

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, December 12, 1968

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

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

Friendly Societies Act Amendment,
Industrial Code Amendment,
Poor Persons Legal Assistance Act Amendment,
Prisons Act Amendment,
Stamp Duties Act Amendment (No. 1),
Tatiara Drainage Trust Act Amendment.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:

INDUSTRIAL COURT APPOINTMENTS

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE (Minister of Labour and Industry): I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: His Excellency the Governor in Executive Council today appointed Mr. G. E. H. Bleby, O.B.E., E.D., L.I.B., to be President of the State Industrial Court and Industrial Commission, and Mr. L. T. Olsson, M.B.E., E.D., L.I.B., S.M., to be Public Service Arbitrator and Chairman of the Teachers Salaries Board. Both appointments will take effect from December 30, 1968. I am sure that both Mr. Bleby and Mr. Olsson will serve with distinction in their new positions. The Government has been concerned at the heavy burden which Judge L. H. Williams has been carrying in holding the dual appointments of President of the Industrial Commission and Public Service Arbitrator, and also at difficulties which could arise when the President was on leave or ill or involved in protracted proceedings as Public Service Arbitrator or Chairman of the Teachers Salaries Board. When Judge Williams was recently appointed judge of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, the Government decided to make one appointment to replace him as President of the State Industrial Court and Industrial Commission and a separate appointment as Public Service Arbitrator. The new Arbitrator has also been appointed to be Chairman of the Teachers Salaries Board. The Government had also decided to introduce amendments to the Industrial Code, in the February, 1969, sitting of Parliament, to provide for the appointment of a Deputy President. The

two positions of Commissioners of the Industrial Commission will not be affected in any way. When that amending legislation is passed, the Government intends to recommend to the Governor that Mr. Olsson be also appointed Deputy President.

QUESTIONS

NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. CORCORAN: I am in the process of reading the Annual Report of the National Parks Commission. I have not yet completed reading the report, but I noticed in today's *Advertiser* a statement attributed to Mr. Lothian, the Chairman of the commission, in which he outlined some of the financial difficulties facing the commission. I am well aware of these difficulties, and also of the Government's difficulty in this matter. I have always held the belief that it is necessary at this stage to gain for the State as great an area of parks as possible, and that the development and maintenance of these areas would have to be set aside for some future time. Mr. Lothian suggested that bequests or donations made to the commission should be treated as tax deductible items. I agree that this may give to those interested in conservation an incentive to make donations or bequests. Therefore, will the Treasurer take up this matter with his Commonwealth Government counterpart to see whether something cannot be done in order to make any donation towards conservation in this State a tax deductible item?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member has put his finger on quite a problem, and he is well aware of that, as he has said. It has been the policy of past and present Governments to look ahead and buy up pieces of land that are suitable and available. Indeed, we have expended considerable sums for this purpose. I believe it can be said that we have made some real progress in providing for the future, but, as Mr. Lothian has said, the matter entails the development and maintenance of the properties that have been acquired. I was not aware that donations towards this object were not deductible items. I presume the honourable member is sure of this.

Mr. Corcoran: I am only taking it from the statement in the newspaper.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Well, I will examine it, because this could well rate at least equally with some other donations accepted under the Commonwealth Act as being tax deductible. I will make representations.

SMALL BOATS

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Marine a reply to my question about accommodation for small boats at Port Pirie?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: A confused berthing situation exists at the Port Pirie marina, but more than an adequate number of berths is available for full-time or part-time licensed fishermen. Congestion could be caused by a large number of pleasure craft using these moorings. However, the harbour-master is currently taking steps to systematize the situation at the marina.

TANUNDA YOUTH CLUB

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question of November 26 about whether an allotment of land in McDonnell Street, Tanunda, which was once used in connection with the former police station could be made available to the Tanunda Youth Club Incorporated for the erection thereon of a youth centre?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I have referred this matter to the Director, Public Buildings Department, who states that his department no longer requires the subject land, which comprises allotment 39, and the department has no objection to its disposal. However, the disposal of the land must be dealt with in the normal way by the Lands Department. Accordingly, I have approved of the Director of Lands being asked to dispose of the land and to note particularly the interest of the Tanunda Youth Club in acquiring the same. Although surplus properties are normally advertised for sale by public tender, I have no doubt that the Tanunda Youth Club will be contacted by the Director of Lands and its interest taken into consideration.

MOSQUITOES

Mr. RYAN: I have often raised the question of the mosquito menace in my district and districts nearby. I have been told that the mosquito menace was worse last Sunday than had ever been known in the area, and the hot weather in the last two days has resulted in many complaints being made by people who live near the upper reaches of the Port River. One constituent told me that he thought the Royal Australian Air Force had invaded the district with dive bombers. As the Marine and Harbors Department seems to be the main offender in this matter and as I have asked the Minister of Marine to have the department investigate remedial action, can the Minister say whether any action has been taken and,

if it has not, whether it can be taken urgently because of the hot weather that we may have soon?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I assure the honourable member that the mosquitoes, not the department, are the offenders. However, when the honourable member raised this matter with me a few days ago I immediately referred it to the Marine and Harbors Department and the Public Health Department. The matter is being fully investigated and, although I regret that I have not a report for the honourable member today, I assure him that his representations are being considered and, as soon as I receive a reply, I will forward it to him.

SAMCON SCHOOLS

Mr. VENNING: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the use of Samcon construction buildings at schools, compared with the use of solid construction?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: There is no set policy regarding the use of Samcon-type construction as against solid-construction schools. Three main factors are considered in determining the use of Samcon construction for a particular school: first, whether the accommodation requirements of the Education Department can be met by this type of construction; secondly, the capacity of the Samcon construction force to undertake the work; and, thirdly, the suitability of the site. In effect, each case is fully considered on its merits in determining the type of construction. The location in the north or south of the State has no bearing on the choice of Samcon-type construction.

SEMI-TRAILERS

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Minister of Roads and Transport to my recent question on reducing the hazard caused by insufficient lighting on semi-trailers?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The question of using a distinctive sign, such as an illuminated or reflectorized red triangle, on the rear of semi-trailers was on the agenda of the Australian Motor Vehicle Standards Committee meeting held in Adelaide during the week ended November 22, 1968. It is understood that the committee is to prepare a draft regulation to be submitted to the Australian Transport Advisory Council. Upon ratification by that body, it is intended to amend the Road Traffic Act to include provisions for the use of this device on vehicles in this State.

ALDGATE RAILWAY YARDS

Mr. GILES: As a result of objections I had received, on December 5 I asked the Attorney-General a question about the undesirability of establishing a bagging plant in the Aldgate railway yard. In his reply the Attorney-General said that he would discuss this matter with his colleague, provided that I could supply him with more information about those who objected to the establishment of the plant in this area. I have received the following letter from a councillor of the Stirling District Council:

I have received objections from 45 local ratepayers and residents living in the Aldgate area. These people include most of the local business people. Objections have also been received from the Mount Lofty Ranges Association, members of the R.S.L., the Meals on Wheels committee members, the Church of England, the Aldgate Hall Committee, the Aldgate Autumn Leaves Festival Committee, the Aldgate Kindergarten Committee, and the Mount Lofty Branch of the National Trust. The District Council of Stirling has lodged with the Minister of Roads and Local Government a request asking him to act in his capacity as the Minister responsible for zoning and planning, to protect the council's interest in this matter, as this area is zoned as township residential area.

Will this additional information enable the Attorney-General to ask his colleague what can be done to prevent the establishment of this undesirable industry in the centre of a residential area?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will refer to the Minister of Roads and Transport the matters raised by the honourable member in the preamble to his question.

TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Mr. VIRGO: My attention has been drawn to an article in an American magazine in which is a report of a transportation study undertaken in the Canadian city of Toronto. The city of Toronto, as the Premier may know, is similar in character to Adelaide as it abuts Lake Ontario and is situated on a long elongated strip of land. The study, undertaken in 1961, shows clearly that the most desirable way to solve immediate and future traffic problems is to use rail transport. The study showed that 5,500 people were making return trips daily to and from the city, while the estimated railway deficit at that time was about \$2,000,000 a year. The publication states:

To its credit, the Government agreed to accept this deficit financing in the hopes of applying the breaks to the headlong proliferation of super highways. The service's annual

deficit, estimated at \$2,000,000, could build a half-mile of expressway in the Toronto area. The capital required to establish the system (\$18,000,000) was little more than the cost of a mile of six-lane elevated roadway.

This article clearly shows that the solution to the traffic problem is the use of rail transport rather than the use of road transport. Will the Premier examine full details of the Toronto situation before the Government rushes headlong into its present plan?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Now that the honourable member has raised this point I will see whether the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study has considered the Toronto situation. I think it may have but, if it has not, I shall be happy to study the information he has given. I remind him, however, that South Australia does not yet have a proliferation of super highways and that all representations made to me so far have been for improved roads. I do not consider that the highways network has reached saturation point. For example, people using the South Road and roads through the Adelaide Hills are still demanding improved highways. However, I will take up this matter and consider it in relation to the M.A.T.S. plan.

Mr. VIRGO: Has the Premier a reply to my question regarding the purchase of a property affected by the M.A.T.S. plan? This matter has taken two and a half months to be finalized and nothing further has happened.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: An offer for the property has now been submitted to the solicitors acting on behalf of the honourable member's former constituent.

EUDUNDA AREA SCHOOL

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Some time ago I made representations to the Minister of Education on behalf of the District Council of Eudunda and the Eudunda Area School Committee for certain work to be done at the school. This work included a turn-round area for school buses and the grassing of a certain area west of the school as a dust control measure. Will the Minister say what progress has been made with this project?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: True, some months ago the honourable member submitted to me a plan to provide a turn-round area for buses bringing children to the school. The plan was sent on for investigation and for an estimate of the cost. When the estimate came back to me I considered it was an unjustifiable sum to be spent on such a

small project. I then asked officers of my department to see whether a cheaper method of providing the required facilities would be possible. It has now been reported to me that a considerably cheaper and much more easily provided scheme can be arranged, and I am now awaiting the cost of the scheme, after which action will be taken.

ROADS PROGRAMME

Mr. RICHES: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about the roads programme in the North of the State and particularly about the road between Port Augusta and Wirrappa?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Government has made further submissions to the Commonwealth to justify financial assistance towards the cost of constructing the whole of the Stuart Highway from Port Augusta to the Northern Territory border. The submissions set out in detail the benefits to both the Commonwealth and the State to be derived from such works. No reply has yet been received from the Commonwealth.

TAILEM BEND TO KEITH MAIN

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I recently asked about providing services under the road and railway line to people on the eastern side of the Tailem Bend to Keith main, south of Coonalpyn?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: Some services have been laid from this main to properties on the south-western side of the pipeline between Coonalpyn and Tintinara, but the services to properties on the north-eastern side of the railway line will have to be laid under the railway line and under the main Adelaide-Melbourne highway. To enable this work to be done satisfactorily, it will be necessary to bore horizontally under the railway line and under the highway so that sleeving pipes can be placed through which the service pipes will pass. Approval was given on December 9 for the acceptance of an offer from a company to carry out the boring of the necessary holes under the railway line and highway. Because of existing commitments and the closing down of work by the company over Christmas and the new year, it will not be possible to make a start until January 20, 1969. It is expected that this work will be completed and the services laid by mid-February, 1969.

BUSH FIRES

Mr. CASEY: Councils throughout the State, particularly in country areas, apply for a subsidy for their fire-fighting equipment to cover the purchase price of new equipment and the cost of maintenance of older equipment. As is the case every year, some councils are perhaps lax in applying for their subsidy within the time laid down by the Minister of Agriculture and, as a result, they are automatically excluded from obtaining the subsidy. In view of the tremendous growth (of which the Treasurer, being a country member, would be aware) throughout the State this season, and in view of the widespread destruction that could arise in the event of a bush or grass fire occurring, will the Treasurer discuss the matter with the Minister of Agriculture and other Ministers and ascertain whether the Government can meet the subsidies that are outstanding this year (I understand it is not such a great sum involved)? The payment of such subsidies would make a further major contribution to the fire-fighting units of this State and thus ensure the maximum efficiency of all fire-fighting units throughout council areas. I assure the Treasurer that councils that have been late in applying for this subsidy are concerned about their equipment, and any help they can obtain from the Government will be of infinite benefit not only to councils generally but to the State as a whole.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Of course, the subsidy is not payable until the equipment has been purchased and the sum spent, so that the point the honourable member makes about the availability of equipment does not arise, because the councils have the equipment, anyway, and it is available for use this year. However, as councils' expansion or improvement of their services may be prejudiced in another year, there is merit in the honourable member's request. Having consulted the Minister of Agriculture to see what claims are outstanding and what are the merits of each case, I will do what I can to assist.

Mr. RICHES: As the Minister of Lands is aware of the danger of bush fires in the Flinders Ranges and in areas outside the control of district councils, does he know what organization has been set up to deal with possible outbreaks in the outback and, if the organization has been set up, what steps have been taken to prevent fires?

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

I am acutely conscious of the serious potential fire hazard that exists in the Flinders Ranges. Recently, I received an application

from the Wilpena Fire Fighting Committee for the registration of that body as a voluntary fire-fighting organization under the provisions of the Bush Fires Act. This application was supported by the Hawker E.F.S. Committee and the District Council of Hawker, and I was pleased to give my approval to the request. A definition of the area to be controlled by the committee has been prepared, and the necessary gazettal will be proceeded with immediately. All Government departments have been asked to assist in the event of an outbreak of fire, but of course a heavy responsibility rests on individuals (particularly travellers passing through this area) to take the strictest precautions at all times. I will be pleased to consider any other helpful suggestions the honourable member may care to offer, as I am anxious to take every practicable measure to prevent outbreaks.

TAILEM BEND RAMP

Mr. WARDLE: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about the Tailem Bend ramp?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Mr. Hill has informed me that, following an inspection by the Railways Commissioner at Tailem Bend, it was decided that the surface of the loading ramp be dressed with limestone rubble, watered and graded until consolidation of the fill was completed. This process is in hand and it is expected that a reasonably dust-free surface will result. At this stage of consolidation, no useful purpose would be served by sealing the ramp. However, future experience will indicate whether there is any justification for this action. It was also decided that the batters of the ramp should be protected by hessian, held in place by wire mesh. This work has been put in hand but is not yet complete.

KADINA HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked a few weeks ago about the building of change and shower rooms in existing schools?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I have a reply for the honourable member relating to the Kadina High School change rooms. In recent years it has been the policy of the Education Department to recommend that standard change rooms be erected at all newly-constructed high schools. It has not been possible to provide change rooms for older established high schools which lack this accommodation. This financial year some funds became available which permitted design work to be undertaken for several established high schools. The work has not yet been completed, but it is expected that these will be erected during 1969. The Head-

master of the Kadina High School, on May 13, 1966, requested the provision of change rooms and shower rooms at departmental expense. He was informed that they were provided only at new high schools and that it was unlikely that funds would be available in the near future for their erection at established high schools.

Subsequently the school requested a subsidy for the project. This was approved and, in accordance with departmental policy, the school had to deposit its share of the total cost before a contract could be arranged. After several delays, the erection of these change rooms is now almost completed. The essential fact is that, throughout the time when the project at Kadina High School was being carried on, there was no indication that funds would become available so soon for the present programme of providing the rooms at established schools. Since the Kadina project was virtually completed before the new programme was initiated, it could not be included.

GRAPE PRICES

Mr. ARNOLD: Has the Treasurer a reply to the question I asked last Tuesday about the statutory minimum prices to be paid for wine grapes from the 1969 vintage?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Prices Commissioner has completed his investigations, and I think the new grape prices for the 1969 vintage will be gazetted today. The Commissioner has carried out a detailed investigation and has taken into account all those factors that bear on the matters in the industry as a whole. For the sake of brevity, I will not read the whole of the press statement that is being made available today. However, the price increases range between \$2 a ton and \$7 a ton. In the irrigated area, the average increase over all varieties has been \$3.25 a ton, or 64 per cent; and in the non-irrigated area the average increase has been \$5 a ton, or 74 per cent.

RECREATION CENTRES

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked on December 5 about vacation recreation centres at primary schools?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The establishment of recreation centres at schools without pools has not been seriously considered because the weather in late January is usually hot and a swimming pool is thought to be essential, as it provides a pleasurable activity in

these conditions. It is believed that a programme that only provided activities in rooms or on the hot asphalt would not attract the same interest. I am informed that there is no school in the Tea Tree Gully area which is equipped with a swimming pool. The honourable member also asked whether applications to attend these recreation centres were open only to children enrolled at the school where they are to be conducted. The answer is that notices are sent in the first instance, to the parents of children attending these schools. If the classes are not filled from these sources, neighbouring schools are invited to apply. Because the number of schools and their capacity are limited, enrolments are more restricted than in the learn-to-swim campaign.

Mrs. BYRNE: The Minister said that, first, notices were sent to parents of children attending the schools and that, if classes were not filled from this source, neighbouring schools were invited to apply. Can the Minister say what the trend is for enrolments in these classes; for instance, are the recreation activities so popular that the classes are usually filled by pupils from schools at which the classes are held, or is it usual for children from neighbouring schools to be invited? Also, can she say who act as instructors at these classes?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: As I cannot give an off-the-cuff reply to these questions, I will obtain the information for the honourable member and forward it to her as soon as possible.

MOTOR VEHICLE CONSTRUCTION

Mr. EVANS: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question about the eligibility of the Morris Cooper S motor car to be registered in South Australia?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Road Traffic Act places the obligation on the driver, rather than the manufacturer of the vehicle, to comply with the provisions of the Act. Section 160 of the Act, however, permits a member of the Police Force to enter any premises where vehicles are exhibited or kept for sale, for the purpose of examining any vehicle for compliance with the Act. If a vehicle does not comply with the Act, then the police officer may issue a defect notice specifying what repairs or modifications are necessary to permit the vehicle to be driven on the road. It is thought to be unreasonable for the purchaser of a new vehicle to have to check the vehicle he proposes to purchase for compliance with State legislation. It is for this reason that the

Australian Motor Vehicle Standards Committee is currently examining the possibility of manufacturers being required to affix identification plates to their vehicles showing the date of completion of the vehicle. In conjunction with this plate, it is intended that the design rules which have been laid down by the Australian Motor Vehicle Design Advisory Panel for vehicle safety should be introduced by legislation into each State's Road Traffic Act. As a design rule has been formulated and endorsed by the Australian Transport Advisory Council, then each State will call up that rule in its legislation and motor manufacturers will be required to comply with the design rule for any vehicle sold in Australia. This proposal, which has yet to be agreed to by the Australian Transport Advisory Council, will resolve the problem which has arisen over the sale of the Mini Cooper S and other vehicles in Australia which do not comply with State legislation.

TRANSMISSION TOWERS

Mr. HURST: In about July of this year the Minister of Local Government was said to be embarking on a campaign to try to have transmission and powerlines relocated because of their alleged unsightliness. In an issue of *Contractor*, published by the Sydney County Council, Henry Dreyfuss, the wellknown American designer, asked whether transmission towers may one day be acclaimed a twentieth century art form. Suggested designs have been published of the form of art that could be developed and possibly some day be displayed as a tourist attraction, just as bridges are displayed to visitors as scenic wonders. Will the Minister of Works ascertain whether the Electricity Trust is conducting any research into towers and stobie poles with a view to creating some artistic designs? Also, will he confer with the Minister of Local Government to ensure that no precipitate action is taken by the Minister in conjunction with the Municipal Association to enforce the installation of transmission underground, thus preventing unnecessary increases in power prices and possibly depriving the State of another tourist attraction by affecting the potential of this possible artistic attraction?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: First, knowing his interest in this matter, I assure the honourable member that the Electricity Trust is continually looking at its design of transmission towers and pylons, particularly having regard to the economy and safe working of the lines. It is absolutely essential that a

tower should be designed safely so that no accidents will occur and designed also so that there will be no interruptions to the service. What the honourable member said about the towers being an art form is news to me, but I shall be happy to look into it. The honourable member also raised the matter of underground services, but he is wrong in assuming that this type of service will save money. I assure him that, if services are laid underground, mainly they are more expensive. However, this being a matter of the trust and I have been examining closely of recent months, I will take the honourable member's suggestion further to see whether I can help him get a better art form in this connection.

VICTOR HARBOUR SCHOOL

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about additions to the Victor Harbour Primary School?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The two classrooms to be erected at the Victor Harbour Primary School are to be of timber frame construction of the type normally erected by departmental labour. The departmental construction programme for timberframe classrooms is currently fully committed in meeting requirements for the new school intake in February, 1969. This current programme was determined following consultation with the Education Department regarding relative priorities of works. A further meeting is to be held shortly with the Education Department to determine a construction programme to follow from February, 1969. The classroom requirements of the Victor Harbour Primary School will be considered at this meeting, and the commencement of this work will depend on the priority allotted. It is expected that the department will be in a position either late this week or early next week to make a recommendation for the acceptance of a tender for new toilets at the Victor Harbour Primary School. A request will be made to the successful contractor to complete this work at the earliest possible date.

WHYALLA WATER SUPPLY

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Can the Minister of Works tell me the approximate date for the fluoridation of the Whyalla water supply and whether it will be necessary to have a filtration system for that water supply before the fluoride is added?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I cannot tell the honourable member that date at this moment. As I have previously announced in

the House, the Government intends to introduce fluoride to the metropolitan water reticulation system late next year. I have made this clear in earlier statements. At the same time, I said that priorities would then be determined for selected country areas, and I also said that Whyalla was particularly interested in the matter and that representations from the township had been made to the department to see whether Whyalla could be served with fluoridated water. Early next year I hope to be able to consider the priorities of country towns, and I assure the honourable member that Whyalla will receive my early and earnest consideration.

WOOMERA ROAD

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

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I have a reply to this question that is of general interest to members. It is recognized that the sealing of the section from Port Augusta to Woomera is rapidly becoming a necessity. No firm date has yet been scheduled for construction to commence, but this will depend upon whether or not we receive assistance from the Commonwealth Government.

SCHOOL OVALS

Mr. BROOMHILL: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the Education Department's policy in relation to school ovals?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Since the policy to establish grassed and reticulated playing fields in new schools was announced in 1966, the Public Buildings Department has been progressively undertaking the development of ovals at the schools which qualify for this assistance. Each project is treated individually. A number of these works has already been arranged and estimates of costs have been prepared for others. Submissions for approval of funds are made separately for each project. At this stage, the majority of projects has already had funds approved.

PUERNONG SCHOOL

Mr. WARDLE: This morning the Chairman of the Purnong School Committee telephoned me about the water supply to both the school and the Headmaster's house. Apparently, over the years a windmill has been supplying a couple of galvanized iron tanks but, because of age, this system has broken

down and children are carting water in buckets for the septic system, although I do not think that this practice has been going on for very long. Although the committee is willing to cart water until the end of the school year, can the Minister of Education say whether the new system, comprising a pressure pump on the river bank, will be ready when the next school year commences?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Because of the obvious urgency of this matter, I will call for a report and, because the House will have adjourned, I will tell the honourable member later what is being done.

GRAIN STORAGE

Mr. RICHES: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to my question about wheat storages, particularly at Solomontown?

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

The General Manager of South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited informs me that up to yesterday the daily intake of wheat into the co-operative's emergency storage at Solomontown had been of the order of more than 50,000 bushels. He reports that the two new vacuators discharging rail trucks are working efficiently and the hoppers, augers, and throwers discharging grain from road vehicles operated at peak on Tuesday, when 30,000 bushels were received. The total quantity of wheat in the temporary storage as at December 11, 1968, was 613,000 bushels, of which 336,000 have been discharged from road vehicles and 277,000 from rail transport. About 100,000 bushels of barley has also been placed in the temporary storage.

I will get for the honourable member further information about future plans as soon as it is available.

TRAIN CONTROL

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a reply to further questions I have asked about the provision of telephonic communication at railway stations to help train control?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I understood that the honourable member's question referred to radio communication rather than telephonic communication, but I have a reply for him. It is understood that on the occasion referred to by the honourable member a "down" train was stopped by the guard after he had received a "stop" signal exhibited by the stationmaster. This is standard practice when it is desired to stop a through train in any such circumstance. The use of the radio on another train that was standing at

the same station in this instance appeared to be for the sole purpose of advising the engine-men of the train that had been stopped, rather than for the stationmaster to proceed the length of the train to advise them accordingly. It is a fact that radio can be used to advantage in certain circumstances in train working, and the department does in fact do so. As advised in the reply to an earlier question, the department is seeking practical means of extending its use, but present thoughts do not go so far as the equipping of stations. In this connection it should be pointed out that to operate the radio, which would be located in the station building, the stationmaster's observance of the train could be interrupted and thereby he might miss a more serious hazard.

CROWN LEASES

Mr. CORCORAN: During my term as Minister of Lands I found it necessary to adopt a policy whereby no proprietary companies were permitted to take over leases of Crown land. This policy was arrived at because of the difficulty that had been experienced by the Land Board in deciding whether parties were exceeding the limitations. Although I realize that, because of the present situation, the need for action in these matters may be obviated, can the Minister of Lands say whether the policy to which I have referred has been changed since he has been in office?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The policy has not yet been finalized. We are gaining experience on the matter as we go along. However, in general, there is no objection to private companies holding leases as long as we know the details of shareholdings. Although the matter is less important consequent on the removal of limitations, it is still relevant. In the past, private companies have held leases and, although companies have been obliged to inform the Lands Department of changes of ownership, this practice became fairly lax, to say the least. In general, there is no objection, but because we have not had wide enough experience of new conditions, we cannot say that there will be no bar: each case will be considered carefully on its merits.

BARMERA AMBULANCE

Mr. ARNOLD: During a recent visit to Barmera, the Minister of Works was approached by members of the council and also members of the Barmera Ambulance Committee about the transfer from the Education Department

of land for the erection thereon of ambulance headquarters. Can the Minister say what progress has been made in this matter?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: Following that visit, I have examined the matter and have referred to the Minister of Education, for her approval, the transfer of this land from the Education Department. When that is done, action will be taken to transfer or dedicate this land (whichever is more desirable) for ambulance purposes.

FISHING BAG LIMITS

Mr. McKEE: Recently I asked the Minister of Lands whether he would obtain from the Minister of Agriculture a report about the lifting of the under-size bag limit on fish caught in the Port Pirie River. If the Minister has not a reply today, will he be kind enough to ask his colleague to inform me by letter?

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

The Director of Fisheries and Fauna Conservation reports that the abolition of the bag limit on under-size fish was enforced in recent proclamations made under the Fisheries Act as a conservation measure, and followed a recommendation of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the fishing industry in South Australia.

That Select Committee, comprising members of the Labor Party, sat during the last Parliament. My colleague's statement about the report from the Director continues:

He points out that the situation prior to the introduction of this restriction was most unsatisfactory: it is wellknown that many fishermen applied the bag limit only to the number of under-size fish they caught, and did not limit their total catches. The honourable member will appreciate that, if small fish are taken constantly in any area, reproduction is seriously diminished, and in time the area could become virtually denuded. This principle applies to any system of harvesting of natural resources, and, whilst it is unfortunate if the abolition of the bag limit adversely affects membership of the Port Pirie Anglers Club, I am unable to agree to the temporary restoration of the bag limit in this area.

GOOLWA BARRAGES

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the Goolwa barrages?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: Following the honourable member's representations by several questions, I now inform him that the Australian Broadcasting Commission is prepared to broadcast information concerning changes of floodway openings. It would be possible to include the information in the

"Country Hour", with river level reports which are announced daily at about 12.9 p.m., and the department will co-operate.

WALLAROO HOSPITAL

Mr. HUGHES: Members of the board of the Wallaroo Hospital greatly appreciate the reply given me last week about the successful tenderer for air-conditioning work to be done at the hospital. On November 26 when replying to my question the Minister said:

The honourable member may rest assured that it is hoped to have this air-conditioning installed before the hot weather arrives.

As I have received a letter from the Wallaroo Hospital Advisory Committee asking me to seek an early commencement of this project because of the expected hot weather, will the Minister of Works ask the successful tenderer whether it would be possible to install the air-conditioning soon, perhaps early in January?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I am happy to do this for the honourable member and on behalf of the hospital. However, I point out that various seasonal conditions play a part in contracting, and delays are sometimes caused because of weather conditions. The excessive rains we have had in this last season (and I am not complaining about them) means that some outside jobs have been delayed because the men could not work. At Christmas time some firms and companies close down for three or four weeks to enable their employees to take annual leave, and this affects the completion date of some contracts. However, in this instance, and because of the added comfort that can be extended to patients in the hospital, I will ascertain whether this contractor can arrange for an earlier completion date of the tender.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Mr. VIRGO: Yesterday, when the Treasurer was good enough to reply to a question I had asked on October 24 concerning the rate of compensation payable in South Australia, he said:

The present rates—

that is, in South Australia—
are still above the revised rates in Victoria which is our nearest industrial competitor.

I have had a brief check of the rates payable in the Commonwealth and, for the Treasurer's information, the following are the rates applicable:

For a person without dependants—New South Wales, \$26 a week; Victoria, \$20; South Australia, \$22; Queensland, \$27.35 for a male

and \$25.90 for a female; Western Australia, \$24 for a male and \$18 for a female; Tasmania, \$26.40; and for the A.C.T., Northern Territory and Papua-New Guinea, \$23.10.

The Treasurer's statement that South Australia's rate is above the rate in Victoria is true, but it would be the only State in the Commonwealth, including the Territories, where the rate is lower than in this State. The same situation applies when one considers the rates applicable to a person with dependants. In New South Wales, the amount of compensation payable is the weekly wage at the time of injury, and this rate also applies in Queensland, the A.C.T., Northern Territory, and Papua-New Guinea. In Western Australia, the rate is \$36 or the average weekly earnings, whichever is less. In Tasmania, the rate is 85 per cent of the average weekly earnings, if the earnings do not exceed \$45.30, and then there is a scale for other cases. In Victoria, which is lower than South Australia, the rate is \$31, or the average weekly earnings, whichever is less. In South Australia, the rate is \$32.50. As the rates of compensation payable in South Australia (and the Treasurer is correct in saying that they are more than those paid in Victoria) are considerably less than those paid in all other States and the Territories, will the Treasurer treat this matter as of the highest degree of importance and urgency, so that the rates payable to people injured in South Australia can be adjusted to a proper and reasonable level?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am pleased to hear that the honourable member accepted my statement yesterday and now puts the imprimatur of authenticity on it. I was sure of my facts, as I usually try to be when making a statement. What I said yesterday was not the end of the matter, and I repeat that statement today.

SOUTH-WESTERN SUBURBS DRAINAGE

Mr. BROOMHILL: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a reply to my question of December 5 regarding how the \$1,000,000 will be spent on improvements to the Patawalonga Basin in order to reduce the risk of flooding of areas nearby?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The revised scheme for enlarging and concrete-lining the River Sturt channel, as a part of the south-western suburbs drainage scheme, together with limited interim associated protection works

for the Patawalonga Basin, was presented to the Public Works Committee in May, 1965. However, rapid development of areas in the River Sturt watershed, together with additional water expected from proposed implementation of stage 2 of the scheme, has necessitated a fresh appraisal of the protection works for the Patawalonga Basin. The proposal now being referred to the committee for additional improvements to the basin, estimated to cost \$1,000,000, is based on the need to improve disposal through the basin of increased flows in the River Sturt, thus reducing water levels in the basin during flood discharge. The provision of levee banks and flap gates, as in the 1965 scheme—

Mr. Corcoran: During the time of that wicked Labor Government!

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: That is so. The report states that the provision of levee banks and flap gates will prevent flooding out of the basin, but will not allow local drains to operate efficiently until the flow level in the basin is reduced. The new proposal will reduce flooding around the basin to a degree compatible with the remainder of the south-western suburbs scheme. The scheme referred to the committee allows for the following: (a) the widening and deepening of the Patawalonga Basin to an average bottom width of 300ft. (varying from 350ft. at the lower end to 250ft. upstream) to improve conveyance of water through the basin; (b) lengthening bridges to correspond with the increased width of the basin; and (c) increasing the outlet capacity by installing additional outlets in the lock structure.

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Can the Premier say whether any of his departmental officers who are examining questions on State development are conducting a survey of the employment opportunities for the many students leaving our schools in the next few years? If such a survey is being carried out, will the Premier arrange for such survey also to be conducted in the larger country towns to ascertain what employment opportunities exist in those towns particularly, as well as elsewhere in the State?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I believe that only this week I authorized such a survey for the city of Whyalla. Details were contained in one of the many dockets that I have handled recently. I will see whether this matter has reached that stage, but I believe it has. Regarding the whole of the State, I am not certain

what economic survey is being conducted in depth on this matter, but I will see what stage the programme has reached. Much research in depth is being undertaken by the firm of Scott Little, particularly on industrial growth in this State. I will examine the matter of the employment of young people and see what report I can obtain, although I believe the honourable member's city is being given special attention in this regard.

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Labour and Industry a reply to my recent question about juvenile employment at Port Pirie? The Minister promised me that he would arrange an appointment for me to meet the Deputy Director of the Department of Labour and National Service to discuss these matters. If he has not made the appointment, will he inform me by letter when the appointment can be arranged?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: If the honourable member cares to look in *Hansard* at the reply I gave him, he will see that I said that, if he desired it, I would make the appointment for him.

Mr. McKee: I thought I indicated that I would like an appointment.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I have been waiting for the honourable member to make that approach to me.

Mr. McKee: I am doing it now.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: If he likes to do this, I will certainly arrange the appointment for him.

HANSARD ACCOMMODATION

Mr. CORCORAN: This morning, I had occasion to visit the main office of the *Hansard* staff in this building and I could not but notice the uncomfortable conditions under which staff members were working, especially on a day such as this. No doubt, the hot weather of yesterday and today has created uncomfortable working conditions, and the pressure under which staff members are working at present does not make these conditions any less difficult to bear. Will the Minister of Works investigate the possibility of installing air-conditioning in this room? If this is not possible immediately, will he take steps to improve the working conditions for the *Hansard* staff?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I thank the honourable member for drawing my attention to this matter. I will investigate this matter and have consultations with the Director of the Government Reporting Department. The honourable member has referred to the desirability of air-conditioning other parts of the

building. This matter has been discussed repeatedly. For instance, it was discussed while I had the privilege of serving as a member of the Public Works Committee with the late Mr. Fred Walsh, who suffered a disability, as the honourable member knows. On that occasion, and several times since, the possibility of air-conditioning the eastern half of this building has been discussed, as also has the question of air-conditioning the top half of the western side of the building. There are practical difficulties in this matter but, regarding the *Hansard* office, I will take up this matter as quickly as possible.

IRRIGATION

Mr. ARNOLD: Can the Minister of Works say what the position will be with regard to further expansion of the Renmark Irrigation Trust and annual allocations of water for private irrigators in years of unrestricted flow in the Murray River?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: Regarding the Renmark Irrigation Trust, in the total figure we have been working on for allotment in the various categories on the Murray River, the trust some time ago applied to the Minister of Irrigation for a certain volume of water, not only to use in the new closed system it is currently installing but also to provide a reasonable margin for expansion within the system. This matter has been considered in arriving at the total figure. Regarding the other matter, the honourable member realizes that any restrictions on the allotments are based on a dry year. When the river is coming down in flood, or when there is a very high level on the river, special consideration could be given to people being able to use as much water as they wished to use on their properties. I am principally concerned with dry years. A component has been allowed for normal expansion of the Government areas such as those at Berri and Waikerie.

Mr. ARNOLD: Following the statement just made by the Minister of Works, can the Minister of Lands now say when he will consider the conversion of suitable vegetable-growing land and the granting of water to some dry areas within the Government irrigation system?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: This matter is under close consideration, and I cannot yet give a definite answer.

Mr. ARNOLD: Yesterday, the Minister of Works said that there was an urgent need for the metering and careful use of water, as well as for improved irrigation methods. In

some places in my district not only are there concrete channels that have served their normal life but also in areas such as Cobdogla and Chaffey there are still the original earthen channels, which cause an enormous water wastage. Will the Premier ask Cabinet to consider upgrading the priority of the Government irrigation areas with a view to converting them to a closed system as is presently the position in the case of the Renmark Irrigation Trust, for this could result in the saving of much water?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will discuss the matter with the Minister of Works and let the honourable member have a reply.

BRIGHTON SCHOOLS

Mr. CORCORAN: On behalf of the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson), who is temporarily absent, I ask whether the Minister of Works has a reply to the questions my colleague recently asked about Brighton schools.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The proposal for a swimming pool at the Brighton Primary School is a subsidized capital work being arranged by the primary school committee. The school committee has called tenders for the work and has submitted them to the department for advice as to their acceptability. Prior to the school committee's calling tenders, the scheme was commented upon by the department and several technical variations were stated as being necessary to the scheme. The tenders as now submitted do not meet all the requirements previously suggested, and it will be necessary to negotiate these variations with the prospective contractor. Prior to the acceptance of a tender, it will be necessary to provide funds for the Government's commitment in the project. The project is receiving attention as a high priority and every effort will be made to let a contract at the earliest possible date.

A recommendation has now been made for the acceptance of a tender for the grassing and reticulation of the oval area at the Brighton Boys' Technical High School.

ELIZABETH PRICES

Mr. CLARK: I recently sought information from the Treasurer about the level of prices of commodities at Elizabeth and, at the Treasurer's suggestion, I had a long interview at Parliament House with an officer of the Prices Branch. I express my thanks to the branch for its help in this matter. Consumers as well as traders at Elizabeth were somewhat

perturbed at the possible implications of my previous question. However, I found that the price level in my district was in line with that of the metropolitan area. Although I trust I have not anticipated too much the Treasurer's reply (I thought it incumbent on me to make this explanation), will the Treasurer now reply to my original question?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member has probably much of the information that I can give him now. The Prices Commissioner has reported that prices of clothing and foodstuffs at Elizabeth are generally competitive with those of the metropolitan area. Action was taken some years ago to remove price differentials on bread and petrol. Negotiations resulted in the zone differentials on butchers and schooners of draught beer being withdrawn. The question of zone allowances on liquor is under examination by the Liquor Industry Council.

FORBES PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. VIRGO: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked a few weeks ago about the availability of land for the Forbes Primary School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Enrolments at the Forbes Primary and Infants Schools have decreased from 1,796 in 1960 to 1,336 at present. There has been a steady fall, especially in the number in the infants school. When the children at present in the infants school have moved through to the upper grades in the primary school, it is likely that the total enrolment will have fallen to fewer than 1,100. The infants school has two unoccupied rooms at present. It is realized that, if this property is not acquired now, the chance to obtain it will have gone for all time. However, it is considered that the present school area of 10½ acres is adequate even with the present enrolment, and the proposal to erect a new school of 22 classrooms in solid construction when practicable will enable more effective use to be made of the present area and a large number of wooden rooms to be removed. The matter has been fully considered but it has been decided that there is no valid reason for changing the previous decision not to purchase the additional land.

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Mr. CORCORAN: I wish to ask another question on behalf of the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson), who is temporarily absent. Has the Minister of Social Welfare a reply to the question my colleague recently asked about the Social Welfare Department?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Director, Public Buildings Department, reports that plans have been completed for the upgrading of the office accommodation at the Rundle Street offices of the Social Welfare and Mines Departments. The work proposed involves extensive partitioning alterations, repainting, and replacement of floor coverings. In addition, air-conditioning of critical areas of the northern and western faces of the buildings and some enclosed executive offices has been included.

GARDEN SUBURB

Mr. LANGLEY: My question is directed to the Attorney-General. In view of the statement made by the Minister of Local Government and given to the House yesterday by the Attorney-General, namely, that a committee had now been set up to inquire into and report on the practicability and desirability of a merger between the garden suburb of Colonel Light Gardens and the Mitcham council (questions having been asked yesterday about this matter by the member for Edwardstown and me), at the end of this inquiry, will ratepayers be given an opportunity to express an opinion on the pros and cons of the merger before a final decision is made?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I think the member for Unley must be tired; I found his question difficult to follow. He should speak up. I take it from the explanation which he was giving that the purport of his question is that ratepayers of the garden suburb should be given a chance to have a say before any decision is made.

Mr. Virgo: That's exactly what he did say, and you would have heard it if you'd been listening.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I am glad for the member for Edwardstown, who is no doubt trying to help both his colleague and me.

Mr. Virgo: You couldn't care less about that part of your district.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Attorney-General.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: That is not so. However, the answer to the question, which we have now got straight, is that I shall be happy to refer this matter to the Minister.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS TENDERS

Mr. VIRGO: Has the Minister of Works a reply to a question I recently asked about tenderers to the Public Buildings Department?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The practice adopted in assessing the capabilities of tenderers to undertake work for the Public Buildings Department is as follows: Where an offer is likely to be successful and the tenderer is either not known to the department or has not undertaken the department's work for a considerable period of time, he is invited to attend the office to discuss, in confidence, his ability to undertake the work to the satisfaction of the department from both technical and financial points of view. This step is necessary and protects not only the Government's interests but also the business of the tenderer, who, if unable to perform the work and/or finance the venture, could incur business discredit leading to financial loss and possible ruin. It should be stressed that the officers who interview tenderers are men of integrity and trust, and have long experience in this type of work. These duties are carried out without personal bias, and assessments on an equitable basis are made only on the information made available.

EMPLOYMENT POSITION

Mr. CORCORAN: In the temporary absence of the Leader, I ask the Minister of Labour and Industry whether he has a reply to a question asked by the Leader a few days ago about the employment situation.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I have the following report:

The Leader of the Opposition has asked what steps the Government has taken to revive the building industry and employment generally from the depressed conditions experienced during the past two years. The legislative action promised at the last State election has been taken and all four Bills have been introduced and passed by this House, namely, Advances for Homes Act Amendment Bill, Advances for Settlers Act Amendment Bill, Homes Act Amendment Bill, and Trustee Act Amendment Bill. To illustrate the retrogression in the building industry in the past three years, the following tables are of interest:

1. Building employment in South Australia (as shown in *Building Operations*, a quarterly bulletin produced by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics) has been:

	Number of persons engaged
30/6/65	15,267
30/6/66	13,506
30/6/67	12,467
30/6/68	11,370

2. The number of wage and salary earners in the building and construction industry in South Australia (as published

in *Employment and Unemployment*, a bulletin produced by the Bureau of Census and Statistics) has been:

	Number ('000)
August, 1965	27.4
August, 1966	25.7
August, 1967	25.8
August, 1968	25.4

The August, 1968, figure was a slight improvement on the 25,300 wage and salary earners in the building industry in July, 1968. These figures include subcontractors who undertake only alterations, additions, repair and maintenance (in contrast to the employment figures quoted in (1) above). At the same time, employment figures throughout Australia were rising. These figures show that in the past three years many building tradesmen were lost either to other States or to other trades in South Australia. The number of skilled building and construction workers registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service for employment at the end of October and vacancies registered for this type of worker at that time for South Australia over the last three years has been as follows:

	Persons registered	Vacancies registered
29/10/65	77	278
29/10/66	288	164
29/10/67	161	162
1/11/68	131	190

The greater number of vacancies than persons registered at the end of October, 1968, is the first recorded since October, 1967. In addition to the legislative action taken by the Government, the Public Buildings Department has been able to let several large contracts and the Public Works Standing Committee now has had referred to it in recent weeks by the Government many inquiries involving large amounts of expenditure. Current production of cement is above that at this time last year, and the latest figures on building approvals and commencements show that the downturn has been halted. There are indications that there should be a percentage lift in the January to March quarter next year. The contract value of buildings under construction and those approved for construction in the city areas is almost \$20,000,000 at present.

This report was prepared before the two projects were announced in the newspaper this week as likely to go to the city council to seek its approval. The report continues:

With reference to the Leader's statement that 16 workers had been retrenched at Whyalla last week, I was assured on Monday whilst at Whyalla that all suitable tradesmen and more could be absorbed by the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited, which is currently advertising for skilled tradesmen.

My attention was drawn to the *Whyalla News*, which was given to members on the aeroplane as we returned from Whyalla and in which I noticed an advertisement calling for 20 welders. The report continues:

Mr. Laidlaw of the Perry engineering group, has advised me that the group is increasing

employment in other factories in this State because of the high level of orders and more than the number referred to will be engaged elsewhere. The men employed by Perry's at Whyalla were essentially engaged in the construction of the pelletizing plant, a very large project that is now completed, and these men would not normally be working in the building industry. In fact, for the Perry group in Australia as a whole, the greatest expenditure is being undertaken in South Australia. Finally, the latest figures on employment generally in South Australia show a remarkable improvement from the 1.6 per cent unemployed in April this year to the present figure of 1.15 per cent, showing that the position of the last three years has been largely overcome.

TRAIN PASSES

Mr. VIRGO: On December 4 I asked the Attorney-General a question about the availability of passes and privilege tickets for travel by railway employees on those lines on which the passenger service had been, or was likely to be, discontinued. Yesterday the Attorney was good enough to provide me with a reply, which states:

Free passes are available for travel on passenger trains—

of course, that is obvious—

or buses on those routes where the Railways Department charters road passenger vehicles, and on goods trains

Obviously, I do not think even the Attorney-General seriously considers that a man ought to ask his wife and children to travel in a sheep or cattle van, or in some other goods truck, so we are left with the road passenger service. What does the Attorney-General understand by the term "Railways Department charter road passenger service"? Does it mean the road services that are now operating, or will operate, in lieu of passenger trains that have been or will be withdrawn?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The honourable member will appreciate that I am not able, here and now, to give him the interpretation he seeks. I will confer with my colleague and either he or I will inform the honourable member by letter as soon as possible.

WOODSIDE SEWERAGE

Mr. GILES: Has the Minister of Works further information about the establishment of a sewerage system at Woodside, in the Adelaide Hills?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: Following the deputation from the Woodside council introduced to me about a month ago by the honourable member, I had further investigations made and the council was approached

officially. Earlier this week I wrote to the Commonwealth Minister for the Army (Mr. Lynch), seeking his views on the matter and his permission for common use of the present sewerage system at Woodside Army camp. When I receive a reply to that letter, I will communicate further with the council in the honourable member's district.

NEXT DAY OF SITTING

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier) moved:
That the House at its rising do adjourn to Tuesday, February 4, 1969, at 2 p.m.
Motion carried.

LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1)

The Legislative Council intimated that it did not insist on its amendment No. 1.

STAMP DUTIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 3)

Consideration in Committee of the Legislative Council's suggested amendments:

No. 1. Page 3, lines 37 to 40 (clause 3)—Leave out "where the repayment of the loan or the amount credited is *bona fide* secured on any interest in land".

No. 2. Page 5, line 13 (clause 3)—After "granting" insert "to".

No. 3. Page 11, lines 17 and 18 (clause 3)—Leave out "during the last preceding month".

No. 4. Page 11, line 19 (clause 3)—After "part of" insert—

"a debt which was owing to him and was outstanding during the last preceding month and which was contracted pursuant to".

No. 5. Page 11, line 24 (clause 3)—Leave out "credit" and insert "a debt owing to him".

No. 6. Page 11, line 24 (clause 3)—Leave out "three" and insert "four".

No. 7. Page 11, line 25 (clause 3)—Leave out "has been provided" and insert "has become or remained outstanding during the last preceding month".

No. 8. Page 11, line 28 (clause 3)—After "returned or" insert "goods accepted in part consideration for goods supplied or".

No. 9. Page 11, line 34 (clause 3)—After "him" insert "as rent".

No. 10. Page 13, line 38 (clause 3)—After "construction" insert "alteration, renovation".

No. 11. Page 13, line 39 (clause 3)—After "acquisition of" insert "or any addition to".

No. 12. Page 13, line 42 (clause 3)—After "purposes" insert "or of defraying the whole or part of the cost of the construction, alteration or renovation of any improvements on or to any land occupied or intended to be occupied by the borrower for residential purposes or of defraying the whole or part of the

cost of land on which the borrower intends to have constructed a house or flat to be occupied by him for residential purposes".

No. 13. Page 14, line 4 (clause 3)—After "constructed" insert "altered or renovated or on which the addition is or improvements are constructed, altered or renovated or on which the house or flat is intended to be constructed".

No. 14. Page 15, line 41 (clause 3)—After "transaction" insert "or grant of the right to use any goods".

No. 15. Page 23, lines 15 to 43 and page 24, lines 1 to 7 (clause 3)—Leave out new section 31p.

Suggested amendments Nos. 1 to 14.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Treasurer): I move:

That the Legislative Council's suggested amendment Nos. 1 to 14 be agreed to.

I do not object to anything in these suggested amendments. All except No. 6 make drafting and clarification alterations, and suggested amendment No. 6 increases from \$300 to \$400 the amount in a credit account that does not attract duty. Suggested amendment No. 12 is consequential and refers to the clause that exempts from duty a sum received by way of loan for the construction of a house for occupation by the owner. This clause merely extends the exemption to cover a loan received for the purpose of adding to, constructing, or making alterations, renovations, or improvements to such a personal residence. Therefore, I have no objection to it.

Suggested amendments agreed to.

Suggested amendment No. 15.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I move:

That the Legislative Council's suggested amendment No. 15 be disagreed to.

That suggested amendment deletes new section 31p, which continues in the new part of the legislation the prohibition that has always been contained in the older part of the Act on the lender from passing on to the borrower the stamp duty charges incurred on documents dealing with the loan. This provision has existed in our legislation for a long time and is now contained in Victorian legislation regarding certain hire-purchase transactions. I see no reason for not including in the new part of the Act the provisions that have been in the older part for some time.

The effect of the suggested amendment, as drawn, is to remove the prohibition on the passing on of charges but, because the Legislative Council has not suggested the deletion of clause 31 (1), that Chamber has allowed the prohibition to remain in respect of those items

that the extended provisions of the Bill involved. Apart from that, I see no justification for accepting the amendment.

Suggested amendment disagreed to.

The following reason for disagreement to suggested amendment No. 15 was adopted:

Because the amendment contravenes the principle previously established in this legislation.

Later, the Legislative Council intimated that it did not insist on its suggested amendment No. 15 to which the House of Assembly had disagreed.

LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

(No. 3)

Returned from the Legislative Council with the following amendments:

No. 1. Page 1, line 10 (clause 2)—Leave out "Subsection (5) of".

No. 2. Page 1, line 10 (clause 2)—After "amended" insert—

"—
(a) by striking out paragraph (b) of subsection (4);"

No. 3. Page 1, line 11 (clause 2)—Before "by" insert "(b)".

No. 4. Page 1, line 11 (clause 2)—After "out" insert "from subsection (5)".

No. 5. Page 1—After line 24 insert new clause as follows:

"3a. *Amendment of principal Act, s. 87—Licensing of clubs*—Section 87 of the principal Act is amended by inserting after subsection (7) the following subsection:

(8) The Royal South Australian Bowling Association Incorporated shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be a club, and the members of any club that is a member of, or affiliated with, the association, shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be members thereof."

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE (Attorney-General): I ask members to agree to all five amendments, the first four of which relate to the one matter, and the fifth of which is a separate one. The first four amendments strike out section 65 (4) (b). The effect of these amendments is to allow a person under the legal age to be present at a function at which liquor is supplied under a booth permit. At present (and this, I suggest, is not much more than the clearing up of an anomaly in the Act), under section 65 (4) a person cannot be present, nor can he be served liquor, at such a function, but under other sections that allow the supply of liquor, either under permit or under licence, it is possible and lawful for a person under age to be present.

The purpose of this set of amendments is to allow of a person under age to be present, although it does not allow that person to be

served with liquor. This brings the section into line with other sections in the Act. Therefore, I think we can without risk of danger accept these amendments. It will be remembered that the amendment we made to section 65 (5) was simply to reduce the age from 21 years to, as it turns out, 20 years.

The fifth amendment permits the Royal South Australian Bowling Association Incorporated to obtain a club licence and to provide, for the purposes of the Act, that the members of any bowling club affiliated with the association should be deemed to be members of the association. The executive officers of the association approached me and asked whether it would be possible to provide in some way for the licensing of the association's headquarters, so that when they entertained people from another State, and so on (as they often do), it would be possible to provide refreshment without its having to be *gratis* (because they are all bowlers, and so on). In fact, I hesitated whether to put such an amendment in the other Licensing Bill, and just on balance I decided not to. However, it has now been inserted by another place. The only reason why I hesitated previously was that I was a little unwilling to put another specific exception into the Act but, of course, there are already other specific exceptions and the association, its solicitors, and I could not see any other way the Act could be complied with and the wishes of the association met. I therefore suggest to the Committee that we should accept this amendment as well.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): I just do not see how this will operate, but I should be grateful for any information the Attorney-General could give concerning how the amendment is supposed to operate. It is intended to write into the special provision applicable to clubs "The Royal South Australian Bowling Association Incorporated shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be a club . . .". Does that mean that the association receives a club licence? So far as I can see, it means it is something that is deemed to be a licence without being one. The amendment says that it shall be "deemed to be a club", not that it "shall be a club". It does not say that the association shall have a club licence, nor that there shall be any application to the court to license premises. In relation to what premises will this deemed club provision operate?

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: To the premises as indicated by the court.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: That is not stated. It could be taken that every club premises of clubs affiliated with the South Australian Bowling Association Incorporated shall be deemed to be part of the licensed premises of a club. It could be that all the club premises of affiliates or members of the South Australian Bowling Association, since they are part of the association, could be deemed to be club premises, and in that case we would negate the whole of the arrangements that had previously been made with applicants in relation to particular club premises and restrictions on their purchases of liquor. It does not seem to me that this amendment accords with the Bill at all. If the aim were to provide a club licence for the Royal South Australian Bowling Association Incorporated at its headquarters, we could have a provision in the club licence section giving a specific licence, but that has not happened.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I cannot follow the Leader's comments but, because I always give due weight to what he says on this Bill and on other Bills, I suggest that we could, if he is happy, agree to the other amendments and then report progress to see whether we can work out something. If we can avoid another collision with the Legislative Council, I think it will be wise to do this.

Amendments Nos. 1 to 4.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE moved: That the Legislative Council's amendments Nos. 1 to 4 be agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Later:

Amendment No. 5.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I move: That the Legislative Council's amendment No. 5 be amended to read as follows:

Page 1—after line 24, insert new clause as follows:

3a. Section 87 of the principal Act is amended by inserting after subsection (7) the following subsection:

(8) Notwithstanding that it does not consist of natural persons, the Royal South Australian Bowling Association Incorporated may, subject to this Act, apply for and be granted a club licence, and the members of any club that is a member of or affiliated with, the Association, shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be members thereof.

This amendment achieves the same object but is more satisfactory.

Legislative Council's amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Later, the Legislative Council intimated that it had agreed to the amendment made by the House of Assembly to its amendment No. 5.

PUBLIC SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Consideration in Committee of the Legislative Council's amendment:

Page 2, line 4 (clause 2)—After "or temporary officer" insert "as if the service of that person in that employ were service as an officer".

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE (Minister of Labour and Industry): I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendment be agreed to.

As members will see from the amendment, some words were inadvertently omitted from the Bill when it was drafted and, of course, when it left this Chamber. The Legislative Council has made the necessary correction by inserting the omitted words. Members opposite will realize that it was not the intention to leave out these words.

Mr. HURST: The amendment tidies up the clause and makes the initial intention clear. We should listen to any suggestion that makes a provision more understandable. However, this is the first time I have seen any suggestion put forward on industrial matters by members of another place that is worth considering. The Opposition supports the amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

BUSH FIRES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from December 11. Page 3222.)

Mr. CORCORAN (Millicent): I support the Bill. I do not suppose we have had in this State for many years a situation where people need to be so concerned about the menace of bush fires. Because of the excellent season and the prolific growth that has resulted, a real danger faces the State during the coming summer. I take this opportunity to support the actions of the Minister of Agriculture in trying to make people throughout the State even more fire-conscious than they are at present. I believe that South Australians are fortunate in that over a period of years we have developed an excellent Emergency Fire Service under the capable direction of Mr. Fred Kerr. Because of the attention paid to these matters by those who take a direct interest and by the press, the citizens of the State are as fire-conscious as are any other people in Australia.

The Bill is designed to improve the present service by providing for officers in addition to the fire control officers appointed at present. These officers are to be called fire party leaders. This provision will double the number of officers available. It is well known, in council areas throughout the State, that difficulty is encountered from time to time, particularly over the holiday period, in having sufficient fire patrol officers available all the time and, to a certain extent, this provision will relieve the situation. In fact, it will provide for better control at the scene of any fire because one of the things apparent at a fire is the confusion, particularly initially. If control can be rapidly gained and exercised over those who arrive at the scene and are prepared to fight the fire, then the fire can be brought under control much more quickly.

In addition, the Bill contains certain other amendments, all of them necessary. Therefore, I have much pleasure in supporting the Bill, hoping it has a speedy passage through the House in order that it can be brought into effect and that the officers can be appointed as quickly as possible so that they will be available during the dangerous period we are about to experience.

Mr. GILES (Gumeracha): I, too, support the Bill. I imagine the Gumeracha District would be one of the most dangerous areas in regard to bush fires. The Bill provides for extensive changes to the Act that the member for Millicent has explained. Of course, the additional number of officers provided for each council area will enable more men to be controlled, and this is vital in extinguishing a bush fire. South Australia has an Emergency Fire Service of which we are extremely proud and which is under the direction of Mr. Fred Kerr. The ability of fire officers is not questioned at all, but I suggest that further moves could be made to protect South Australia from bush fires.

I believe that the district controllers in each council district do an excellent job, but an anomaly can exist when a fire is on the boundary of one council area and extends into another. As we have two district officers with equal power controlling the fire, there could be a problem. In the past, most of the officers have worked together amicably, but I think we should provide for an area controller. He would be able to control all fire plant and personnel in his area, which would comprise up to, say, six council districts. Because the controller must have an intimate knowledge of the terrain of his area, each area

should not be too large. Further, the controller should have charge of all fire plant in his district. At present, an area controller in the District of Gumeracha controls an area embracing Clare, Meningie and Kangaroo Island. That area is too large for one controller.

Spotter planes and army personnel should be available to an area controller in the event of evacuation of an area becoming necessary. He should also have control of the St. John Ambulance services in those circumstances. Crop-dusting and superphosphate-spreading aircraft can be used to advantage in fire fighting by spraying a mixture of water and diammonium sulphate. That method seemed to be successful in fighting recent fires in Sydney, as is shown by the following report in the *Advertiser* of November 30:

The aircraft, from Cudal near Orange, dropped a mixture of water and diammonium sulphate. Mr. Ernie Burglund of Cudal, one of the pilots, has used the same chemicals extensively to fight fierce pine forest fires in America. Mr. Burglund said the fire was dampened almost immediately the aircraft went over.

Because of the present dangerous situation in South Australia, these ideas should be acted on immediately: we have little time in which to prepare. I commend the Minister of Agriculture for introducing these amendments and suggest that he consider the matters to which I have referred.

Mr. NANKIVELL (Albert): I, too, commend the Minister of Agriculture for introducing these amendments. For a long time the shortage of fire officers has caused a problem and the reciprocal arrangement regarding the appointment of additional officers by an adjoining council has not always been satisfactory. This amendment allows even the larger councils, such as the Tatiara council, to provide an adequate number of fire officers, and the short-term appointment of party leaders will allow the breaking-down of the whole operation into integral units. I agree with the member for Gumeracha (Mr. Giles) that the top structure should be broken down further. The operation needs to be similar to an army manoeuvre, with groups similar to platoons being responsible for areas. The Bill deals with the whole problem of fighting fires and, because of the dangerous fire hazard this year, I will not delay its passage.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

EXPLOSIVES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from December 5. Page 3066.)

Mr. CORCORAN (Millicent): I thought that the member for Adelaide would have spoken to this Bill, because from the experience that occurred in this Chamber on Guy Fawkes' day a few years ago it is apparent that he is an expert in handling explosives. I support the Bill, which makes provisions more flexible for siting licensed magazines. Today, explosives are far more stable than they were in the past, and the inflexible provisions that required a licensed magazine to be situated at least 200 yards from any building, road, street, or any structure, were ridiculous. The safety distances used by the British Home Office for licensed magazines will apply here.

If a breach of these provisions occurs the Chief Inspector has power to cancel a licence. This is a sufficient safeguard, in view of the care normally taken by people when handling explosives. In addition, the amendments dealing with the handling of explosives on ships will facilitate the work of the Harbors Board. I see no objection to these amendments and, therefore, support the Bill.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from December 10. Page 3132.)

Mr. CORCORAN (Millicent): In supporting the Bill, I compliment the Warden of Standards (Mr. J. A. Servin), who is a young officer the State was fortunate enough to secure from Queensland. Since he has been the Warden he has been responsible, in the main, for drawing up an entirely new Weights and Measures Act and for modernizing the procedures involved in the inspection of all the things concerned with weights and measures. We have seen the development of a new depot at Thebarton which, I believe, matches the standard of anything else in Australia, although it is perhaps not as elaborate as some other depots. We have also seen a move from the past practice of district councils, in the main, administering the Act. That function has now been passed to a central authority. This move was criticized, but it was a matter decided by the councils themselves. I am certain that, as a

result of that move (of which 78 councils have now taken advantage), there will be a far more effective check and control over the matters concerned with weights and measures. The Warden is an excellent officer who, I am sure, will do well in his field in the future.

Clause 6 re-enacts the provisions of the Act relating to the appointment of the officials to administer it and, in particular, spells out the power of the Deputy Warden of Standards to substitute for the Warden of Standards during any absence from that office. This is a necessary alteration, and one that was left out of the original Act. Clause 8 tidies up an omission in the principal Act regarding district councils. Some district councils have undertaken the local administration of the Act, and this amendment regularizes the position. Clause 17 repeals section 46 of the principal Act because it conflicts with the Packages Act which was introduced in 1967 and which now covers this situation. There is also a series of necessary and desirable amendments to tidy up the Act.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

Later:

Bill returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

LOTTERY AND GAMING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second reading.

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It makes one amendment to the Lottery and Gaming Act. The amendment, which is contained in clause 2, amends section 21 of the principal Act to provide that the Commissioner of Police may issue licences for the use of the totalizator at not more than 10 trotting meetings in the aggregate to be held at Globe Derby Park, Bolivar, in the months of June, July and August if none of the meetings is to be held on a Saturday, Wednesday or public holiday. The licences are to be additional to those at present issued. This amendment will protect the interests of country trotting clubs. It will provide continuity of trotting throughout the year and employment for trotting personnel whose employment at the moment comes to a standstill at about the end of May and does not resume until September. It will also provide finance for the development of the Globe Derby Park, Bolivar.

Mr. VIRGO (Edwardstown): I raise no objection to the Bill which, as the Premier indicated, merely provides for additional totalizator meetings at the new Bolivar trotting track. I think this provision will be of considerable assistance to the trotting industry as a whole. I draw the attention of members to the fact that, having given contingent notice of motion, I will move that motion, which relates to the racing industry, in the Committee stage.

Bill read a second time.

Mr. VIRGO (Edwardstown) moved:

That it be an instruction to the Committee of the Whole House on the Bill that it have power to consider new clauses relating to arbitration of disputes in the racing industry.

Motion carried.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

New clause 3—"Permits to bet at race, trotting and coursing meetings."

Mr. VIRGO: I move to insert the following new clause:

3. Section 39 of the principal Act is amended

(a) by inserting after the word "fit", being the last word in subsection (3), the passage "including the payment of fees by them for carrying on the business of bookmaking at the racecourse, trotting ground or coursing meeting, as the case may be";

and

(b) by inserting after subsection (3) the following subsection:—

(4) Where a bookmaker is aggrieved at the amount of a fee the payment of which is required as a condition subject to which a permit is or is to be granted under subsection (3) of this section, he may make representations to the Auditor-General who shall, after considering the representations and other matters which he considers relevant, confirm or vary the amount of the fee and the amount as so confirmed or varied shall thereupon be the amount of the fee payable by the bookmaker.

I am disappointed that the Premier has indicated that he is unlikely to support the new clause. However, let us not take a defeatist attitude at this stage; perhaps he will change his mind and other members opposite will change their minds. The purpose of the new clause is to provide a form of arbitration that does not exist at present. Members would know that section 39 (3) of the Act presently provides that any committee (and that refers to various racing and trotting club committees as well as to coursing associations) may grant permits to

licensed bookmakers subject to any conditions it thinks fit, and that is where the provision stops. No provision at all is made for conditions to be adjudicated on by anyone and, in fact, the subsection does not even specify what the conditions may be.

Over the last fortnight, we have had an example in Adelaide of a dispute that arose between the racing clubs and the bookmakers. I am not in the slightest concerned about the merits of the dispute, but I am concerned (and I believe all members should be concerned) to prevent such things happening again. While the Act is written as it is at present, without any provision to prevent a recurrence of the situation, we can look forward to these unfortunate conditions prevailing again at some time. Of course, this is not the first time we have had a dispute, nor is it the first time the Government has stepped in to settle a dispute and, at present, that is the only way in which there is any hope of settlement, unless the course of trying to starve the other bloke out is followed.

In 1947, there was a similar dispute and, strange as it may seem, it took place at about this time of the year, and again it was on the question of fees. I checked with old newspapers about this and found that two meetings were run without bookmakers, in the same way as the meeting was run last Saturday without them. The press reports of the time show that at the first meeting 5,000 people attended and that at the second meeting the attendance was down to 3,000. The Premier of the day, (Mr. Playford, as I think he then was), did exactly what the present Premier had to do. After much encouragement, he appointed Sir Edgar Bean an adjudicator, and as a result of that adjudication the matter was settled to the satisfaction of all concerned.

In 1960, another dispute occurred but, on that occasion, it was in relation to the South Australian Trotting Club. On that occasion, Sir Thomas Playford appointed Mr. Sangster, Q.C., to arbitrate on the fixation of fees. It is interesting to note that Mr. Sangster, after investigating the whole matter, found that the increase imposed by the S.A.T.C. was unwarranted and he reduced it. Again, I repeat that the present stand by the racing clubs and the increased fees they have charged may or may not be justified. I do not think we are in a position to be able to determine this, but surely we have a responsibility to provide the proper facilities for the general public that likes races and gambling.

As the Act provides for the registration of bookmakers, we should make sure that they field in a proper way. At present the Act requires the Betting Control Board to see that bookmakers carry on in a fit and proper way, and surely it is only common justice (something that should be available to everyone) to have their fees adjudicated on in order to see that they are fair and proper.

It is about 15 years since the fees were substantially altered but, after November, 1964, when the turnover tax was increased from 1 per cent to 1½ per cent, there was an additional provision to provide that half of the increase (namely, ¾ per cent) was to be paid direct to the clubs for the promotion of the race meetings. We have no quarrel with this, but it has added to the incomes of the club and possibly may have offset an otherwise necessary increase in some charges or fees. If some form of arbitration can be established (and this is what the new clause provides for), I think we would tend to find that more frequent consideration would be given to the question of fees and that, as a result, increases would not be so astronomical as they are at present. As members probably know, the fees that the clubs are attempting to impose at this stage represent increases of 50 per cent for rails bookmakers, 25 per cent for grandstand bookmakers, 40 per cent for derby bookmakers, and 50 per cent for flat bookmakers. These are pretty steep increases in anyone's language. I believe that, if a form of arbitration were available, many of these unfortunate circumstances would be overcome.

It is somewhat of a coincidence that the new clause provides that, if a bookmaker is aggrieved at the fee proposed to be set, he may make representations to the Auditor-General, who shall act in the capacity of an adjudicator. It is worth noting that the Premier this week, in fact I think on the very day on which I gave notice of my motion, announced publicly that he had required the Auditor-General (the person named in the new clause) to adjudicate on the present dispute. Therefore, it is rather hard for me to believe there could be any opposition to this move. I believe that whatever the section of the community and whatever line it follows, it should be entitled to justice in the fixation of remuneration or of fees to be paid.

Mr. Hurst: That is a principle of our society.

Mr. VIRGO: It is a cardinal principle of our society that we have conciliation and arbitration, and the whole spirit of the new

clause is that we should provide machinery to prevent disputes occurring and to have them resolved this way rather than a head-on collision. I do not wish to comment on the merits or demerits of the increased fees. I am not trying to support the bookmakers and oppose the clubs or to oppose the bookmakers and support the clubs: I am trying to protect the racing public who, by their support at race meetings, maintain the clubs, the bookmakers, the owners, the trainers and all the others associated with the racing industry. I commend the amendment to the Committee.

Mr. McKEE: I support the amendment, because everyone is entitled to a fair deal—and in this case it is the bookmakers. If they consider they are being unfairly treated and are unable to negotiate with the racing clubs, it is only right that they should have their case heard; and this amendment will provide that facility. Therefore, I support it although it is a pity it does not go further and provide a similar facility for the punter. It could also provide for the banning of newspaper race tipsters (Kevin Sattler and some of his merry men) who continually mislead the public.

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier): I oppose this clause, not vehemently but because I believe this Bill has one simple object, which is to stipulate the days on which trotting can be developed at Bolivar. This has been tacked on to it by the member for Edwardstown, who seems to have become involved in the recent controversy about bookmakers and racing clubs in respect of fees. Both parties to the recent dispute have demonstrated their ability to recognize the need for arbitration, for when they came to see me they agreed promptly to arbitration. I had not the slightest doubt that the parties would accept arbitration. It is unnecessary to include in the Bill something that could be regarded by some people on one side or the other of the matter as a somewhat harsh clause hanging over their heads. I do not say this with any heat (it is a matter of opinion), but it is better that this clause be left out.

Mr. Hurst: It is not vital.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member said that. This Bill is better with this clause left out of it, particularly in view of the fact that both parties have agreed to arbitration. They having agreed to it and the arbitration not yet having taken place, it would be a pity if we in Parliament now inserted a compulsory clause like this. The honourable member should reconsider this from the

point of view of the present timing and the fact that both parties to the present dispute have so readily agreed to arbitration when offered it. Why, then, put in something in the nature of a big stick? Why do this when the parties concerned have accepted arbitration?

Mr. Clark: Surely this amendment could hasten the arbitration.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I consider that this clause is much better left out, particularly as arbitration has been accepted, without the force of Statute that the honourable member is trying to introduce now. For those reasons, I oppose the amendment.

Mr. HUDSON: I support the amendment. In agreeing with the views expressed by the member for Edwardstown, I point out to the Premier that there is a need to provide in the legislation for arbitration. Because it is not provided for, his Government lost about \$8,000 to \$10,000 last Saturday. It may be of no real concern to the Premier that the Government lost that money because of a situation that should not have occurred. The difficulties should have been overcome quickly. At least the Opposition feels some responsibility about the matter because the Government has spent, in the five months to the end of November, \$7,000,000 more than it has had in revenue in that period, and the Labor Party will be called on to come back into power to clear up the mess created by the present Government. If the Premier had adopted a sensible attitude, the all-totalizator meeting would not have been held last Saturday. If the Government had checked with the racing administrators, it would have found that the South Australian Jockey Club did not ban bookmakers from operating. The club recognizes that bookmakers provide part of the attraction of a race meeting and part of the reason why people go to race meetings.

Mr. McAnaney: Why do they go to races in Paris and in Auckland?

Mr. HUDSON: If the honourable member checks figures of racecourse attendances in New Zealand and France, he will find that people in those places do not go to the races to the extent that people here attend. The fact facing anyone who wants to prevent bookmakers from fielding at meetings (and I do not) is that the economic position of race clubs needs high attendances, and bookmakers are necessary to achieve such attendances.

Mr. Broomhill: What about the public interest, too?

Mr. HUDSON: The member for Edwardstown covered that point so well that I thought there was no need to emphasize it. However, apparently there is, because the Premier did not reply to the honourable member on that. The public have shown clearly that they want a choice of betting either with bookmakers or on the totalizator, because this competition gives the punter a better opportunity. I can speak from experience on that and perhaps the member for West Torrens could also do so. I do not know about the member for Edwardstown. In the interests of the ordinary person who wants to bet at the races, what happened last Saturday should be prevented from occurring again. If the Government had taken a firm stand, it would not have happened last week. However, the Premier dilly-dallied, making vague statements about calling the parties together. I do not know what he was doing about the matter.

The Hon. R. S. Hall: Of course you don't, because you weren't told.

Mr. HUDSON: However, we have found, as the member for Edwardstown has said, that no attempt was made by the Premier last Thursday to contact the Secretary of the Bookmakers League, because he contacted the Premier's secretary.

The Hon. R. S. Hall: Do you mean to say you know what went on last week about this matter?

Mr. HUDSON: That is exactly what I am saying. Last week the Premier (and he knows it) was prepared to allow the all-totalizator meeting to go on.

The Hon. R. S. Hall: That's nonsense, and it's a lie.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. HUDSON: There was no genuine attempt to settle the dispute last week and, as a result, the Government lost \$10,000. It woke up then and realized that it could not afford to have that happen again. Last Wednesday and Thursday the member for Edwardstown and I pressed the Premier about what he was doing, but we could not get any satisfactory reply from him. He said he was trying to call the parties together but, when we checked, all we could find out was that the parties had not been contacted. The Premier may laugh, but the deficit of the State in the first five months of the year, quite apart from anything that happens later in the year, has increased from \$7,000,000 to \$7,010,000 because of what happened last Saturday.

Even now the Premier is not learning his lesson, because he does not want legislation that will enable disputes to be settled and prevent a recurrence of what happened last Saturday. Is the Premier telling us that he will wield the big stick in future? He is clearly convicted of irresponsibility so far as the finances of the State are concerned, and the least we can expect is an assurance that, if this sort of situation occurs again (if the bookmakers threaten to strike, or if the clubs threaten a lock-out) he will enforce arbitration immediately in order to protect the interests of the Treasury and all those concerned with racing. As we are not getting this assurance, the amendment should be pressed.

Mr. CASEY: I, too, support the amendment. The Premier, by his words, has shown how he was prompted by someone in another place who, no doubt, had been prompted by someone outside who knew nothing about the matter. The Premier said that, as the parties to the dispute had now agreed to arbitration, there was no need for this amendment. That was his only reason for opposing it. It is in the interests of everyone that all concerned with racing, whether bookmakers or clubs, should be considered in matters of this nature. It seems to me that the Premier and the Government were scared, because when they counted the chips after last Saturday and found that they were \$10,000 down the drain they realized that they had to do something about the dispute. If a dispute occurs between bookmakers and the racing, trotting, or greyhound clubs the matter should automatically be referred to an arbitrator.

The Premier thought that he was doing the right thing when he appointed the Auditor-General, but he was too late. When two similar incidents occurred some time ago Sir Thomas Playford immediately intervened and ordered that the matter be decided by an independent arbitrator. This amendment, if carried, would mean that an independent arbitrator would always be available. Some people want to remove bookmakers from their stands at racecourses and make South Australia an all-totalizator State. No-one can say whether that is a better system than the bookmaker system. France, New Zealand, and America conduct all-totalizator race meetings, but no move has been made to abolish bookmakers in Britain. I am sure that bookmakers add colour to a race meeting, and an injustice would be done if they were prevented from operating. The Premier gave one reason only

for opposing this motion: that the dispute had been settled. His words convinced me that this amendment was most essential and that it would prevent any repetition of last week's incident.

Mr. HURST: I support the amendment, because it is a sensible approach to provide machinery that will cope with a situation similar to that which occurred recently. The Premier does not favour the amendment, but the racing industry is an important one in this State. Generally, Australians have endorsed the principle of arbitration, and that is what I am concerned about in this matter. It had been some years since the charges were adjusted. However, any increase in charges of about 50 per cent is likely to create a dispute. I believe the present situation has arisen because of the lack of provision in the Act to have the matter determined properly. What would be the Government's attitude if, say, 5,000 employees of General Motors-Holden's approached the management for an increase but were refused? Arbitration would be one of the first things to be considered in order to prevent disputes, disruption and inconvenience to the general public.

I am concerned that the Treasury lost \$10,000 in one day, and I believe the Government is obligated to ensure that the necessary machinery is provided whereby such revenue is not lost to the State. Is the Government prepared to lose \$10,000 for 365 days of the year, amounting to \$3,650,000. It is grossly unfair of the Government to accept fees from bookmakers who expect to have the opportunity to carry out their duties on a certain number of days a year but who find that they are receiving nothing for the additional money they pay. People who have opposed arbitration in this country in the past have been politically annihilated. The Premier should reconsider his attitude to this matter. Indeed, I am losing confidence in him as a result of his not being prepared to listen to reason and to consider sound suggestions that would be accepted by most people.

Mr. VIRGO: I am disappointed that other members of the Government have not seen fit to express an opinion on this important matter. In fact, the Attorney-General, by his grimaces, does not consider the provision to have any value at all.

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: You're wrong again.

Mr. VIRGO: If he expressed his views, we would not have to guess.

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: My Leader has already said what we think about this.

Mr. VIRGO: I take it the Attorney-General agrees entirely with what his Leader has said and, in view of his interjection, I hope I will never again hear the Attorney-General say (as he is so fond of saying when he is criticized for not having done something), "What has the Opposition done to have the Bill amended?"

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: That is a vain hope.

Mr. VIRGO: The Attorney-General has created a situation as a result of which, having subscribed to his Leader's view, he can never again genuinely make that allegation.

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: I do not see how that follows.

Mr. VIRGO: No, because there is none so blind as he who does not wish to see.

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: That is an apt description of your side.

Mr. VIRGO: The Premier has said that because the parties have agreed to arbitration there is no need to do anything, but he has overlooked an important aspect: the parties did not agree to arbitration until there was a dispute. The purpose of the provision is to prevent disputes; indeed, prevention is better than the cure. What would have happened if a country town, in which a racing club plays an important part in the social calendar, suffered what occurred last Saturday? Such a town would have been ruined for 12 months. I commend the provision to the Committee.

Mr. ARNOLD: I support the amendment because I believe that bookmakers are part and parcel of racing and that a permanent arbitration set-up should be provided for in the Act.

New clause inserted.

Title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Later, the Legislative Council intimated that it had disagreed to the House of Assembly's amendment.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD BILL

The Legislative Council intimated that it did not further insist on its amendments Nos. 1 to 6 to which the House of Assembly had disagreed.

MENTAL HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

GIFT DUTY BILL

Consideration in Committee of the Legislative Council's suggested amendments:

No. 1. Page 6, line 42 (clause 4)—After "shall" insert "unless the Commissioner is satisfied that it was not rendered so irrecoverable or unenforceable for the purpose of evading or avoiding gift duty".

No. 2. Page 10, line 17 (clause 4)—After "made" insert ", unless the disposition is made to all the shareholders of the company in proportion to their respective shareholdings or unless the Commissioner otherwise determines".

No. 3. Page 10 (clause 4)—After line 32 insert—

"(b1) to the nature and extent of the respective shareholdings of the shareholders of the company."

No. 4. Page 11, line 24 (clause 4)—Leave out "demand payment of" and insert "recover any".

No. 5. Page 11, line 24 (clause 4)—After "money" insert "which has become due and payable to him".

No. 6. Page 11, line 27 (clause 4)—After "the" insert "money".

No. 7. Page 11, line 27 (clause 4)—Leave out "demand for payment could have been made" and insert "became due and payable".

No. 8. Page 11, line 37 (clause 4)—After "payable" insert ": Provided that this subsection shall not apply in the case of a contract *bona fide* entered into in the course of an ordinary commercial transaction which is not entered into for the purpose of evading or avoiding gift duty".

No. 9. Page 12 (clause 4)—After line 14 insert new subclause as follows:

"(21) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, where a gift that is a disposition of property referred to in subsections (11) to (17) inclusive of this section has been made before the third day of December, 1968, gift duty shall not be payable in respect thereof and it shall not be taken into account in ascertaining whether gift duty is payable in respect of any other gift made by the same donor or in ascertaining the amount of any gift duty so payable."

No. 10. Page 12, line 32 (clause 5)—Leave out "or to any other".

No. 11. Page 12, line 32 (clause 5)—After "donee" insert—

"; But where the Commissioner is satisfied that the donor has made a gift through one or more persons to some other person with the object of evading or avoiding gift duty which would have been payable if the gift had been made by that donor directly to that other person, that donor shall, for the purpose of this section, be deemed to have made that gift directly to that other person".

No. 12. Page 18, lines 27 and 28 (clause 14)—Leave out "the State" and insert "Australia".

No. 13. Page 18, line 29 (clause 14)—Leave out "the State" and insert "Australia".

No. 14. Page 21, lines 10 and 11 (clause 19)—Leave out "or any other".

No. 15. Page 22 (clause 19)—After line 32 insert—

“(6) For the purposes of subsection (2) of this section, where the Commissioner is satisfied that a donor has made a gift through one or more persons to some other person with the object of evading or avoiding gift duty which would have been payable if the gift had been made by that donor directly to that other person, that donor shall be deemed to have made that gift directly to that other person.”

No. 16. Page 24, lines 1 and 2 (clause 25)—Leave out “otherwise than by reason of” and insert “in order to correct”.

No. 17. Page 24, lines 2 and 3 (clause 25)—Leave out “in the construction of this Act”.

No. 18. Page 24, line 23 (clause 25)—After “thereto” insert “together with interest thereon at the rate of four per centum per annum from the day on which the duty was paid”.

No. 19. Page 24, line 25 (clause 25)—After “duty” insert “together with interest, if any, payable thereon”.

No. 20. Page 34, line 28 (clause 51)—Leave out “sum” and insert “net benefit”.

No. 21. Page 34, line 28 (clause 51)—After “as” insert “in the opinion of the Commissioner”.

No. 22. Page 34, line 29 (clause 51)—After “receive” insert “after payment of all income taxes in respect thereof”.

Suggested amendments Nos. 1 to 9.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Treasurer): I move:

That the Legislative Council's suggested amendments Nos. 1 to 9 be agreed to.

These amendments have been made for drafting clarification, as a result of direct representations either to me or to the Chief Secretary, or as a result of conferences between particularly interested parties who have sought audience in order to express views on behalf of themselves and the organizations they represent. The amount of gift duty likely to be involved in these amendments is not materially affected.

Mr. HUDSON: The effect of suggested amendment No. 9 is that where the State gift duty proposal covers an area not covered by Commonwealth gift duty, the State gift duty does not apply until the day the Bill was introduced. On all other gifts that are dutiable under the Commonwealth gift duty legislation the provisions of the Bill will apply, according to this amendment, from September 5, when the Budget was introduced. Some people may legitimately have, between September 5 and December 3, made dispositions which were not dutiable under the Commonwealth Act and which they expected would not be dutiable under the State legislation, and the Government would not be justified in bringing such dis-

positions within the ambit of the State gift duty, because it would be retrospective without notice. I think this is the argument suggested in another place and accepted by the Treasurer. Notice given by the Treasurer in the Budget about the kinds of disposition which are subject to gift duty under the Commonwealth Act would not have led people to believe that this kind of disposition was subject to duty. I think the Treasurer has accepted the argument that disposition of property provided for in subclauses (11) to (17) of clause 4 would not be subject to State gift duty until after December 3.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I apologize for not saying something about this, because I should have done so. What the honourable member has said is correct, and representations were made exactly as he described them. I accepted the representations as being made in good faith (not that I doubted them at the outset), but one has to have regard to the whole question in such a case. It was argued that this type of disposition had been made in good faith. I accept that that has been the case and I have agreed to forgo the State duty on those gifts which are not taxable under the Commonwealth Act but which, from December 3, will be taxable under the State Act.

Suggested amendments agreed to.

Suggested amendments Nos. 10 and 11.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I move:

That the Legislative Council's suggested amendments Nos. 10 and 11 be disagreed to. These amendments, together with suggested amendments 14 and 15, are essential to the purposes of this legislation. The amendments that have been inserted in another place fragmentate the gifts in such a way that the revenue to the State would be seriously eroded. Much as we dislike taxation of any kind (and much as some people particularly dislike this form of taxation, while perhaps others welcome it), the Bill is a revenue measure and it was introduced as such. It is impossible to calculate the loss in revenue occasioned by the acceptance of these amendments, but it must be substantial. The exemption provided for in the amendments does not exist, so far as I am aware, in any other gift duty legislation of any State or of the Commonwealth, and I see no reason why the same principles should not apply here.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): I support the motion. Obviously, another place has acted in support of special interests to provide special facilities in South

Australia which do not exist elsewhere and which would mean that this legislation did not get from the people who have the capacity to pay the money they ought to contribute to the revenue of the State. The Opposition supports the Treasurer's motion.

Suggested amendments disagreed to.

Suggested amendments Nos. 12 and 13.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON moved:

That the Legislative Council's suggested amendments Nos. 12 and 13 be agreed to.

Suggested amendments agreed to.

Suggested amendments Nos. 14 and 15.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I move:

That the Legislative Council's suggested amendments Nos. 14 and 15 be disagreed to. My reasons are the same as in the case of suggested amendments Nos. 10 and 11.

Suggested amendments disagreed to.

Suggested amendments Nos. 16 to 22.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I move:

That the Legislative Council's suggested amendments Nos. 16 to 22 be agreed to. These amendments, which clarify the intention of the legislation, have no real impact on its purpose.

Suggested amendments agreed to.

The following reason for disagreement to suggested amendments Nos. 10, 11, 14 and 15 was adopted:

Because the amendments would involve a substantial loss of revenue and would defeat one of the main objects of the Bill.

Later, the Legislative Council requested a conference, at which it would be represented by five managers, on its suggested amendments to which the House of Assembly had disagreed.

The House of Assembly granted a conference as requested by the Council, to be held in the House of Assembly committee room at 7.30 p.m., at which it would be represented by Messrs. Dunstan, Hudson, McAnaney, Nankivell, and Pearson.

At 7.30 p.m. the managers proceeded to the conference, the sitting of the House being suspended. They returned at 12.52 a.m. on Friday, December 13. The recommendations were as follows:

That the Legislative Council do not further insist on its suggested amendments and that the House of Assembly make the following amendment in lieu:

Page 36, leave out the Schedule and insert in lieu thereof the following:

THE SCHEDULE

First Column	Second Column
Where the value of all relevant gifts—	The rate per centum of duty on the value of the gift in question shall be—
Does not exceed \$4,000	Nil.
Exceeds \$4,000 but does not exceed \$4,500	0.006 per cent multiplied by the whole number of dollars by which the value of all relevant gifts exceeds \$4,000.
Exceeds \$4,500 but does not exceed \$7,000	3.0 per cent plus 0.0002 per cent for each whole dollar by which the value of all relevant gifts exceeds \$4,500.
Exceeds \$7,000 but does not exceed \$15,000	3.5 per cent plus 0.000125 per cent for each whole dollar by which the value of all relevant gifts exceeds \$7,000.
Exceeds \$15,000 but does not exceed \$75,000	4.5 per cent plus 0.0001 per cent for each whole dollar by which the value of all relevant gifts exceeds \$15,000.
Exceeds \$75,000 but does not exceed \$202,777	10.5 per cent plus 0.00009 per cent for each whole dollar by which the value of all relevant gifts exceeds \$75,000.
Exceeds \$202,777	22 per cent.

Consideration in Committee of the recommendations of the conference.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Treasurer): I move:

That the recommendations of the conference be agreed to.

The basic consideration of the conference centred around whether the principle of aggregation of gifts should be preserved in the

legislation in the form in which the Bill left this House. The amendments suggested earlier by the Legislative Council took out the principle of aggregation and provided for fragmentation of gifts in smaller parts, each of which would have attracted the rate of duty applicable to that gift as a separate gift. This was contrary to the principles adopted in all other gift duty legislation in Australia. Until now

South Australia has been the only State without a gift duty, and the House of Assembly considered that we should preserve a basic principle.

I pay a tribute to my colleagues here and in another place for the way the conference was conducted, because it was a protracted and difficult one. The area of negotiation was restricted and, therefore, opportunities for compromise were similarly restricted. The managers have agreed that the Legislative Council should not insist on its suggested amendments Nos. 10, 11, 14, and 15, which provided for the fragmentation of gifts and, as a compromise, the Assembly managers agreed to reduce the percentages in the schedule and we now recommend that a new schedule be inserted. As a result of the inclusion of the new schedule, the percentage of the tax which accrues at various levels in progressive escalation is revised. Consequently, the new schedule provides an effective rate of duty, inclusive of stamp duty where gifts are documented, and this equates at all levels on the scale, except in the case of a gift of \$90,000 and a gift of \$125,000. In each of those cases the schedule proposed by the Assembly results in a slightly higher duty than the Victorian schedule provides. The variation occurs because the Victorian schedule does not provide for an even progression over the whole range of escalation, whereas our schedule does provide for an even progression. Therefore, in respect of those two amounts the result in duty that we have agreed on is slightly higher than that in Victoria.

From the point of view of the House of Assembly, I believe that we have achieved a reasonably satisfactory result, but I consider that we were entitled to a result that was slightly more favourable. However, it was a question largely of whether or not we should have a Bill at all, and when your managers were satisfied that they had reached the last point of negotiation they felt obliged to accept the lower scale of rating rather than lose the Bill. Your managers had previously offered to adopt the actual average of the schedules of the four States (excluding Queensland) because there was reason to believe that that might be accepted, but it was not. After consultation it was agreed to accept the Western Australian and the Victorian figures, which are the same. The real issue was whether to preserve the aggregation of gifts or whether to accept fragmentation, and on balance—

Mr. Riches: Do you mean there was a real possibility of losing the Bill?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes, I am sure of that, and my colleagues would agree—

Mr. Riches: That is an attitude we should take note of.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member was not at the conference, but I am sure this was the view of my colleagues, and I think they will support me in this. We have preserved the major principle for which we were battling, and we can derive satisfaction from that. The conference was deeply indebted to the Under Treasurer for the services he gave with his uncanny capacity for calculation. He was at his home and available by telephone to work out calculations: I think we asked him to work out four schedules during the discussion and he worked out each one in a matter of minutes and gave us a result to present to the conference. Without his assistance we could not possibly have achieved this result. I commend the recommendations to the Committee.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): Although I second the motion, I do so with the utmost regret. This evening, we have had an example of the way the Legislative Council is governing the State and, because of what has happened with this measure, an important part of the revenue proposals agreed to previously by both Houses of Parliament has been interfered with markedly. There will be a reduction in revenue by about \$200,000 as a result, at a time when the Budget Estimates of Expenditure will clearly be exceeded.

Mr. Corcoran: Weren't the suggested amendments moved by a private member?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: True, and what they were determined to do (and this is clear) was ensure that in South Australia, in those areas where people have the greatest capacity to pay, a contribution was not made by those people in the same measure as that made on the average elsewhere in Australia. This action is drastic for this State, and it is not the first time it has happened. It happened to our Government when revenue measures were reduced by the action of this unrepresentative minority, and it has happened again tonight.

Mr. Corcoran: They rejected some of ours out of hand.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Exactly. They were prepared, as the Treasurer said (and he has asked for the support of his managers in telling members about it and we are prepared

to give it to him), to throw out the measure entirely if we did not accept their dictates. It did not matter to them that such total rejection would mean \$1,000,000 less revenue in a full year. The possible inability of the Government to meet the State's obligations for services mattered not one jot to them. To protect the property rights of the wealthier people in the community there were proposals to alter the schedules so as to increase the impost on smaller gifts and to grant remissions on the larger ones, while maintaining the principle of fragmentation of gifts so that wealthy people could split up gifts and avoid duty.

Mr. Corcoran: Would you say pecuniary motives were involved?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am not imputing personal motives to the people involved, but if this situation continues, no Government, be it a Government of my Party or of the Party that is sitting on the Treasury benches now, will be able to meet its obligations to the people of this State. If this is the kind of thing that is to be imposed on us constantly by the minority representatives who have a majority in another place, there will always be difficulties.

I am appalled that we were forced into a position of this kind over what is a revenue measure vital to us. We see the spectacle where in order to maintain even some basis of gaining revenue in this essential area (an area in which for some time past every other State has imposed taxation and ours has been the only one that has not) and in order to maintain some minimal measure to get revenue at the lowest rate applicable anywhere in Australia at a time when we desperately need revenue to meet our responsibilities to the community, we have to accept the dictates of another place. It is time (indeed, more than time) that members here, in meeting their obligations to the people of this State, united not on any political division but to discharge our responsibility to the people of this State and to see that the obligations of any Government to the people of the State are met by raising the necessary revenue from those with the greatest capacity to pay. I regret that we have been placed in this position tonight.

Mr. Corcoran: The Government should govern from the Assembly, not from the other place.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It should, and the way members of another place are conducting themselves will inevitably bring them into conflict with the people of this State.

If this is how they are to conduct themselves, the time for reform elsewhere is obvious. Although it has been suggested that members on this side are always talking about abolition of the other place, we are not interested mainly in its abolition. However, if this kind of thing makes it essential for the people of this State that we have reform of another place, at least we should get a Chamber there that is responsive to the wishes of the people. The managers from this Chamber (I think I can speak for them in this) were unanimous in their dismay at what occurred tonight at the conference and can only report with regret the fact that we were unable to retain the revenue measures on which this Chamber had been united.

Mr. HUDSON: I wish to make a couple of points in support of the remarks of the mover and seconder of the motion. First, I believe that the Standing Orders that apply in relation to conferences on money measures need altering. I do not know whether most members appreciate the fact that if this conference had broken down, as it was in grave danger of doing, that would have been the end of the Gift Duty Bill, because the only thing that could have happened would have been for this Chamber to say either, "We do not further insist on our opposition to the Legislative Council's amendments," or "Lay the Bill aside." The Standing Orders that are adopted reverse the procedure for money Bills. We saw what happened yesterday with respect to the Public Examinations Board Bill, when it was up to the Legislative Council to determine whether or not it would insist on its amendments or lay the Bill aside. But on a money Bill, because the Legislative Council can make only suggested amendments, it is the other place that requests a conference, and the final result is that if the conference breaks down it is up to this Chamber to decide whether or not it will persist in its opposition to the amendments or, alternatively, lay the Bill aside. There is no opportunity under our Standing Orders, when a conference breaks down on a money Bill, for the Legislative Council to reach a further determination as to whether or not it wishes to insist on its suggested amendments. That is an extraordinary situation on a matter as important as a money measure.

On this occasion we were faced with Legislative Council amendments which probably would have reduced the revenue from gift duty by about 35 per cent or 40 per cent (no-one knows exactly what the total effect would

have been); but certainly the principle of fragmentation of gifts which the other place was trying to introduce would have meant the virtual wrecking of this legislation. The final adjustment that was made means a reduction of 20 per cent in the prospective revenue from gift duty. On a gift of \$25,000 the duty has been reduced from \$1,725 to \$1,375, and on a gift of \$45,000 the duty is reduced from \$4,185 to \$3,875, and so on. The changes are all about 20 per cent, which means a 20 per cent reduction in the revenue available in a year to the State on this count, in circumstances where at the end of November of this year the deficit of the Government for the first five months of this financial year was \$7,000,000.

That is in addition to the deficit that existed at the end of June, 1968, and, because of certain cost increases that have occurred, the Treasurer can confidently expect that, even with his existing revenue proposals, the deficit on Budget Account will have grown probably by \$3,000,000 by the end of June, 1969. This will necessitate further taxation in the financial year 1969-70, and that necessity is being increased still further by the attitude of the Legislative Council on this matter. The loss of \$200,000 revenue a year on this item means that the Treasurer next year, in order to make up lost ground, will have to introduce measures to levy taxation on people who are in a worse position to pay taxes than are other people who pay gift duty. It was clear from the attitude at the conference of members of another place that they were not interested in the fact that the State would lose revenue and that their Liberal and Country League Government would be placed in financial difficulties as a result. It was clear that their main interest was in protecting established positions of wealth, and I say that without equivocation.

Some decent reform of the Legislative Council is necessary. The State simply cannot tolerate this situation year in and year out. It brings home, certainly to members on this side, the complete and utter inadequacy of the reform proposals that have currently been accepted by the Legislative Council regarding its own situation. Unless there is some substantial change in the basis of election for the Legislative Council, it seems that any Government in South Australia, be it Liberal or Labor, will be faced with a group of irresponsible gentlemen representing vested interests and protecting those vested interests, no matter what, against the interests of the majority of

the people of South Australia, and that is wrong. There is no other basis on which it can be described than that it is completely undemocratic. It is a left-over from the days of autocracy. If I had been asked six months ago, "Will the Legislative Council do the same thing to this Government as it did to the previous Labor Government on revenue measures?" I would have said, "That could not happen: surely it will look after its own colleagues; surely it will see that its own colleagues do not have to run bigger and bigger deficits because of its financial irresponsibility."

When we were in Government and were being denied revenue by the Legislative Council, we did not see a responsible attitude adopted by members opposite. I hope they will learn a little from the lesson that has come out of this. At least in Opposition we are prepared to be responsible on this important matter of revenue. I hope members of the Government learn a lesson for the future and that they realize that while they persist in having a Legislative Council constituted as it is, with a restricted franchise and with a gerrymander of boundaries, they will continue to be faced with the situation where that Council represents not the interests even of the majority of members of the L.C.L., and certainly not the interests of the people of South Australia, but the interests of a few vested interests within the community, and protects people who are best able to pay taxes from paying those taxes. With regret, I support the motion.

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier): I express my appreciation of the work of the managers who represented the House of Assembly at the conference. The managers achieved the best results they could get, and I add my support to the recommendations. I do not join with the weary old attack on the system by members opposite. They use every possible device to attack the existence of the Legislative Council, and this evening we have heard statements such as, "Irresponsible gentlemen"—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. R. S. HALL: All the time we hear the weary old Socialist attack of the Council that is designed to achieve its abolition. Members opposite have taken this opportunity to attack the Council.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I do not think we need to get heated about this.

Mr. Hudson: What taxes will you impose next year?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: It is rather strange that, when the result does not suit the political ambitions of members opposite, they get cross. When we were in Opposition and the Opposition was the Government it was said that the wicked Council always attacked the Australian Labor Party but did nothing to Bills introduced by our Party. However, what is the position now?

Members interjecting:

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Immediately, of course, one of the major attacks on the Council falls to the ground, but there are better examples than that. Let us look at one other major instance when the work of the Legislative Council suited members opposite. Let us go back to the transport control legislation, which was debated in this place and which members opposite adopted as an election policy.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Order!

Mr. McKEE: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. That legislation has nothing to do with this matter.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order! This debate must be limited to the recommendation of the conference on the Gift Duty Bill. The honourable Premier.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I agree entirely, Sir. I repeat that I support the finding of the conference as the best deal that could be made by members of the Assembly who were at the conference. However, I do not join the attack on the system that has been made by members opposite.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: You aren't game to; you can't even lead your own Government.

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: You're getting too bitter, Don.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Millicent.

Mr. CORCORAN: The Premier has been idiotic this evening, and he is backed up by people who are not prepared to say what they really think about another place. However, because something was said by the Leader and the member for Glenelg that was perfectly true, the Premier felt it incumbent on him to make some defence of the system, and he proceeded to do so in an extremely weak way. What he is saying is that he does not mind if this State is governed from that place.

Mr. RODDA: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The existence of the Legislative Council is not—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Chair has ruled that this debate must be confined to the recommendations of the conference.

Mr. McKee: The Premier didn't do that.

The CHAIRMAN: I called the honourable Premier to order when he transgressed. The member for Millicent.

Mr. CORCORAN: You called the Premier to order when he talked about a Bill that was rejected by the Legislative Council in a previous session of Parliament.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chair said that the Premier was out of order and that the debate must be confined to the recommendations of the conference.

Mr. CORCORAN: The recommendations arise out of a conference of the managers of both Houses. The Legislative Council was one of those Houses, and I am talking about the actions of the managers of that place and the defence of it by the Premier.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is in order in talking about the conference.

Mr. CORCORAN: That is the position as I see it. As a result of the actions of the managers of another place this evening, it is clear (and it should be clear not only to the managers from this place but also to the people of the State) that we are being governed from another place and that the seat of Government, which traditionally has been in the workhouse of Parliament, no longer remains here.

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: The working House.

Mr. CORCORAN: Yes, if the Attorney likes to call it that, and I thank him for that correction.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: After this conference it will be the poor House.

Mr. CORCORAN: I am amazed that members opposite can defend the actions of these managers from another place when we know the way in which members are elected to that place and the things they are trying to do to entrench themselves in that House. I think they are foolish enough to believe that the people of the State will accept the stand they take, but I do not think we can do that for one minute. The Treasurer will be a bitterly disappointed man, because he knows the financial difficulties facing the State. He would not introduce a measure of this type into this place unless it was absolutely necessary because,

on each occasion he has introduced a Bill to increase revenue, he has said emphatically that no Government likes to do this sort of thing. I believe the Treasurer would be responsible enough to restrict any measure to the minimum, and yet members of another place have reduced what was provided for. Particularly do I object when suggested amendments to a money Bill can be moved by a private member in another place. We do not have a similar power in this place.

Mr. Riches: How can the Government support this when it increased taxation on every other thing it touched?

Mr. CORCORAN: Yes. I did not hear great objections from another place when everyone was involved in the increases but, when members of another place think that the people whom they consider they are there to protect are being got at, they immediately rebel and try to reject that type of measure.

Mr. Virgo: Perhaps a little self-interest comes into it.

Mr. CORCORAN: I am certain it does. The Premier has disappointed me and every other member on this side by trying to defend a position that is worthy only of condemnation, not of support.

Mr. McANANEY: The Opposition agreed to this principle in regard to succession duties, and the other place had a perfect right to amend the Bill in those terms. At the conference I argued against the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson), who wanted to reduce the rates in the higher group. His argument did not accord with the principles in which I believe. If there is not a feeling of compromise at a conference, the conference is a waste of time. Although I do not particularly like what has been decided on, I consider it reasonable in the circumstances. We hope that the Budget position will not be as bad as has been stated by members opposite.

Motion carried.

Later, the Legislative Council intimated that it had agreed to the recommendations of the conference.

PUBLIC SERVICE ARBITRATION BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council with the following amendment:

No. 1. Clause 3, page 2, line 26—After "Act" insert "and the person, if any, for the time being holding or acting in the office of Deputy President of the Industrial Court of South Australia".

Consideration in Committee.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE (Minister of Labour and Industry): I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendment be agreed to.

The present Public Service Arbitration Act does not include any provision for an appeal against a decision of the Arbitrator. When this Bill was drafted some months ago, the Government realized that the President of the Industrial Commission was carrying a heavy burden by also holding the offices of Public Service Arbitrator and Chairman of the Teachers Salaries Board, and it recognized that separate appointment would soon be necessary. The Public Service Arbitrator does not require any legal qualifications and the Government considered that, if an Arbitrator without legal qualifications was appointed, there should be provision for an appeal to the President of the Industrial Commission, against his decisions.

Judge Williams recently resigned from his positions as President of the Industrial Commission and Public Service Arbitrator because he had been appointed as a judge of the Commonwealth Arbitration Commission. I pay a tribute to the work Judge Williams has done for a long time in the joint positions that the functions of which he has fulfilled in a most responsible manner. Although we are sorry that he is leaving our court, it is a compliment not only to His Honor but also to the South Australian court that he has been recognized in this way. He follows some illustrious predecessors from this State.

I announced earlier today that the Government had decided to make separate appointments as President of the Industrial Commission and as Public Service Arbitrator and that His Excellency the Governor had made these appointments by proclamation at Executive Council. I also announced that the Government intended to introduce, in the February session, amendments to the Industrial Code to provide for the appointment of a Deputy President of the Industrial Commission so that the new Public Service Arbitrator, who is a lawyer, could also be Deputy President. The effect of this amendment is that if the Arbitrator is either the President or Deputy President of the Industrial Commission (both of whom must be eligible for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court), then the appeal provisions of Clause 22 of this Bill will not apply. This amendment which is necessary to give effect to the Government's original intention in the changed circumstances, is a simple way to solve the problem.

Mr. HURST: This amendment seems to be necessary. Members on this side realize the onerous burden that Mr. Justice Williams has carried in these positions and, in endorsing the remarks of the Minister, I pay a tribute to the work of His Honour and wish him well in his new appointment. He is highly esteemed by both sides of the industrial movement, and he has always tried to ensure that justice and good industrial relations are maintained. Although we have not had the opportunity to analyse the legal aspects of this amendment thoroughly, I accept the assurance of the Minister that it is satisfactory, and therefore support it.

Amendment agreed to.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Although this is not prorogation (Parliament will return, all being well, on February 4 to continue its business), we are approaching the Christmas season and I take the opportunity to wish members and all those who make this House work successfully the best for the coming festive season. I believe that up to this stage we have had a pretty happy session. We obviously have our many disagreements; otherwise, we would all be sitting on one side of you, Mr. Speaker. Considering the happy smiles on the faces of those sitting opposite us, I think we have had a happy session on a personal level. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees for helping us in this House as you both have done, and I wish a merry Christmas and happy new year to members of the *Hansard* staff, the messengers and the catering staff, all of whom have helped us so much during this session so far.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): After the Premier has given evidence of a certain state of euphoria, which perhaps occasionally conceals realities, I wish not to disturb it in any way but to add to the Christmas spirit and cheer where I can. On behalf of members on this side, I want

to wish at a personal level all other members and all the staff, including the Clerks of the House, the messengers, the catering staff, the *Hansard* staff, the draftsmen and everyone associated with the House, the very best for the festive season. I am sure we will be seeing many of them between now and Christmas, when we shall be able to pass on our wishes to them personally. On behalf of members on this side, I should like to record our appreciation of the work they have done and of the way in which they have assisted us very willingly to carry out our duties in this place. We wish a happy Christmas to all.

The SPEAKER: This session has been fairly heavy with long hours through nearly every week. I think all members will appreciate a break now for about six weeks. We will all come back refreshed to continue the duties of the Parliament of the State with the same vigour that members on both sides have shown up to the present. This session there have been most vigorous debates, and I think that is what Parliament is for. When both sides put their contributions in this way, that is what makes Parliament work.

I add my good wishes for Christmas and for a bright new year to the Clerks, who sit in front of the Speaker and who have done a magnificent job this year; to my private secretary who has been working long hours (practically the same hours as I have worked) during the last week or two; to the Parliamentary Draftsmen, who seem never to tire and are always drafting out something (I hope they enjoy the break); to the *Hansard* staff; to the typists; and to the catering staff particularly, the members of which have had long hours to work during this lengthy session and have done a magnificent job. I think it is only right for me, on behalf of all members present, to convey appreciation to all concerned. To all members and to everyone associated with Parliament, I wish a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.12 a.m. on Friday, December 13, the House adjourned until Tuesday, February 4, 1969, at 2 p.m.