to undertake the ground formation work involved in the project. In addition, recommendations are currently being forwarded to the Education Department on the acceptability of quotations that have been submitted for the grassing and reticulation of the area.

FACTORY INSPECTION

Mr. BROOMHILL: The annual report of the Department of Labour and Industry, at page 21, states:

It is my view that an Inspector of Factories should make at least one inspection each year of every factory in all areas where the Industrial Code and Country Factories Act apply, but experience has shown that this cannot be achieved with the present staff.

Has the Minister of Labour and Industry considered these comments, and does he expect that additional staff will be engaged to undertake this duty?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: It has concerned me that for many years there have not been sufficient inspectors in the department to carry out the duties to which the honourable member has referred. Further duties were imposed upon the department by the Industrial Code passed last year, requiring inspections to be carried out in other fields. In addition, the Industrial Code lays down certain conditions regarding the building of new factories, such as the need to lodge plans with the department for approval before certain factories can be built. This has added to the requirement for highly-qualified engineers and officers to be

employed by the department. Already I have approved the appointment of additional inspectors and other staff, and some of these have been engaged. I assure the honourable member that, as the work load of the office builds up, additional inspectors will be appointed and that all the requirements of the Industrial Code and other regulations will be complied with fully.

TEA TREE GULLY SEWERAGE

Mrs. BYRNE: The Minister of Works told me on July 30, in reply to a question, that a sewerage scheme had been approved for the area adjacent to the Tea Tree Gully council chambers, including Jenkins Street and Raymond Road. The Minister also said, in reply to a comment I made during the Loan Estimates debate, that, wherever possible, maps of the relevant areas would be given to members. Can the Minister say whether a map of the area covered by this scheme can be given to me?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: I will find out whether this can be done.

MINISTERIAL OFFICES

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Treasurer a reply to the question I asked during the debate on the Estimates about staffing and reorganization within his office?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member asked about reorganization in the Minister of Transport's Department and in my own department. Consequent upon the rearrangement of Ministerial offices following the discontinuance of the Department of the Minister of Transport and the Department of the Minister of Local Government and Roads, and the declaration of the one department of the Minister of Roads and Transport and Minister of Local Government, only one office of permanent head was created, namely, Secretary, Minister of Roads and Transport, and Secretary, Minister of Local Government, and Mr. W. F. Isbell was appointed to this office. Mr. M. E. S. Bray, previously Secretary, Minister of Local Government and Roads, was transferred to the new office of Secretary for Local Government at his same salary within the new department.

NURIOOTPA WORKS

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: I understand that earlier this week Cabinet approved certain projects at Nuriootpa in my district, including

additions to the Nuriootpa High School. Can the Minister of Works give details of these projects?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: Approval has been given this week for the following three projects for Nuriootpa:

(1) Nuriootpa High School: The estimated expenditure of \$132,800 for the erection of both boys and girls craft blocks. The boys craft block accommodation will provide for woodwork room, metalwork room, planning room and staff accommodation, while the girls craft block will consist of a craft room, kitchen and staff accommodation. The approval of this expenditure will enable the planning programme to proceed and it is expected that construction will commence this financial year.

(2) The purchase of land for a new police station and divisional headquarters at Nuriootpa at an estimated cost of \$10,400. The Land Board is being requested to carry out negotiations for the purchase of allotments 21, 22, 29 and 30 at present held by the Community Co-operative Store (Nuriootpa) Ltd.

(3) The purchase of land at Nuriootpa for a district office for the Agriculture Department at an estimated cost of \$5,900.

TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Minister of Roads and Transport to my questions during the debate on the Estimates about the allocation of highway funds in relation to the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Information contained in the M.A.T.S. Report indicates a distribution of highway funds between the metropolitan district of the Highways and Local Government Department and the remainder of the State, as set out on the table herewith. The metropolitan district of the department is not precisely coincident with the planning area adopted for the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study, but the percentages given in the table may, for practical purposes, be regarded as the percentages sought by the honourable member. It should also be noted that the planning area adopted for the purpose of the study is not presently and will not by 1986 be fully urban in character. It should also be noted that there are areas of urban development in the State outside the Adelaide metropolitan area. As the remainder of the reply is a statistical table, I ask permission to have it incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Year	PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HIGHWAY FUNDS	
	Metropolitan district (per cent)	Remainder of State (per cent)
1968-69	34.1	65.9
1969-70	34.4	65.6
1970-71	36.5	63.5
1971-72	38.0	62.0
1972-73	39.5	60.5
1973-74	41.4	58.6
1974-75	42.4	57.6
1975-76	44.4	55.6
1976-77	45.3	54.7
1977-78	46.1	53.9
1978-79	46.2	53.8
1979-80	46.8	53.2
1980-81	48.0	52.0
1981-82	48.3	51.7
1982-83	48.9	51.1
1983-84	49.4	50.6
1984-85	49.3	50.7
1985-86	49.8	50.2

FOOD PRODUCTION

Mr. RICHES: Recent public statements can cause considerable confusion in the minds of primary producers in this State. One statement, attributed to Dr. A. R. Callaghan, is to the effect that the increase in the quantity of wheat being produced in Australia should be curbed. Dr. Callaghan forecast that 10 per cent more wheat would be reaped this year than was reaped in any previous year. In view of the various appeals that have been made, such as Community Aid Abroad and Freedom from Hunger, and of the need for increased food production throughout the world, it would be helpful if a statement could be made of Government policy in connection with Dr. Callaghan's remarks, I refer also to a statement issued at about the same time by the Minister of Agriculture in which he challenged the man on the land to produce more wheat and said that primary production was vital to South Australia's economy. The Minister also said:

South Australia enjoys a favorable overseas trade balance due principally to the exports of farm produce. From the early days South Australia has always been an important producer of wheat and other grains, with production increasing markedly in recent years.

He also explained how much of our export trade was lost last year because of the drought. Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture to issue an informative statement on whether, in the interests of the economy of the State and of humanity, farmers are advised to produce more wheat, whether the Government supports the suggestion that

there should be a reduction in the acreage of wheat, or what is the best advice a primary producer can expect?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will refer this question to my colleague but, obviously, the honourable member knows that there is no complete answer to these problems, which have worried economists and others for many years. In most cases people who need food and who are under-nourished cannot pay for it, and countries that produce food are those whose economies can be seriously disrupted by problems of over-supply. No simple answer exists to these problems, and I do not expect the Minister of Agriculture to have one. I know that the honourable member could not provide one, but he quoted the Chairman of the Australian Wheat Board, Dr. Callaghan, as saying that he thought that there should be some curb on wheat production. I do not see any conflict of opinion between Dr. Callaghan's statement and the portion of the statement of the Minister of Agriculture that was read by the honourable member, but I will examine the question and pass it on to my colleague, who no doubt will provide a considered reply when the House meets again.

BUILDING ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Attorney-General a reply to questions asked by me and the member for Edwardstown during the debate on the Estimates about the Building Act Advisory Committee and whether the allocation was for fees to be paid to the Builders Licensing Advisory Committee?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Building Act Advisory Committee is established under section 98a of the Building Act to advise the Minister on any proposals for amending the Act. The Act has been amended extensively since it first came into operation in 1923 to keep pace with changes in building materials and methods. The Act is in need of revision, and action being taken throughout Australia makes this an appropriate time for the revision to take place, as foreshadowed in His Excellency the Governor's Opening Speech. The Ministers of Local Government, at their meeting in 1964, agreed to establish an interstate standing committee to prepare an Australian uniform building code. South Australia agreed to participate and has two representatives on the committee who report back to our own State committee.

The interstate committee is issuing an Australian Model Uniform Building Code, and the first part dealing with fire protection has been

received. The structure of the present Act will not permit the new code to be adopted even in a modified form. The Building Act Advisory Committee has, therefore, embarked on a redrawing of the whole of the Act. Mr. T. A. Farrant has been employed as a technical drafting consultant, and the committee is vigorously pursuing its task in close consultation with the Parliamentary Draftsman and the Crown Solicitor.

MARION LAND

Mr. VIRGO: Has the Minister of Education a reply to a question I asked on October 17 about land owned by the Education Department at Marion?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I am glad to tell the honourable member that the ambiguity about the ownership of the block of land he referred to has now been resolved. The Public Buildings Department advises that a firm of weed control experts has been asked as a matter of urgency to flatten the weeds and apply weed killer on the land held by the Education Department for a future primary school at Marion.

DERAILMENTS

Mr. HUDSON: On October 8 I asked the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a question about the damage occurring to freight on the South Australian section of the Adelaide-Melbourne railway line. I asked the Attorney-General's colleague to have an extensive investigation made so that detailed recommendations could be produced for the necessary renovations to the line in order to minimize the chance of any damage to freight. Has the Attorney-General a reply?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: There is one inaccuracy in the honourable member's preamble, and that is that he asked the question of me. My colleague has informed me that he is unaware of any instances of clients ceasing to send certain types of goods by rail to Adelaide. If the honourable member has specific knowledge of this, it would be appreciated if he could supply me with details. On the other hand, there has been a spectacular increase in freight traffic on the Adelaide-Melbourne line, to such an extent that a third express freight train in each direction has now become virtually a daily occurrence. It is true, however, that what is known as "galling" has occurred to some consignments of sheet steel forwarded to Adelaide and steps have been

taken by the consignor and the railway systems concerned to prevent this happening. This damage is not necessarily associated in any way with track conditions. The steep increase in traffic referred to has naturally brought with it certain problems of track maintenance, which problems are being pursued with energy. Mention has been made in reply to an earlier question that, in association with the Weapons Research Establishment, scientific inquiries are being made into the behaviour of the vehicles involved in recent derailments. With one exception (and that when the derailment occurred at a station) these occurrences have not been associated with interstate freight trains

GLENGOWRIE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. HUDSON: The new Glengowrie High School buildings are currently being completed. I understand that in the contract with A. H. May Proprietary Limited provision was made for the levelling of the school ovals, and it was always my understanding that part of the contract involved also provision for water reticulation and the seeding of the oval. I understand it is proposed to move the Glengowrie High School from its temporary quarters at the old primary school buildings to its new site within the next few weeks. It would be a tremendous advantage to the school if the seeding of these ovals could take place as soon as the move occurred. The necessary watering could then be organized through the school and we would avoid a situation arising where the seeding of the oval took place too late in the year. Will the Minister of Works take up this matter with his officers to see whether or not the necessary seeding can be carried out at a time that will give the best chance for a successful sowing of the seed and the maximum convenience for the school?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: I will see whether the honourable member's suggestions can be agreed to.

VETERINARY SURGEONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 19. Page 1271.)

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY (Whyalla): Members on this side are pleased to support this Bill, which is essentially the same as the Bill that the previous Government introduced last year. There are a few minor changes in phrasing, but the only substantial change deals with the fixing of fees. This Bill makes it possible for the Government to exercise power in regard to fees, and this provision is additional to what appeared in last year's Bill.

We on this side have no objection to this slight addition to the Bill. Fees were subject to the approval of the Minister as a result of an amendment made in another place last year, but the Bill provides:

The Governor may, either upon the recommendation of the board, or in his own discretion, make such regulations as he deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions and objects of this Act, and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing regulations—

- (a) prescribing the times and places at which the board shall, or may, meet to conduct its business;
 - (b) prescribing the procedure that shall, or may, be adopted at a meeting of the board;
 - (c) prescribing the fees to be paid to the board by intending candidates for examination, upon entry for examination;
 - (d) prescribing the fees or charges to be paid to the board by any person for any certificate issued under this Act;
- and
- (e) prescribing any other fees or charges that it is necessary or expedient to prescribe for the purposes of any provision of this Act.

I am pleased that this Bill is the same in substance as last year's. I suppose it can be said in this instance that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. As a matter of fact, last year's Bill was rejected by another place for reasons that I thought were unsound.

Mr. Freebairn: But you were not about then, were you?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Now that the interjection has been made, perhaps I can clarify the position.

Mr. Freebairn: I think it is only fair that we should know what happened.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: At the special request of two members of the then Opposition, I went to Clare on the day that the matter came into conference between the two Houses.

In order to facilitate the arrangements, I had a private meeting with two honourable members of another place, at which we discussed the Bill. I agreed to two of the amendments being put forward but declined to accept two others that were suggested: in other words, I compromised to the extent of 50 per cent of the amendments suggested to me in that private conference. That was done to expedite the proceedings in another place, because I had, at the request of two members of the then Opposition, accepted a pressing invitation to go to Clare in respect of an urgent matter at the Clare High School. Some rather uncalled for remarks were made about my actions on that occasion, and it is just as well, seeing that the interjection was made, to have the correct position on record.

The importance of this measure lies in the fact that not only is a change necessary because of the advent of the Flinders University and the passage of time (the Public Examinations Board came into existence in 1900) but also because the provisions which were in the Bill last year and which are in this Bill, particularly regarding the representations of the various educational bodies, were arrived at after the closest consultation with all those bodies. As all those referred to in this Bill expressed complete agreement with the provisions contained in the measure, surely those provisions should not be altered.

The matter concerning women representatives being particularly specified among those to be appointed by the Education Department was raised in the debates last year. I do not believe that, in general, women desire to be so specified: I think they believe that they should be placed on a board on their merit and not because of their sex. I think it is quite in order that the Bill should provide as it does in respect of representatives of the Education Department. I am sure that, if women in the Education Department with the necessary qualifications are available for selection by the department as representatives on the board, they will be selected by the department.

Another point raised last year concerned teachers, as opposed to administrators, of the department being appointed as the department's representatives. I emphasize that administrators in the department are just as capable as those who are actually teaching to be representatives on the board. In fact, some people believe administrators are more capable, by virtue of the fact that they are

in close touch with officers who are continually going overseas, dealing with educational problems and ascertaining what is happening overseas concerning education.

In other words, these administrators in many respects may be more up to date with the latest information than may be, say, teachers who are perhaps confined to a particular school from one year to another. It was also said in the previous debate that officers who were subordinate in rank to others in the Education Department would not be prepared to voice their opinions if they differed from those of their senior officers when they were acting on the board as departmental representatives. Last year, I referred to this by quoting from a report on the matter which I again quote, as follows:

In reply to some of the above criticisms, a university member said that he felt he owed more loyalty to his subject committee's views than to any other body, and he rejected the suggestion that university members, for example, voted *en bloc*. They, and indeed departmental members too, often were split in their voting. Two departmental members, one a headmaster and one an administrative officer, held that too much tended to be made of a distinction between teaching and administrative members: all were concerned with education, and it might well be said that the administrative members supplied a broader view than a teacher from a single school.

I do not think there are any other important points that I wish to mention regarding this Bill, which I hope will be passed without amendment. Members on this side will give it their full support.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE (Minister of Education): I thank the member for Whyalla for accepting the Bill on behalf of his Party. As he said, the measure is practically identical to the one that he introduced last year. I think it is only right to say that my own attitude to representation on the board changed after I had been able to study the complete docket. When the Bill was before the House last year I supported an amendment moved by one of the members on my side, but I am convinced now that the existing representation on the board is correct.

I think the honourable member first referred to women representatives on the board: I consider that women should be appointed on their merits to responsible positions in public affairs, for I believe that is the best way of showing non-discrimination in this regard. I asked the Director-General to obtain for me, in support of my opinion (and that of the honourable member as well) on this matter, the

number of positions held in the Education Department by women members of the teaching profession. I think it is well known that the department has for a long time, with the approval of successive Ministers of Education, encouraged the principle of appointing women on merit to positions of responsibility. I think members will be interested to learn the positions in the Education Department held by women: one Assistant Superintendent of Primary Education; eight Inspectors of Schools; 18 permanent Headmistresses; 10 Temporary Headmistresses; five Women's Wardens at teachers colleges; and one Vice-Principal. We all know that many women are most capable and distinguished educators and I believe it is significant that many positions are now open to both men and women members of the profession. Although women often do not apply for certain positions, I think it is important to remember that positions generally should be open to them if they desire to apply. For what reason women do not apply for these positions, I do not know, unless it is because some of them have domestic responsibilities while others do not wish to accept the responsibility which certain high positions bring in their train. The figures given relate to the actual number of women employed in executive or responsible positions in the Education Department. I believe that the principle of appointing women on merit is correct, and I also believe women generally enjoy a parity with men in this regard, because of the respect that they command in their particular field and because they have demonstrated their ability to hold responsible positions. I pay a tribute to the Opposition in that, when it was in Government, it introduced in stages equal pay for women members of the Education Department. Women on juries are treated in exactly the same way as are men on juries, and women members of Parliament are on a parity with men: the same privileges and responsibilities apply to them.

The other point raised by the honourable member—and it is a most pertinent one—is the question concerning those members actually teaching in schools as against those who serve in administrative positions. We must remember in relation to education and the Bill before the House that those in administrative positions were at one time school teachers and that they were probably appointed to their present positions because it was thought that they had great administrative potential. We are getting the best of both worlds through having some people who,

once teachers, are now administrators. I believe it is quite correct that the Director-General should have the prerogative of electing to the committee those members of the teaching profession who are to serve on it. Some will be teachers and some will be administrators: I am quite certain of this. In any case, I do not think this distinction should be made. I thank the honourable member for his remarks.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 7 passed.

Clause 8—"Duties of board."

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE (Minister of Education): Mr. Chairman, since my amendments to this clause are related, may they be put as the one question?

The CHAIRMAN: It would be in order, provided there was no objection from the Committee, for one question to be put that all these amendments be agreed to. Standing Order 427 provides:

The Chairman may put one question "That the amendments be agreed to" to cover an uninterrupted series of related amendments moved by one member, unless any member requests the questions thereon to be proposed separately.

If the Minister wishes to move in this way, and there is no objection from the Committee, I shall be pleased to put the question.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I move:

In subclause (1) (a) after "matriculation" first occurring to strike out "and supplementary matriculation"; in subclause (1) (b) after "examinations" first occurring to strike out "and supplementary examinations"; in subclause (1) (c) after "matriculation" first occurring to strike out "or supplementary matriculation"; in subclause (2) (a) after "matriculation" first occurring to strike out "or supplementary matriculation"; and in subclause (2) (b) after "matriculation" first occurring to strike out "or supplementary matriculation".

These amendments arise in consequence of a decision by the universities to discontinue supplementary Matriculation examinations. New Matriculation proposals have been accepted in principle by the universities.

Mr. NANKIVELL: There was recently a joint committee that comprised representatives of the universities and people co-opted from various organizations such as the Headmasters Association, the Catholic Education Department, the Headmistresses Association and members of the South Australian Institute of Teachers. These people comprised a

Matriculation Committee, one of the recommendations of which was that, although there would be no supplementary examinations, there would be special examinations held in certain circumstances. Can the Minister of Education say whether the exclusion of supplementary examinations will preclude a student from actually sitting for a special examination agreed to on medical grounds because the student was unable to sit for the Matriculation examination earlier? I question whether such an examination is not supplementary to the original examination.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The honourable member raised this question with me before the debate on this matter began. I will obtain the information for him.

Mr. Nankivell: The question should be looked at.

Amendments carried; clause as amended passed.

Clause 9—"Subject committees."

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I move:

In subclause (1) after "matriculation" first occurring to strike out "or supplementary matriculation".

This amendment is similar to those I moved previously.

Amendment carried.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I move:

In subclause (2) (b) after "examinations" to insert "previously"; and to strike out "by the board" first occurring.

These amendments deal with the first year of the board's activities. At present the clause provides that a subject committee is to report to the board on examinations conducted by the board in the subject in respect of which the committee was appointed. This provision is slightly widened to cover public examinations previously conducted in the subject whether by the new board or the Public Examinations Board of the University of Adelaide.

Amendments carried; clause as amended passed.

Clause 10—"Syllabus."

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I move:

After "matriculation" first occurring to strike out "or supplementary matriculation".

This is a similar amendment to that which I moved to clause 8.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Clause 11—"Chief examiner and examiners."

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I move:

In subclause (3) after "matriculation" first occurring to strike out "or supplementary matriculation".

Again, this is a similar amendment to the amendment to clause 10.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Clauses 12 to 14 passed.

Clause 15—"Manual."

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I move to insert the following new subclause:

(3) In respect of any examination to be conducted by the board in 1969, or any examination supplementary to any such examination, a syllabus prepared and published under the authority of the Public Examinations Board of the University of Adelaide for the purpose of that examination, shall be deemed to have been prepared, approved and published pursuant to, and in accordance with, this Act. This new subclause is merely a transitional provision. It provides that, for the purposes of the first examinations to be conducted by the board towards the end of 1969, the syllabuses prepared by the Public Examinations Board of the University of Adelaide shall be the governing syllabuses in all respects as if they had been prepared under the new Act. The new board will not have sufficient time to prepare syllabuses itself, hence the adoption of the syllabuses prepared by the Public Examinations Board of the University of Adelaide for the first year of the board's activity is necessary.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Clauses 16 to 20 passed.

Clause 21—"Regulations."

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I move:

To strike out paragraphs (a) and (b).

The amendment removes the two paragraphs empowering the Government to prescribe the time and place at which the board is to meet and the procedure to be followed at a meeting of the board. These paragraphs were inserted purely as a precautionary measure and without any intention to impeach the autonomy of the board. However, as their inclusion has occasioned some anxiety, it has been thought best to remove them.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

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

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 3. Page 1676.)

Mr. LAWN (Adelaide): I support the Bill.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment. Committee's report adopted.

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS (REDIVISION) BILL

In Committee.

(Continued from October 15. Page 1888.)

Clauses 2 and 3 passed.

Clause 4—"The Commission."

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): I move:

In subclause (3) (b) after "Surveyor-General" to insert "or a person acting in the office of Surveyor-General".

If this amendment is not made, it would be possible to appoint someone who did not have the qualifications of the Surveyor-General to fill a vacancy on the commission, and it is not laid down who that person should be. It should be made clear that if someone has to act in place of the Surveyor-General on the commission it should be the person who is performing his work because, of course, the reason the Surveyor-General is on the commission is that he is properly qualified in this area.

Mr. HUDSON: I support the amendment, which is part of a general amendment designed to tidy up this clause. A series of other amendments follows this one. As the Bill stands, clause 4 (4) provides:

Where a commissioner dies or is unable to perform his duties as such for any period, the Governor, as occasion requires, may appoint a commissioner in place of the commissioner who has died or may appoint a deputy to act for the commissioner during that period or any part thereof.

As the Bill stands, it would be possible for the Government of the day to appoint a deputy to one of the commissioners or to appoint a commissioner in place of one who has died, and that person need not have any of the qualifications of the original commissioner. For instance, should the Chairman (who must be a Supreme Court judge) die or be unable to act, it would be possible under this clause as it stands for the Government of the day to appoint, say, the secretary, the president or the publicity officer of the Liberal and Country League, or anyone else it liked, to the commission. I am not suggesting that the Government would do this. Indeed, I would not believe that a man of principle, such as the Premier or the Attorney-General, would be a party to such an arrangement. However, a question of good faith is involved.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: It depends on who has the numbers in Cabinet.

Mr. HUDSON: The Premier has the numbers in Cabinet at present, by the barest margin. The amendments proposed by the

Leader to tidy up the clause provide, in effect, that, should any one of the commissioners be replaced, or should a deputy be appointed, the person replacing the judge, the Surveyor-General or the Returning Officer for the State would have exactly the same qualifications as the person originally appointed to the commission. I hope the Premier will accept this amendment.

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier): This is a less controversial constitutional amendment than the one we discussed yesterday. I think the points have been well made, and the Government sees no reason why it should not accept the Leader's amendment.

Amendment carried.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN moved:

In subclause (3) (c) after "State" to insert "or a person acting in the office of Returning Officer for the State".

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I accept the amendment.

Amendment carried.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I move:

In subclause (4) after "such" to strike out "for any period"; and after "in" to strike out "place of the commissioner who has died or may appoint a deputy to act for the commissioner during that period or any part thereof" and insert "his place".

These are consequential amendments.

Amendments carried.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I move:

To strike out subclause (5).

This is surplusage in view of the amendments already passed.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Clause 5—"Procedure at meetings."

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I move:

In subclause (1) after "present" to strike out "or, in his absence, the deputy of the Chairman".

This clause relates to the position of the Chairman of the commission and is a major departure from previous practice in appointing commissioners of this kind. This was not provided for in the 1954 measure, nor does it go to the matter I have just outlined. Mine is a consequential amendment on the amendments made to clause 4.

Amendment carried.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I move:

In subclause (2) before "shall" to strike out "the Chairman and one other commissioner" and insert "Any two commissioners".

This is the provision for a quorum. In my view any two commissioners should constitute a quorum.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I think most honourable members would like to think that three commissioners would always be in attendance when work was being done on the important redistribution proposals for the House of Assembly. The commission's work should be postponed until all three commissioners are present at any deliberations. I do not want just any two commissioners without the Chairman. I do not think this is an unreasonable requirement. While I am not familiar with the clause in the previous Acts, I am doubtful whether this provision has been inserted in the Acts covering any previous commissions. I should like this provision to remain in the Bill to ensure that the Chairman is always present, and I hope that all three commissioners will be present at all the commission's deliberations. I oppose the amendment.

Mr. HUDSON: The Premier requires that the Chairman and one other commissioner shall constitute a quorum of the commission. This is a departure from common practice in the establishment of other commissions and of other commissions established under the Playford Government, for all of which it was provided that any two commissioners would constitute a quorum. The Premier suggests that all three commissioners should be present at deliberations, but the Bill does not state this: it provides "the Chairman and one other commissioner". This subclause is in line with the next subclause, which gives the Chairman a veto on all proceedings. The two subclauses go together. It is clear that if this amendment is not accepted the next amendment may not be accepted.

I would like clarification on that point. It seems to me that the commission must be able to carry on its business in a sensible way. In the main, there will be no difficulty, because if any important decision is to be taken the other commissioners will not act unless all three commissioners are present. This would be the normal procedure and what would normally be expected of a commission not of political representatives but simply of three qualified people brought together for the purpose of drawing up electoral boundaries.

I believe it is not necessary to require that the quorum shall consist of all three commissioners in every single case, because that would mean that even minor matters could not be determined by the commission without the presence of all three of them. Surely, that is going too far. An amendment that requires that all three commissioners be present to constitute a quorum is unsuitable: I think

two are enough. The Premier's hope would be met by any commission constituted of a judge of the Supreme Court, the Surveyor-General and the Returning Officer of the State and no important decisions would be made in the absence of one of the members. There would be minor matters that often needed to be dealt with quickly. If two commissioners constituted a quorum it would speed up matters.

I do not see why the Premier should insist that the Chairman must be present for there to be a quorum, when no other commission Bill to my knowledge makes that kind of provision. Invariably, the provision is for a quorum to be established with a majority of the commission. Certainly, the previous electoral commission appointed by the Playford Government provided that any two commissioners constituted a quorum. I support the amendment. I am surprised that the Government, seeing the Premier has said he wants to approach these matters in a spirit of compromise, is not prepared to accept the amendment.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE (Attorney-General): I cannot accept what the member for Glenelg has said. I do not know why he has jumped to the conclusion that the Government is not prepared to accept the next amendment.

Mr. Broomhill: You are prepared to accept it?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes. We feel that, after consideration and after hearing the debate on the second reading (and here I speak with the Premier's concurrence), it is fair enough to say that any two commissioners can make a decision and that we should not insist that the Chairman must concur in the decision. On the other hand, we feel it is desirable that the Chairman be present at all commission meetings, even though he may be overruled by the other two commissioners. This is the effect of the amendments that we are prepared to accept, but the Government is not prepared to accept an amendment that would mean that the Chairman did not have to be present. Whilst what the member for Glenelg has said could be true in cases where only minor matters were discussed, these instances would be the exception rather than the rule, and it could be expected that there would be substantial matters to be discussed at a meeting. It is not worth while having a meeting to deal with trivial things. The Government considers that the Chairman should be present at these meetings.

Amendment negatived.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I move:

In subclause (3) after "by" to strike out "the Chairman and at least one other commissioner" and insert "any two commissioners".

This amendment concerns the voting power of the Chairman and, as the Government accepts it, there is no reason for delaying the matter.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Clause 6 passed.

Clause 7—"The Metropolitan area."

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I move:

In subclause (2) after "1966-1967," to insert "and the municipality of Gawler".

The purpose of this amendment is to include the municipality of Gawler in the metropolitan area for the purpose of determining districts. If we are to decide on a new metropolitan area for the purpose of getting the quota for metropolitan districts and the number of districts within that area, what has become the projected area of Adelaide that is metropolitan will have to be included. Whilst it is true that, in the original terms of reference for the metropolitan planning area, the Metropolitan Adelaide Development Plan did not include the area of the municipality of Gawler, it is clear from the report of the Town Planning Committee of 1962, and from the plan, that the metropolitan area will stretch from Gawler to Noarlunga as a continuous built-up area, Gawler being essentially a part of that area, not a separate country area so enclaved.

That being so, and as we are now defining this area to determine the quota for the metropolitan area, we should do this on the basis of the facts of metropolitan development. I know honourable members opposite will say again that the Adelaide city area, as we defined it in our proposed measure of 1965, comprised the municipalities of the area of Adelaide as defined originally in 1936 and again in 1965 and did not include anything like the total of the area now suggested for inclusion. That is true, the reason being that we had given an undertaking that the existing area known as country in the redivisions that took place would maintain the existing number of seats committed to that area, and that could not be done unless that particular area was still so defined as to require 26 districts.

The reason was not that we considered that there was any particular magic or virtue in relation to development in the area so defined. If we are to get something real, Gawler must

be in the area defined as the area for determining the metropolitan quota, because Gawler will contain the people who are basically in the metropolitan area and related to it. This will no longer be a country town. Many of the people of Gawler now work in the metropolitan area as it is intended to be defined. In all these circumstances, it is only sensible that Gawler should be in the metropolitan area, not outside it.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Leader uses his own argument against his amendment. I thought he would refer to the notorious Bill for which he was largely responsible in 1965, when his Party tried to justify a large number of country districts to satisfy country people and included Elizabeth as a country area. The Leader need not speak only of Gawler. The Bill did not change the metropolitan area from the area that had been defined as such in about 1901. However, I can use the Leader's own argument better than he can, by saying that the town plan of metropolitan districts does not envisage Gawler being in the town plan of metropolitan districts until 1990: I think honourable members can expect that there will be a redistribution before then. We have based our argument largely on the necessity to follow the town plan and we consider that there is no justification for including Gawler in the metropolitan area.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I say deliberately that the Leader of the Opposition has insulted the people of Gawler. I can say with justification that I know the township of Gawler, and to describe Gawler as being part of metropolitan Adelaide is ridiculous. Undoubtedly, the township of Gawler is part of the rural area of which it is the centre. The Leader of the Opposition and the member for Gawler both know this. Last evening I entertained a party of young people from Gawler, and they were delighted when I told them that if this Bill was passed in its present form—

Mr. McAnaney: You might be their new member.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Yes, of course. As the member for Glenelg could confirm, they were delighted when they heard that Gawler was likely to become part of a rural district and most likely would be represented by an L.C.L. member. The member for Glenelg, if he were honest—

Mr. HUDSON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The honourable member is reflecting on me. I happened to be in the

Strangers' Lounge last night talking to a guest of mine, and the member for Light was entertaining 14 people.

Mr. Ryan: And breaking the rules, too.

Mr. HUDSON: The honourable member presumes that I bothered to listen to anything he had to say, and it is a reflection on me that he thinks I listened to his conversation. I heard nothing of what he said.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member can reply to that: it is not a point of order.

Mr. HUDSON: The member for Light said of me, "If he were honest", and I object to these words. I did not hear what was said, and I am honest, and I object strongly to those words.

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Glenelg has objected to the use of those words. Does the member for Light propose to withdraw them?

Mr. FREEBAIRN: As I am a reasonable person, I withdraw any words I uttered that caused offence to the member for Glenelg. The township of Gawler is part of a rural area and, in all sweet reasonableness, should become part of a future rural constituency. I look forward to the day when the people of Gawler will have a country member representing a country district. It seems hard to get the message across to members opposite, but I warned them deliberately during the second reading debate that if they interfered too much with this Bill I would vote against it. They have had instructions from the Trades Hall to vote for this Bill, and if it does not pass they will be in grave trouble.

Mr. VIRGO: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I ask the honourable member to withdraw his remark about instructions from the Trades Hall. That is completely untrue and he is telling deliberate lies.

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Edwardstown has not been called a liar. I do not rule those words to be unparliamentary. The honourable member can reply in due course.

Mr. VIRGO: I accuse the member for Light of telling lies, because he said that instructions came from the Trades Hall, and that statement is completely untrue. I ask him to withdraw it.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not hold those words to be unparliamentary, and the honourable member can reply.

Mr. Lawn: The honourable member cannot reflect on other members, and that is in Standing Orders.

The Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe: You have said things worse than that many times.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I cannot understand the delicate sensibilities of members opposite. All they have to do is sit quietly and listen to me, because every member has the opportunity to contribute to this debate. I am making a case for the people of Gawler so that they can have the opportunity to be represented by a country member. It is ridiculous not to consider it a rural township.

Mr. Lawn: Is it like Kapunda?

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Kapunda does not differ much from Gawler. Those towns are like any other of the most excellent towns in the district of Light and which are so adequately represented in this Chamber. I hope the day comes when Gawler becomes part of the District of Light, because then the people of Gawler will receive more adequate representation than they do now. Gawler is part of a country area and should stay in the rural zone. I should like to hear the member for Gawler make representations on behalf of the municipality of Gawler, which he represents in this Chamber.

Mr. CLARK: The member for Light said one thing that I am sure was meant as a personal insult to me. If it was not, it was taken as one, when he said that Gawler would be better represented by him than by its present representative. I resent that, particularly coming from the type of member that the member for Light has proved himself to be in recent months. Several people in Gawler fear the slight possibility of the present member for Light representing Gawler, because he is promulgating this story widely throughout the town. He has been sending details of his Parliamentary activities to the Gawler *Bunyip*, and people have asked me why he is doing this as he has nothing to do with Gawler. I have told them that up to now this honourable member has had nothing to do with Gawler and, in view of his most recent activities in this Chamber and his inactivity in many places outside the Chamber, he is unlikely to get preselection if there is a new district. I want to make perfectly clear that this amendment is not a "save Clark" amendment. I have been a member since 1952 and people know me pretty well, and if I cannot stand for a seat that I can win, it will be time for me to get out.

I am not boasting, but I consider that I shall either be carried out of this place or

leave it of my own free will. What the member for Light said might be the opinions of a few young Liberals and their wishful thinking about this matter. I assure the member for Light that I have known for a long time most of the people of the town of Gawler. I first came to Gawler in 1915.

Mr. Casey: Before the member for Light was born.

Mr. CLARK: Yes, and, apart from a few years when I was away in the country teaching, I have remained there ever since. The honourable member mentioned the advantage of Gawler being represented by a country member. Gawler, so far, has always been a country district; it is now a country district of over 30,000 people—one of the political scandals of South Australia. When the honourable member talks about country members, let me inform him that I was brought up on a farm near Gawler and stayed there until I left to teach in the country. I think I can milk cows just as well as he can—although I must admit I have not done so for a long time. I have been the member for Gawler since 1952, at which time Gawler included the surrounding districts of Lyndoch, Williamstown, Rowland Flat, Wasleys, and so on. Without boasting, I say that I used to obtain majorities in most of those areas—even if, as the member for Light suggests, I was not a country member. I maintain I was. I support this amendment because I know that most people in Gawler would desire it. In one sense (and I make no secret of this) Gawler depends for much of its prosperity on the rich agricultural land around it.

Mr. Jennings: So does Adelaide, for that matter.

Mr. CLARK: Yes. Many people who live in Gawler work in places outside Gawler. I should like to see that changed, with the introduction of industries there so that most of the people would not have to travel away from their homes to work. This is something I have been advocating for the last 15 or 16 years, but both types of State Government have found this a difficult problem to solve. In view of the enormous development taking place in Elizabeth and Salisbury (possibly more so in Salisbury in respect of housing) I would prefer Gawler to be the top end of the developing industrial area of which Noarlunga would be the bottom end rather than that Gawler should be the bottom end of an indefinite country area. I want to see this, because the future of Gawler is wrapped

up in the future of the industrially expanding corridor that includes Salisbury, Elizabeth and Gawler.

Whenever we hear discussions or lectures by the Director of Planning on this matter, he always uses the expression "from Gawler to Port Noarlunga". Most people of Gawler would prefer Gawler to be the top end of metropolitan expansion rather than the bottom end of an indefinite country area. When I say this, I am not rubbishing the country, for basically I remain a country man; many of my interests lie in the country. I am speaking not politically but for the good of Gawler. If it is made the bottom end of a country district, it might go east, west or north, but eventually that would not be for its benefit. For the good of Gawler, it should continue its associations with the chambers of commerce in the nearby fast-growing towns to the south. That is why I support this amendment.

I regret the member for Light advanced the type of argument he did. This amendment is not political: it is merely a matter of simple justice. In 1952 the district included the country towns around Gawler. Then suddenly it was discovered that Gawler should be included in the fast-growing areas of Salisbury and Elizabeth. I represented a cross between a metropolitan and a country area, but it is now largely a metropolitan area. For these reasons I ask the Committee to consider this as something more than a mere political amendment, for it is not that. It is my considered opinion (and I hope I have been in this place long enough to have some influence with the present Opposition) that Gawler should remain in the metropolitan area because the future of the citizens of Gawler lies largely in that direction. I support the amendment.

Mr. McANANEY: Last Friday I attended a meeting connected with public hospital administration at which the Director of Planning was present. He had a map on the wall showing where the development of Adelaide would take place within the next 15 years; it did not get within miles of Gawler. The M.A.T.S. Report gives the anticipated population increase over the next 15 years, and the anticipated development, but it will not be around Gawler, which is still an area surrounded by the country. It will continue to be a part of the country; it is not growing more than is any other country town, such as Murray Bridge. Members of the Opposition are always saying we must plan ahead and always take the advice of the experts. The

experts think that Gawler will definitely be surrounded by the country and will remain a country town for at least the next 15 years. I see no justification or argument for including it in the metropolitan area other than political considerations, and I think that is the reason for this amendment, because so far no cogent argument has been advanced that Gawler will develop rapidly as a part of Adelaide. If the member for Glenelg could submit a case that development was taking place at Gawler, perhaps there would be some justification for the amendment.

Mr. HUDSON: One clear argument for the inclusion of Gawler in the metropolitan area is that it would save its people from the member for Light, as it would save members of this Chamber from him. If that argument does not appeal to the member for Stirling I do not know what will. That would be an adequate reason for including Gawler in the metropolitan area. The member for Light this afternoon made it quite clear that he is supporting the exclusion of Gawler from the metropolitan area for one reason, and one reason only—that he would then be able to stand for preselection for the seat, if it was altered. His argument is based exclusively and entirely on self-interest. It is completely and utterly discreditable and not worth listening to. I hope we shall hear no more from him about future ambitions or self-interest.

Let us come to more substantial matters. So far as the M.A.T.S. plan is concerned, the original terms of reference to the Town Planning Committee covered only the council areas of the old metropolitan Adelaide and did not include the council areas of Meadows, Noarlunga, Stirling, Munno Para or Salisbury. The Town Planning Committee that was established made a further approach to the Government of the day and said, in effect (and I checked with the Director on this point): "The definition you have given us is unreasonable; we are asked to consider the future development of metropolitan Adelaide. We are asked to consider the future needs and future zoning requirements, and you have given us a definition that would entail most of the development taking place outside the definition you have given us." As a result of the application that was made, the terms of reference were modified to include certain district councils shown in detail on the map displayed in this Chamber.

I am informed that at that particular time the members of the Town Planning Committee (this was late in the 1950's) did not believe

that they could go as far as asking for Gawler to be included; they were even worried about getting their requests, which they had made for changing the terms of reference, accepted by Sir Thomas Playford. Since that time, two important things have happened: first, the M.A.T.S. Report unambiguously includes Gawler as part of the metropolitan area, and so does the Bureau of Census and Statistics (it has since last year). Since last year, the Adelaide statistical division, for the purposes of calculating population and other statistical information by the Bureau of Census and Statistics, has included Gawler.

Mr. McAnaney: The town of Gawler?

Mr. HUDSON: Yes, the municipality of Gawler is included by the bureau in the metropolitan area of Adelaide, and that change took place last year. The member for Stirling should examine carefully the map displayed in the Chamber, which shows quite clearly that future living and future industrial development in the metropolitan area will extend right to Gawler. It is shown on the map by the shaded pink and purple area, and this development will extend right to the boundaries of Gawler. Parts of that pink area have already been subdivided and, furthermore, the population estimates that were submitted by the Director of Planning to the M.A.T.S. organization show an expected significant population expansion for Gawler and the area in the immediate vicinity of Gawler prior to 1986 and, indeed, the significant population development to occur over the next seven years. The M.A.T.S. Report makes it quite clear that Gawler is part of the metropolitan area and that transportation developments even up to 1975 require the needs of Gawler to be included within the transportation plan.

The reason for this is clear: the percentage of people living in Gawler, who will commute to the city to work, will increase year by year. It is already significant and will become more and more significant as the years go by. It is already the case, as the member for Gawler clearly explained, that the interests of Gawler, commercially, in housing development and otherwise, are turning more and more to the south, and it is clear from the M.A.T.S. Report and the change in definition made by the Bureau of Census and Statistics that this is already occurring. I have no doubt that one reason for the Government's attitude on this point is that it does not want 29 metropolitan seats; it knows that the current definition of the metropolitan area provided in the Bill will

give only 28 seats, and that is quite clear when we study the population forecasts that the Director of Planning has submitted up to 1986 for the whole of the metropolitan area and for Gawler as well. The only areas in which any population expansion, including residential development, is expected even up to 1986 are shown by the pink and pink-shaded areas in the metropolitan development plan as it is currently displayed in the Chamber.

All of the areas in that plan which lie outside the pink-shaded areas are effectively rural and will be excluded automatically from the metropolitan area adopted by the electoral commission. But the pink areas and Gawler are continuous and, if the commission were left to make up its own mind, it is highly probable that it would say, "Gawler is metropolitan; it is continuous with other residential areas, or areas that will become residential or industrial areas over the seven years referred to in the Bill, and therefore should be included in the metropolitan area." I put to the Government, anyway, that this definition does not determine the metropolitan area for the purposes of the Bill: it determines only the area within which the commission must decide what is metropolitan, and a good part of it, as the map clearly displays, will be excluded. Furthermore, if we make precise population estimates at present of electoral enrolments for the different parts of that area (and that can be done, using the figures of the Director of Planning), there is no way that we can get a sensible definition of the metropolitan area including Gawler and still get 29 seats. Whatever we do, we end up with 28 seats for the metropolitan area. Therefore, the number of seats is a clear 28 in the Bill as it stands at present, and it will not matter whether or not Gawler is included.

Mr. McAnaney: You can get a difference of 20,000.

Mr. HUDSON: We cannot get that difference on a precise estimate, where we have a definition that requires the commission to exclude from the metropolitan area those areas which are adjacent to the boundary and which in seven years are likely to be substantially or predominantly used for primary production.

Mr. McAnaney: That could be up to 20,000.

Mr. HUDSON: It could not. The only areas which could be in dispute at all concerning what is metropolitan and non-metropolitan are small areas within the vicinity of the town of Noarlunga, the coastal strip south of Moana—

Mr. McAnaney: There are 3,000 there.

Mr. HUDSON: There are not; in the coastal strip south of Moana, in the metropolitan planning area, there are no more than 150 electors. If the member for Stirling does not know the precise figures in this matter, he had better keep quiet. To talk of 3,000 is utter rubbish. There are about 150 electors living in the coastal strip within a mile or so of the coast south of Moana (very few, indeed), and the difference there is about 100 to 150. Where we draw the boundary around Noarlunga we make a difference of only a few, and where we draw the boundary near the township of Clarendon we make a difference of only 100 or 200. That applies throughout the whole of that particular area. The boundary areas that will be excluded can even be defined at this stage sufficiently to get an estimate of the number of electors in the metropolitan area within 500. I challenge the member for Stirling or any other Government member to prove that that is incorrect. If they care to spend the time with me, I shall attempt to show that a very precise estimate can be produced and that it is impossible to arrive at sufficient electors in the metropolitan area to have 29 seats. The only substantial argument the Government has left is that it has to save the member for Light (Mr. Freebairn), and I hope it will not bother to do that.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: In such a redistribution plan we must draw a line somewhere and we have drawn it, as we said we would in our policy speech, on the basis of the 1962 report of the Town Planning Committee. In the Bill prepared by the Labor Government before it went out of office the line was drawn in another way: it involved a radius of 30 miles from the General Post Office. It is possible to argue back and forth on this question until the cows come home.

Mr. Riches: The people in the city didn't support your policy.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: That is another argument that we will not discuss now. This Government has been criticized for not putting its policies into effect. Our policy specifically was that the definition of the metropolitan area would be based on the 1962 Report on the Metropolitan Area of Adelaide of the Town Planning Committee, and this is what we are basing it on. When we look at the committee's proposals we find that Gawler is excluded from the definition of the metropolitan area. The member for

Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) said much about what the committee found, but he was talking without authority: he was saying only what he had heard. Dealing with this specific matter, on page 6 the report states:

The terms of reference—

the terms of reference come under the 1955 Act—

apply to a metropolitan area which is defined in the legislation and comprises 22 local government areas.

Then, these areas are listed: from the Municipality of Adelaide to the "Area of the Garden Suburb" in my own electoral district. The report continues:

Thus, the defined metropolitan area comprises the area used for the 1954 census plus the area of the District Council of Salisbury, which includes the new town of Elizabeth.

So, Elizabeth always was within the area as defined by Parliament. The following paragraph is the important one, and this is where I depart from the line of argument of the member for Glenelg:

The committee is required to make an examination of the metropolitan area and an assessment of its probable development. However, after the committee had arrived at the various conclusions regarding the expansion which can be expected in the foreseeable future and the form and direction this expansion is likely to take, it was evident that there was not sufficient suitable land available in the specified 22 local government areas to accommodate the expected growth. Additional local government areas will become substantially metropolitan in character—

and I think members opposite will know the next phrase—

in the next 10 to 20 years, particularly the two district council areas of Tea Tree Gully and Noarlunga, while parts of other council areas will be increasingly affected by the expansion. The committee—

no-one else—

therefore decided that the examination or survey should extend to the following additional local government areas: the District Council of Munno Para, the District Council of Tea Tree Gully, the District Council of East Torrens, the District Council of Stirling, the District Council of Noarlunga.

The various areas referred to are shown on map No. 1 included in the report. It is of great significance that, when the committee was directing its attention to the very point of the expansion of the definition, it omitted Gawler. Gawler is shown on map No. 1 as outside that area. This is an area which the committee says will become metropolitan not now but in the next 10 or 20 years.

A period of 20 years is far greater than the period we can expect this redistribution to cover. The plan itself is designed to cater for our needs up to 1991. The committee left out Gawler, yet members opposite want to put Gawler in. If this were done, one could argue in exactly the same way that Bridgewater ought to be in, yet Bridgewater is excluded, under the definition.

At some time we must take a line and make it definite. We have taken the boundary set out here because we believe it is a fair and proper boundary to take, certainly on the reasoning of the Town Planning Committee itself—and not just at the moment but, as the committee says, for 10 or 20 years. This is why the Government is not prepared to accept the amendment: there is nothing else in it than that. This is a fair and just definition that was arrived at not for political purposes.

Mr. McKee: Ha! ha!

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Does the member for Port Pirie suggest that we arrived at the definition for political motives?

Mr. Casey: Yes.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: If the member for Frome says that, he is mad. At that time there was no suggestion of a redistribution. The report was prepared by experts after an examination of the probable trends of population in this State, and this is the definition we intend to stick to.

Mr. VIRGO: It is regrettable that we have to draw a line and make two classes of citizen—metropolitan and country. When the Premier first spoke on the clause he used as his one and only point of argument that Gawler was not in the town plan and would not be there until 1990. The Attorney-General backed him up by reading from the report and saying that the committee had suggested that Gawler would not become metropolitan for the next 10 or 20 years. Obviously, these arguments do not have much relationship to the question now before us. Why and for what purpose did the Town Planning Committee look at this?

What were its terms of reference? Common sense should be applied in this matter. To anyone travelling from North Terrace along the Main North Road it is obvious that the metropolitan area extends, with isolated gaps, until Gawler is passed.

The Attorney-General and the member for Light have said our arguments in this connection are designed only for political purposes but that is not so. However, if our case were being put up for political purposes (and I deny this), then obviously the Government's opposition to it would equally be for political expediency. The Government should realize that this situation has been created only because of the need to define the metropolitan area. The reverse situation applied under the Bill introduced by the Playford Government in 1963 where a definition of rural areas was required, the remainder to be the metropolitan area. Under that definition, of course, Gawler would have been within the metropolitan area. Therefore, this is merely a matter of approach.

It is wrong that the situation could be reached where Gawler, which to all intents and purposes is in the metropolitan area, could be regarded as outside that area. In the terms of the Bill, the Government has instructed the commission to leave Gawler outside the metropolitan area. Therefore, the commission will not be allowed to work this matter out for itself but its decision will be predetermined. If members opposite were genuine, they would admit that the Bill has a safeguard for their argument in that there is a requirement that, in relation to the metropolitan area, the commission must disregard any areas that are to be used substantially for primary production. I hope Government members will have a change of heart before we next discuss this matter.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.30 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, November 5, at 2 p.m.