

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, February 11, 1969

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

SUPREME COURT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

LOTTERY AND GAMING ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

PETITION: TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Mr. VIRGO presented a petition signed by 229 electors of the Edwardstown District. It stated that the adoption of the recommendations of the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study concerning the diversion of the southern railway line between Goodwood and Edwardstown was opposed by a majority of citizens for the following reasons: (1) because they would destroy existing amenities, etc., of the neighbourhoods concerned; (2) because the serious damage that would result to these neighbourhoods constituted a failure of the M.A.T.S. Report to achieve its objective listed on page 114 of the report; and (3) because the proposed diversion was economically unsound.

Received and read.

QUESTIONS

ROLLING STOCK

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Will the Attorney-General obtain from the Minister of Roads and Transport a complete report on what contracts for the construction of rolling stock or equipment have been let, during the period of the present Government, to other than the Islington railway workshops?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will seek the information.

STURT HIGHWAY

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: In previous questions I have drawn attention to the bad condition of the Sturt Highway between Gawler

and Tanunda. Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I asked last week whether a decision had been reached regarding the asphaltic concrete sheeting of this section of the Sturt Highway?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Approval has been given for tenders to be called for the work to be carried out, and it is expected that it will commence during March. Although it is unlikely that work of this magnitude will be completed before the vintage festival, conditions at that time will be considerably better than they are at present.

NUCLEAR POWER

Mr. CORCORAN: Last Saturday's *Advertiser* reported that the Minister of Works said that the South Australian Government would press claims for South Australia as the most suitable State for a nuclear power station. He also said that the Commonwealth Government had consulted the South Australian Government on the project and that some reports on the possible application of nuclear or atomic power in South Australia had been prepared and some research work done. As I understand that the operation of such a plant requires an abundance of water, I draw attention to the situation in the lower South-East, particularly to Eight Mile Creek, near Port MacDonnell, where about 100,000,000 gallons of first-class quality water flows out to sea each day, and also to Lake Leake, near Glencoe, because some years ago Sir Thomas Playford said that an atomic power station could be constructed there. Further, I believe that the demand on power supplies in the South-East at present is such that consideration must be given soon either to additional plant being installed at the Mount Gambier power station or, alternatively, to another powerline being constructed to the South-East. I am interested to see that the two basic requirements for the development of secondary industry are available in this area—water, which is already there, and suitable supplies of power. Having regard to the future development of secondary industry in the area (and this is extremely important to the area) and having regard to the facts to which I have referred, can the Minister say whether research already carried out in the State has involved consideration of the feasibility of establishing a nuclear plant in the South-East? If it has, what does that report, if available, reveal? If such research has not been done, will the Minister, as a matter of

urgency, cause to be done the research necessary to ascertain whether the establishment of such a plant in the South-East area is feasible?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: The position on this whole matter, in which the honourable member has displayed such interest (and I am sure that the matter is of interest to all other members), is that the Commonwealth recently announced its interest in the establishment of nuclear power stations in Australia. After that announcement, I received from the Commonwealth Minister for National Development (Mr. Freebairn) a communication in which he said that he wished to visit South Australia and to confer with the Premier and me on the matter. We replied that we welcomed this visit and would be happy to have such a discussion. Although no date for the meeting has yet been fixed, it is expected that Mr. Freebairn will visit South Australia for this purpose within the next two weeks or three weeks. I authorized research to be carried out so that, when the meeting was held, I would know the position in South Australia and the potential. Further, I have asked that investigations be made into likely neighbourhoods or sites, but this latter information has not yet reached me. I should be pleased to take up the honourable member's suggestion about his own particular locality and the South-East. I intend to suggest to the Commonwealth Minister that the first nuclear power station established in Australia could well be in South Australia, which has some obvious advantages, not the least being that this State is the most secure part of the Commonwealth. In addition, if we are to expand we have great need of further electrical energy and, as honourable members realize, this is one of the sources that could be used for desalination work.

Mr. BURDON: Not only the claims of the South-East generally but more specifically those of Mount Gambier are to be considered in relation to the establishment of an atomic power station. As the Minister of Works is probably aware, the present Mount Gambier power station is operated on waste fuel from surrounding district sawmills but, with the growth of the South-East and the ever-increasing demand for electricity, together with further expansion of the paper industry, the present source of fuel supply will diminish, and the supply of alternative fuels will be necessary. As Mount Gambier is ideally situated between large generating plants in the Eastern States and in South Australia, and as the establishment of a power station there

would be important regarding the further decentralization of industry, will the Minister consider the suitability of this city for such a station?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: First, my interest is to promote the case of an A-station (or N-station, as it is sometimes called) for South Australia, but I will certainly consider the claims of the honourable member's district just as I have said I will consider those of the district of the member for Millicent and of the district of any other member who is interested in the matter.

NARACOORTE WATER SUPPLY

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the lack of pressure in the southern part of the Naracoorte town area water supply?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: It has been realized for some time that the output from these bores is insufficient to meet the increased demand for water at Naracoorte. Approval was accordingly given for the expenditure of \$107,000 to improve the water supply at Naracoorte. The improvements planned involve the drilling and equipping of three new bores and the re-equipping of three of the existing bores with new and larger pumps. The three new pumps have been received and installed and two of the additional three bores have now been drilled by the Mines Department and are at present being pump tested. It is expected that one of the new bores will be equipped and put into operation before the end of this summer and that all three additional bores will be in operation to meet the expected demand for next summer.

The district foreman at Naracoorte advises that on one or two occasions during periods of maximum demand between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. the consumption in Naracoorte has exceeded the combined output from all five bores and the elevated storage tank and a few consumers in the higher Housing Trust area have had poor supplies and, in some cases, interruptions to their supplies for short periods. This condition is being attended to as expeditiously as possible and will be rectified just as soon as additional bores can be brought into commission.

ELIZABETH INDUSTRY

Mr. CLARK: On Tuesday, December 3, the Premier, replying to a question I had asked about the sale by Texas Instruments (Aust.) Limited to Austral Bronze Crane

Copper Proprietary Limited of its strip mill, stated:

I have been assured that the change of ownership will mean no reduction in output or employment.

I have been told by a reliable source that on Friday last Austral Bronze Crane Copper Proprietary Limited dismissed 10 men. As I am naturally most disappointed to hear this news will the Premier ascertain whether my information is correct and, if it is, the reasons for these unexpected dismissals?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be pleased to obtain the necessary information.

INTAKES AND STORAGES

Mr. GILES: Since last Friday night useful rains have fallen in the reservoir catchment areas in the Adelaide Hills, and I am sure that the people of Adelaide would be interested to be told of the benefits resulting from this rainfall. Can the Minister of Works indicate the increase in holdings of reservoirs in the Adelaide Hills catchment area?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I know that this matter will interest members, and I know that the rain was welcomed by all. The Engineering and Water Supply Department takes figures at 8.30 a.m. each day, and, for the 24 hours ended February 9, the natural intake was 330,000,000 gallons; on February 10, 891,000,000 gallons; and on February 11, 165,000,000 gallons, an increase of 1,386,000,000 gallons for those three days. Concerning the metropolitan reservoirs, as at February 11 at 8.30 a.m. there was a storage of 29,000,000,000 gallons, compared with a total capacity of 36,000,000,000 gallons. Mount Bold reservoir, with a capacity of 10,440,000,000 gallons, held 8,262,000,000 gallons; Myponga, with a capacity of 5,900,000,000 gallons, held 4,825,000,000; Millbrook, with a capacity of 3,647,000,000 gallons, held only 1,547,000,000 gallons; Barossa, with a capacity of 993,000,000 gallons, held 902,000,000 gallons; and South Para, with a capacity of 11,300,000,000 gallons, held 10,083,000,000 gallons. Pumping commenced from the Murray River through the Mannum-Adelaide main early in January and is continuing. At present, three pumps are working through the off-peak periods because it is necessary to maintain the levels in these reservoirs. This illustrates the need to conserve water, despite the rains that have been enjoyed in the last few days, because we are still required to pump in January.

CHOWILLA DAM

Mr. HUDSON: I refer to the report of the technical committee, and, to avoid a further personal explanation should the Premier misinterpret my reference, I make clear that I do not accept the assumptions on which the report is based. Page 1 of the report states:

It will be recalled that two important assumptions which are common to all the studies on which this report is based are:

Equal sharing of the flow at Albury between New South Wales and Victoria on a long term basis;

Supply to each of the upper States during the most severe period of restriction not less than 70 per cent of the State's requirement during the period of restriction.

Table 3 is referred to on page 7 of the committee's report. The Premier will recall table 3, because it examines in a statistical form the effect on the total yield of the Murray River system of increasing South Australia's entitlement. It is the table showing South Australia's entitlement, and increases in steps from 1,250,000 acre feet to 1,500,000 acre feet. The notes to the table at the top of page 7 state:

1. Includes effect of restriction to not less than 70 per cent of requirements during most severe period of restriction.

I am not sure whether I understood the Premier correctly last evening, but I understood him to say that he intended to approach the other States and the Commonwealth in order to secure for South Australia a minimum call on the river of 1,500,000 acre feet in all years, that quantity to be supplied whether or not the other States had to be restricted. I inferred from what he said that unless he got this he would not agree to the building of Dartmouth. Is my interpretation of the statement correct? If it is correct, will the Premier say what chance he thinks there is of obtaining 1,500,000 acre feet as a minimum call on the river for South Australia in all years when, in certain circumstances, New South Wales and Victoria will have to be restricted? Does the Premier think that New South Wales and Victoria will agree to the possibility of such a restriction being placed on them when South Australia is not restricted?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: That, of course, is the result I will be seeking to achieve when I pursue negotiations further on behalf of the State. However, the experts advising the Government believe there is a good chance that the other States will agree to South Australia's demand in this regard. The honourable member would perhaps profit further by studying in more detail the effects of the

allocations of the water in the Murray River system and the consequences of any restriction on them. He must consider whether or not South Australia's restricted quota would be, in fact, 1,500,000 acre feet or whether the restrictions would apply to 1,500,000 acre feet less the dilution part of that quota. If it is applied only to the quota of 1,500,000 acre feet less the dilution, he will see we would have to get below 1,000,000 acre feet before a restriction would have any effect on us, whereas the yield in the river to the other States would be about 4,500,000 acre feet before restrictions applied, and I am negotiating so that they do not apply. If they did apply, excluding South Australia's dilution quota, the total availability in the river would have to fall below 3,000,000 acre feet before restrictions affected the availability of 1,500,000 acre feet to South Australia. I am sorry the honourable member does not accept the assumptions, as he calls them, in the technical committee's report, because his Leader accepted them in 1967 when, as Premier, he sent his Commissioner off, after consulting with him, to approve them.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: We have been given to understand by the Premier that if he does not get 1,500,000 acre feet from Dartmouth he will still fight for Chowilla. However, on the ABS 2 news programme last evening there appeared pictures of Paringa District Council workmen, under the direction of the District Clerk, removing road signs pointing to Chowilla, and a statement was made that houses that are there only on account of Chowilla are to be removed. Will the Premier say whether he thinks the action of the Paringa District Council is premature and ill-advised, or does he think the council has received confidential information that, in fact, Chowilla is a dead duck and has been given away?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The council has received no information from me or my office concerning this matter. Concerning Chowilla's being a dead duck, I think many people recognize the stage when this was brought about, and I do not think I need go into that aspect again.

Mr. HUDSON: My understanding of the Premier's reply this afternoon is that he is not asserting quite what he asserted last evening: namely, that South Australia would demand a minimum flow of 1,500,000 acre feet in all years from the other States and that, unless this demand was met, South Australia would not agree to the building of the Dartmouth dam. In his reply this afternoon

the Premier has referred to restrictions and the possibility of a quota of less than 1,500,000 acre feet in some years for South Australia. As I do not know whether or not this is a retreat from the position the Premier took last night, will he clarify this matter for me and indicate whether or not South Australia will be demanding a minimum quota of 1,500,000 acre feet from the other States in all years and will not agree to Dartmouth unless that quota is granted?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: There is no retreat. The honourable member understood me correctly: I will be (and am) demanding from the other States their support for an allocation of 1,500,000 acre feet for South Australia in all years. The detail I furnished the honourable member was to try to help him understand the position.

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Works a reply to a question I asked last week in which I asked for such detail as he could provide about the flow of the Mitta Mitta River at Dartmouth and for information concerning where the River Murray Commission had known about flows of the Mitta Mitta and what procedures had been used by the technical committee to estimate the flow of the river at Dartmouth where precise information was not available?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: I have the following full reply for the honourable member, broken up into the various sections of his question:

(1) A gauging station was established in August, 1885, at Tallangatta on the Mitta Mitta River and flow data is available from that time to December, 1935, when the station was moved to Tallandoon. Data from the latter station from January, 1936, to the present is available.

(2) Tallangatta and Tallandoon are about 50 miles and 32 miles respectively downstream of the Dartmouth dam site.

(3) Inflow data used for computer evaluation was established from the flow data on a monthly basis, which took account of all variable conditions that could be anticipated over the period of the study. The average annual flow at the Dartmouth dam site, after making allowance for diversions to the Kiewa hydro-electric scheme, is 580,000 acre feet with a maximum annual discharge of 2,600,000 acre feet recorded in 1956-57 and a minimum of 316,000 acre feet recorded in 1944-45.

(4) Information was available for all years covered by the study.

(5) All conditions of predicted flow were taken into account.

Mr. HUDSON: In his reply regarding the two gauging stations, the Minister said that the Tallangatta station, for which flow data was available from 1885 to 1935, was 50 miles

downstream from the Dartmouth dam site, and that the Tallandoo station, for which flow data was available from 1936 to the present time, was 32 miles downstream from the Dartmouth dam site. He also said that an allowance had to be made for diversions of water to the Kiewa hydro-electric scheme. One presumes that deductions were made from the readings taken at these two stations to allow for the fact that they were some distance downstream from the dam site. Will the Minister ascertain the deductions that were made, first, on account of the diversions to the Kiewa hydro-electric scheme and, secondly, on account of the distance downstream that these two gauging stations were from the Dartmouth dam site? Also, will he ascertain the effect on the relative yields of Chowilla and Dartmouth if the estimate of the average annual discharge at the Dartmouth dam site of 580,000 acre feet is greater than what turns out to be the case—for instance, if it turns out to be 500,000 acre feet instead of 580,000 acre feet? In this connection I point out that if the estimate of 580,000 acre feet a year turns out to be an over-estimate, this will reduce the yield that the Dartmouth dam gives but will have no effect at all on the Chowilla proposal because—

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

Mr. HUDSON: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker; I do not like to offend against the provisions of Standing Orders. The estimate is critical in determining the relative benefits obtained from the two proposals.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: The honourable member has made a number of hypothetical postulations. I cannot see why he is quibbling over such details. I gave him the fullest possible information, which I suggest to him was exactly correct. He has now asked for further information, and I shall be pleased to get it for him. It may take a couple of days, but I shall obtain it as quickly as possible. The figures I have given today are reliably accepted by the commission. If the honourable member knows this country and the science of hydrology, he should be the first to realize that many of these gauging stations are hard to reach. It would be quite fantastic and impossible to have them in the very spots that the honourable member desires them to be in. These stations have been established at the most convenient spots, and the necessary calculations that have been made to produce the adjustments have been carried out by competent engineers. As I said a few moments ago, these stations were established

on this river many years ago, as far back as 1885. The honourable member now asks for further information, and I shall be pleased to get this for him if I can.

Mr. HUDSON: Both the Premier and the Minister of Works have said in this House that they have had the opportunity, extending over days, of grilling the Director and Engineer-in-Chief about all matters concerned with the report of the technical committee and the decision of the Government to favour Dartmouth rather than Chowilla. The Minister, in replying to my previous question, was rather annoyed about my asking further questions, and he questioned my sincerity in so doing. I point out to the Minister that we on this side can get information only by asking questions of the relevant Minister, because we do not have access, either here or on television, to direct questioning of the Director and Engineer-in-Chief. I also point out to the Minister that I was surprised by his reply regarding the 580,000 acre feet at Dartmouth, because Sir Thomas Playford had quoted 750,000 acre feet, which figure he had presumably been given by Mr. Beaney. It is quite easy, unless we have the kind of information that only the Minister can give, to get misleading data. Will the Minister be so good as to obtain for me figures of the yield that Chowilla would give for up-river States with a South Australian entitlement of 1,250,000 acre feet and of 1,500,000 acre feet, if a minimum flow of 300 cusecs past Mildura is assumed and also if zero flow past Mildura is assumed?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I will try to get this information for the honourable member.

Mr. HUDSON (on notice):

1. Have any studies been carried out by the technical committee of the River Murray Commission to discover which proposal (and what minimum flow at Mildura) will maximize the average annual supply of water to South Australia?

2. If not, will the Minister ensure that such studies are carried out?

3. What were the average annual supplies of water to South Australia for each of the studies of the technical committee which compared Dartmouth and Chowilla?

4. What differences to these supplies were made by assuming a minimum flow at Mildura of 600 cusecs rather than 900 cusecs?

5. What were the variations from the average which occurred under each of these studies?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: The Director and Engineer-in-Chief reports:

1 and 2. The purpose of the studies was to maximize the yield of the River Murray Commission resources by the construction of additional storages. The figures were related to the demands and the conditions of worst restriction for each of the Eastern States with South Australia unrestricted. The studies considered a range of flows at Mildura from 300 cusecs to 900 cusecs for both Chowilla and Dartmouth.

3. Studies were carried out on varying South Australian entitlements up to 1,450,000 acre feet for the Chowilla studies and 1,650,000 acre feet for the Dartmouth studies.

4 and 5. Plates 1 and 3 in the report by the technical committee show the yields available to the Eastern States with the South Australian entitlement held at 1,254,000 acre feet for storages at Dartmouth and Chowilla respectively. An increase in the South Australian entitlement would decrease benefits to the Eastern States in the case of Chowilla, but would give minor decrease only in the case of Dartmouth.

STAMP DUTY

Mr. NANKIVELL: Will the Treasurer say whether consideration has been given to linking the preparation of annual bulk returns of stamp duty with income tax? If such consideration has been given, how will the system operate? Will he also say whether provision has been made for people who do not employ taxation agents to be given an extension of time? Although these two matters have been raised consistently by my constituents, another matter that has arisen concerns people engaged in similar occupations. Some have been told that their bulk returns must be made annually, whereas other persons in similar circumstances have been told that the bulk returns must be made more frequently than annually. Can something be done to put all these people on the same level? What method should be adopted to raise this matter by those people wishing to have the position clarified?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Government has been anxious right from the outset, in considering this tax and its application, to make all possible arrangements which would assist the taxpayer and which also, incidentally, would naturally assist the department in handling the returns lodged. With that object in view, I have invited and have received reports from certain groups of people about how the tax might best be collected. The honourable member's question falls into three parts, and I will deal with each part, if I may, separately. First, for the first-named group in his question, namely, those people who have been granted the right to render their returns

annually and who employ a tax agent, it was agreed between the Commissioner and me that regulations would be drafted (naturally, they are required following the passing of the legislation) to provide that people submitting annual bulk returns who employed a tax agent might submit those returns to the department in the same way and in the same order as they submit returns to the Commonwealth Deputy Commissioner of Taxation. That means that over the period between July 1 and February 28 the agents will be preparing their returns on behalf of clients and will be expected to forward them in a somewhat steady stream to the State Taxes Department. It also means that agents may prepare their clients' income tax returns and the returns to the State Taxes Department at the same time and forward them in the same order.

Secondly, regarding those people who submit annual returns but who do not employ a tax agent, here again regulations will be promulgated to provide that they may have until the end of August in each year to submit their returns to the State Taxes Department. In respect of the third-mentioned group (namely, people who appear to have been granted a return period or frequency of return which is out of line with the general line of business they conduct), I suggest to the honourable member (and I make the comment for the information of the House and the press) that any taxpayer who believes that an incorrect assessment has been made in respect of the periodicity of his return should contact the Commissioner and ask that his case be reviewed. Generally speaking, the annual returns have been granted to primary producers whose income is limited to one or two sources of income, but there may be cases where a primary producer also has other fields of business interest that would cause the Commissioner probably to make an assessment on a twice-a-year return or perhaps even more frequently than that. However, generally speaking, it was the Commissioner's intention that people with only a few sources of income should take part in the annual bulk return system. If the people concerned will contact the Commissioner and ask for their case to be reviewed, that will be done.

TATTOOING

Mr. LAWN: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked some time ago about the tattooing of juveniles?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Cabinet has considered the report from the Director-General

of Public Health on tattooing. The Director-General has reported that there is one commercial tattooist in Adelaide. He confines his work to the traditional accepted designs and sites, but he is often asked to alter or disguise other designs on various parts of the body surface which, having been made by amateur operators or on a do-it-yourself basis, are subsequently regretted. The commercial operator does not knowingly tattoo, without written parental consent, persons under 18 years of age. The equipment he uses and the conditions under which he operates appear safe from the public health viewpoint, and there have been no reports of infection or other adverse physical effects from his activities. Apparently, legislation to make it an offence to tattoo a minor without parental consent to the act and the intended design is proposed in the United Kingdom and in New South Wales. Cabinet has decided to take no action at present but will observe the effect of the proposals in the United Kingdom and New South Wales.

Mr. LAWN: The Premier has said that the United Kingdom and New South Wales Governments intend to introduce legislation but that his Cabinet has decided to take no action at present except to observe the effects of other legislation. Is Cabinet's decision not to act the result of its being aware that the Premier has tattooed on his chest "We like Chowilla" but that he is in the process of having it removed and having the words "We like Dartmouth" tattooed on his buttocks?

The SPEAKER: Does the Premier desire to reply?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: No, Sir.

SCHOOL BUSES

Mr. VENNING: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked last week about school buses that are to be used to convey children from Crystal Brook to the Port Pirie High School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The honourable member was correct in his understanding that a petition had been sent to me from parents of children living on the western side of Crystal Brook regarding the route of one of the three buses replacing the train service between Crystal Brook and Port Pirie. The railcar service, which has for many years conveyed secondary students from Crystal Brook to Port Pirie, was discontinued at the end of 1968 and the department allocated three large buses to Port Pirie to provide transport for the children. There will be adequate accom-

modation on these buses for the Crystal Brook children but, in view of the uncertainty regarding numbers, arrangements have been made for up to 20 children to travel on one of the buses by a longer route of 29 miles *via* Wandearah, where other children have to be picked up, instead of by the direct route of 18 miles which the other two buses will take. A close watch will be kept on these services and, if after the first two days, when definite numbers will be available, there is any undue hardship for any children, then suitable action will be taken to remedy the position.

SERVICE STATIONS

Mr. VIRGO: Prior to the Christmas adjournment I asked the Minister of Labor and Industry a question about the hours that people were expected (in fact, required) to put in at service stations. The Minister was good enough to consider the matter but then, unfortunately, he came back with the information that nothing could be done. Last week I asked the Premier a question about the matter but he was unable (or reluctant) to give me any information. However, arising from what has already transpired, the matter has now been taken a stage further by numerous people who have contacted me about it. Further, I think the Minister and the Premier ought to be aware of the plight of one person who was unable to make a go of his service station. Before this man left that station, eight other dealers had previously failed there. After this gentleman left, the company put in another so-called owner who lasted for only three months; then the company closed the station. Unfortunately, the petrol company concerned was so bent on getting its own back on this gentleman that it blacklisted him at all motor trade houses and all finance companies in Adelaide so that, when he tried to purchase a car on hire-purchase, no hire-purchase company would give him credit. This gentleman has subsequently obtained employment with another petrol company, but on this occasion he is one of the few people working for the company, and he is required to work 68 hours a week. He is not paid overtime and is not allowed to keep a time book. Although an inspector from the Labour and Industry Department has been to the station and given an instruction that a time book has to be kept, the oil company has instructed this man that he is not to keep a time book. If I give the Minister the address of this service station, will he see that an inspector is despatched there as soon as possible so that the matter can be

clarified and the oil company informed of the requirements of the Act relating to the keeping of time books?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: If the honourable member does me the courtesy of forwarding to me the information to which he has referred, I shall be most happy to take up the matter immediately.

BURRA COURTHOUSE

Mr. ALLEN: Justices of the peace in the Burra District have approached me about the acoustics in the Burra courthouse, a large room with a very high ceiling which was erected in the early days of Burra. As the justices have complained to me that they find it difficult to hear some of the evidence and argument during court proceedings, will the Minister of Works have an inspection of the courthouse made with a view to improving its acoustics?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I will look into the matter for the honourable member.

DERNANCOURT SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: The Dernancourt Primary School Committee has contacted me about the construction of a canteen at the school. This matter first being raised in 1967, on November 17 of that year the Education Department said that it would be to the school's advantage to have all the preliminaries completed by July 1, 1968, so that work could commence immediately a subsidy was granted. In January, 1968, the former Minister of Education informed me that an enlarged programme of subsidized capital works for departmental schools, including a canteen for this school, had been approved, the amount of the subsidy being \$1,750 for 1967-68. Matters such as site, plans and specifications were considered by the committee, which last wrote to the Education Department on October 24, 1968, about the cost of constructing a standard canteen. The committee received an acknowledgment, dated November 7, to the effect that the matter had been referred to the Public Buildings Department, and there the matter now rests. The committee informs me that, having \$2,000 to \$2,500 available in its trust account for this project, it desires to have the building completed and in use. At present over 800 children attend the school, and the medical room, situated on the first floor of the main building, is being used as a canteen. Will the Minister of Education inquire into the matter with a view to settling it expeditiously?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I think it better that I call for a report on the matter, and I shall be happy to do this and to bring down the report at the earliest opportunity.

COOLTONG IRRIGATION

Mr. ARNOLD: Has the Minister of Irrigation a reply to my recent question about additional pumping facilities at Cooltong?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: On an average, the department pumps 56.4in. for each ratable acre at Cooltong each year. This compares with 38.4in. for Loxton and 44.4in. for the highland areas as a whole. In order to deliver irrigation supplies of that dimension at Cooltong it has been found necessary to pump continuously for several weeks, another irrigation commencing as soon as the previous one is completed. Until recently, the domestic water requirements were also met from the main irrigation facilities but now are supplied through a separate pump and this should ease the situation a little. The replacement of the existing main channel with pipe main and the installation of pumping facilities with a maximum capacity of 400,000 gallons an hour are under consideration. It is expected that the expenditure involved would necessitate reference to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, and for this reason a good deal of information must be assembled for presentation to that committee. The position can be held safely for the balance of this year, and it seems better to press on with the overall scheme to improve water supply facilities rather than spend time and money on the provision of a larger pump at this stage.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Mr. BROOMHILL: On November 20 last year, I pointed out to the Minister of Education that the Report of the Minister of Education for last year drew attention to the fact that the number of infectious hepatitis cases in schools had increased from 59 in 1963 to 448 in 1967. As the House adjourned for the Christmas break soon afterwards, the Minister was good enough to provide me with a reply by letter. I had asked the Minister whether, in view of the increased figures for hepatitis, the department would consider the use of paper towels in schools to offset the incidence of this disease. In her reply, the Minister said that the matter had been referred to the Principal Medical Officer of the School Health Branch of the Public Health Department who stated that, although the epidemiology of infectious hepatitis was not fully

established, the widespread use of paper towels would have an effect in reducing the incidence. I should think that the department would agree that the use of paper towels would also reduce some of the illnesses, other than infectious hepatitis, that occur at schools. In view of the comments of the health authorities on this matter, will the Minister take up with the Education Department the need to use paper towels in its schools, and can she say whether the department can subsidize the schools that provide these towels?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I recall the honourable member's having addressed the question to me and my having written him a letter, but I cannot recall entirely the contents of that letter. I think it best that I look at the previous correspondence. I seem to remember that, in the report that came to me from the School Health Branch, the question of cost entered into the proposition: I think that the comment was that the cost would be almost prohibitive having regard to the value that providing paper towels in schools would have in combating hepatitis. I will call for the previous correspondence and find out for the honourable member whether there has been a further report on the matter.

WESTERN SEWERAGE WORKS

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: On Sunday last I noticed that the Engineering and Water Supply Department was digging an extremely deep drain at the northern end of Rosetta Street, West Croydon, seemingly in preparation for sewerage work. Further, I have noticed recently an indication that the department may be constructing a temporary depot on the plantation on the Port Road. As these activities lead me to believe that the department intends to carry out a work of some magnitude in my district, can the Minister of Works say what is intended?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The honourable member will recall that the Public Works Committee reported, I think last year, on a trunk sewerage system that would go through Welland, down Rosetta Street, through West Croydon, to a main near the old Islington sewage farm. As the honourable member realizes, this is a most extensive work. I have not on hand details of cost, but the cost is considerable and the sewerage connection is important. Doubtless, as the main will run down Rosetta Street, that is the work to which the honourable member refers. The department, in order to facilitate the carrying out of this project, is erecting on the plantation area

adjacent to Rosetta Street a temporary depot or storage shed in which to store materials and equipment while the work is being undertaken. I assure the honourable member that arrangements have been made with the Woodville council, which controls that area of the plantation, on the basis that this depot is only a temporary structure that is expected to be there for only about six months or nine months.

WATER LICENCES

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question about the possible extension of temporary water licences granted in respect of the Murray River?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: As the member for Hindmarsh (Hon. C. D. Hutchens) asked a supplementary question to that asked by the member for Stirling last week, I shall reply to both questions conjointly. The considerations regarding water licences on the Murray River were based on a minimum supply of 1,254,000 acre feet to South Australia, which can be assured only if Chowilla or an equivalent alternative storage is constructed. Even with this storage, the committed irrigation component of usable river water is already in excess of the safe limit, and reductions may have to be applied in the future to the watering of some of the plantings during drought periods on the river.

Excess flows generally occur in a two to three month period early in the summer season. It is not possible to forecast the period or duration for more than a month in advance of the flow reaching South Australia. Most vegetable crops require from three to six months to mature after planting. If temporary licences were issued there could be no guarantee that there would be water available in their critical growth period. In the case of permanent pasture or lucerne, it is debatable whether the cost of irrigation pumping and distribution facilities could be justified to only partially irrigate in the early summer season.

There were 45 temporary permits issued for drought relief in 1967-68 and following the approval of December 9, 1968, 27 of these have been converted to normal allotments, applications for a further 12 were forwarded to the divertees but no reply was received and six no longer require to divert water.

TAXI-CAB BOARD

Mr. HURST: The member for Port Adelaide (Mr. Ryan) and I have received complaints about the method of nomination by the

Local Government Association of nominees to the Metropolitan Taxi-Cab Board. Section 4 (2) (ii) of the Metropolitan Taxi-Cab Act provides for the Municipal Association of South Australia to nominate four representatives on the board. The method used by the association in nominating representatives has varied from time to time and is considered to be unsatisfactory for various reasons. In 1961 the executive of the then Municipal Association adopted a group system which, in turn, has been varied subsequently, and current advice is that the ballot to be conducted at the Metropolitan Regional Council meeting of the Local Government Association will deprive many municipal councils of a say in the election of representatives to the board. Some large municipalities are not affiliated to the association and the Act does not specify that nominees for election as representatives must be members of that association. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Local Government to request the association to ensure that every suburban municipality is given an opportunity both to nominate representatives and to vote for candidates for election to the board?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

CREMATIONS

Mr. BURDON: Has the Premier a reply from the Chief Secretary to the question I asked last week on the availability of finance for the establishment of a crematorium at Mount Gambier?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: My colleague states that previously no financial assistance has been given for the establishment or maintenance of crematoria in South Australia. He has requested from the Clerk of the Corporation of the City of Mount Gambier full details of capital cost and estimation of running costs of a crematorium in Mount Gambier. When these figures are available from the clerk, the matter will be considered by Cabinet.

WHEAT

Mr. CASEY: The Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry (Mr. Anthony) has been reported recently as saying that farmers are likely to be faced with lower prices for their wheat next season and that there may be a restriction of acreages sown to wheat. Many South Australian farmers are now seriously thinking of turning to the sowing of barley because of recent good sales of barley overseas and the extremely good job that the Barley Board has been doing. Will the Minister of

Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he has discussed the future of the wheat industry in South Australia with Mr. Anthony and, if he has not, whether he will review with Mr. Anthony the whole position of the wheat industry on the basis of Mr. Anthony's statement to which I have referred?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will refer the matter to my colleague.

PORT PIRIE HOSPITAL

Mr. McKEE: I understand that the matter of the proposed improvements at the Port Pirie Hospital has already been referred to the Public Works Committee for consideration. No doubt the Minister of Works is aware of the present inadequate accommodation for children at the hospital, as the situation is extremely bad. Although the hospital staff is doing a magnificent job in coping with present conditions, the situation is making their job extremely difficult. Because of the urgent need for additional accommodation for children at the hospital, can the Minister of Works say when the Public Works Committee is likely to visit Port Pirie and whether the work is expected to be done this financial year?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: As Minister of Works, I forwarded the reference late last year to the Public Works Committee, but I assure the honourable member that I would not presume for a moment to instruct that committee when and where it should take evidence: that matter is in the hands of the committee and depends on the decision of the Chairman. Although I would appreciate the committee's considering this reference expeditiously, I will not issue instructions to it.

NORTH UNLEY CREEK

Mr. LANGLEY: No doubt the weekend rains were beneficial, although it was a steady downpour with few heavy showers. However, this steady rain caused sections of the North Unley Creek, which carries water from neighbouring council areas, to flood, and when heavy showers are experienced during the winter more extensive flooding will occur. As the Government subsidizes the cost of these projects and plans have to be ratified by the Highways Department (and several inner-suburban councils are considering drainage problems), will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Local Government whether plans on the North Unley Creek project have been forwarded by the Unley City Council?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Although I doubt that the consequence foreseen by the honourable member necessarily follows, I shall certainly seek the information he requires.

KIMBA WATER SUPPLY

Mr. EDWARDS: After many years of disappointment the people of Darke Peake, Kimba, and the surrounding districts are to see the start of a main to Kimba at last. They hope that they will not be let down again as they were during the last three years when the Australian Labor Party was in power in this State. As I understand that construction of the Kimba-Polda main was scheduled to start on February 10, can the Minister of Works say whether the start of work has been delayed because of the recent heavy rain, or whether it has commenced on schedule?

The SPEAKER: Order! Previously I have warned the honourable member about debating a question, and his reference on this occasion to the policy of the Opposition when it was in Government is debating the question. I again ask the honourable member to refrain from doing that.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: About three weeks ago, while at Lock, I inspected the site for the camp that is to be used by about 25 men who will be employed constructing this main between the Polda Basin and Kimba. At that time preparations for establishing the camp were well advanced and I was assured that the commencing date of the project would be February 10 (yesterday). Subsequent investigations by me (the latest inquiry was a week ago) confirmed that this date would be adhered to. I should think that the construction of the camp was so far advanced that the recent weekend rain would not delay its completion, but I cannot say what effect the rain has had on the delivery of pipes. I will inquire about this aspect, but I assure the honourable member that February 10 was a firm date for the start of work on this project.

GLENSIDE HOSPITAL

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I understand that patients at the Glenside Mental Hospital previously worked in the vegetable garden, an occupation that gave them much satisfaction and also helped in their recovery. However, I have been informed that this practice has now been discontinued. Will the Premier ask the Chief Secretary whether my information is correct and, if it is, why this practice has been discontinued, and whether it can be recommenced?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will ascertain what is the present procedure and inform the honourable member.

GERANIUM AREA SCHOOL

Mr. NANKIVELL: As a result of heavy flooding during the weekend the Geranium Area School cannot be opened for some days. Can the Minister of Education say what decision has been made by the department concerning this matter?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I received a report this morning from the Acting Director-General of Education, following the heavy rains that have caused much flooding at this school. Yesterday, a report was received from Mr. Jolly (District Inspector) containing the latest information. He reports that the classrooms in the school are ready for occupation but that all toilets are out of order and the drinking water, because of the overflow of effluent, is suspect. Electricians are on the way from Adelaide, and the Public Buildings Department has arranged for the water to be tested as soon as possible. The electricians are to install pumps to pump out the water.

The nearest toilets are at the Geranium hall where there are two water closets for ladies and one for men. These would be totally inadequate and unsuitable to meet the needs of the school. There are 2,000 gallons of rain water in an overhead tank, sufficient only for a day or two. The District Inspector of the Public Buildings Department is doubtful whether the school could be occupied before Monday next. Mr. Jolly, on the other hand, thinks that the school could open by Thursday. Both agree that the school should not open before Thursday at the earliest. The report continues:

I consider that we should leave it to the Headmaster to decide when the school should be opened. He would be able to inform parents and the Transport Officer, Mr. Hindmarsh, states that the Headmaster could arrange for the running of the buses.

The report concludes with the recommendation that the approval of the Minister of Education be sought to keep the Geranium Area School closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 11 and 12, and that it be left to the Headmaster to decide and announce locally when the school should reopen.

WHYALLA HOSPITAL

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The Government takeover of the Whyalla Hospital has, I understand, been delayed because of arrangements in connection with surplus funds from

the local medical scheme. I have been informed that all arrangements in respect of these surplus funds have now been made and that the trustees have been nominated. Will the Premier ask his colleague to have the takeover completed as quickly as possible?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I understand that the takeover depends on legislation being passed by Parliament, and this is likely to be introduced this week.

PERPETUAL LEASES

Mr. ARNOLD: My question concerns the transfer of irrigable land held under perpetual lease. At present, about three or four months' delay occurs in the transfer of such land from one person to another and, in the case of subdivisions, the delay can be as long as 12 months, or even longer. In these circumstances, even the three or four months' delay means a loss to the property owner of interest on the sale price of the property, because the financial arrangements cannot be finalized until the Minister consents to the transaction. When an application for transfer is received and the department has made a decision on it, will the Minister of Lands consider issuing a note to that effect so that financial arrangements may be finalized because \$10,000 or \$20,000 selling price over a period of six months means that a considerable amount of interest is lost by the seller of the property? Further, it would not make much difference when the title of the lease was changed.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: As I understand the suggestion, it would be some form of certificate that the transfer was approved without the other formalities having been completed. I think this question would require close consideration before I could reply. In general, however, the procedures in the Lands Department have been speeded up considerably over the years so that at present (if I can judge by the few justified complaints the department receives) its procedures are effective. The department receives many complaints from people who say their application has been delayed but, on investigation, invariably (and I use the word "invariably" advisedly) it is found that it is someone else's action that is holding up the transfer. Nevertheless, there is always room for improvement, and I will see that what can be done is done. In the meantime, I will examine the honourable member's suggestion to see whether it can be implemented.

BEACH TOILETS

Mr. HURST: As I understand the Minister of Immigration and Tourism has now read the article that appears in the *News* of January 30 regarding facilities at metropolitan beaches, will he comment further on it?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: In reply to the honourable member's previous question I said that, as I had not seen the article on beach toilets to which he had referred, I would read it and then comment. I have since read the article, but I cannot take the matter much further. I previously said that I had seen the foreshore improvements effected by the Port Adelaide council at Semaphore and that I was impressed by what the council had done and intended to do, although I did not specifically comment on toilets. The article refers to all the beaches from Semaphore southwards and, short of following the journalist's own progress and checking the facts as he has put them, I do not think I can comment further. The journalist complained that in many cases there were no seats in the lavatories and that most of them were considerably neglected. If the facts are correct (and I have no reason to doubt that they are), the position certainly needs to be remedied by the council for the area concerned. I really do not think it worth trying to check on the accuracy of the observations. I think the honourable member's question was inspired by a belief that the Port Adelaide council had been rather harshly and unfairly criticized. I said that I had seen what the council was doing and had been informed of its plans; indeed, I think the council, within the limitations of the money available to it, is doing a good job in general. If it becomes possible for me to give the council any further financial assistance, I shall be happy to do so, but that comment is not to be taken as a hint that any money is available at the moment.

CALTOWIE SCHOOL

Mr. VENNING: Last year I was approached by the committee of the Caltowie Primary School in regard to sealing the school's playing area and, in reply to a question I asked, I was told that tenders for the work had been called and that the sealing was hoped to take place during the school vacation, provided that a suitable tender was received. However, as no tender was received and as the work consequently did not proceed, will the Minister of Education ascertain what is the present situation in regard to sealing the playing area at this school? I consider this to be an important matter because my predecessor (Mr. Heaslip),

when he was the member for the district, made an approach about 12 months prior to the approach made to me, and I view with concern the fact that this work has not gone forward.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will call for a report on this matter.

NORTHERN ROADWORKS

Mr. CASEY: Knowing that the Attorney-General has been prompt in obtaining replies to questions I have asked in the past, I now ask him whether he will obtain from the Minister of Roads and Transport a detailed report on the proposed work over the next 12 months on roads in the Far North, including the main road from Hawker to Marree.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Although I have a report for the honourable member on roadmaking in reply to a question he asked me on February 5 (less than a week ago, which shows my promptness), I presume that report is not the one he wants now. I will see whether the information for which he has asked is available.

BAROSSA RESERVOIR

Mrs. BYRNE: Unless accompanied by a South Australian or by someone else who knows about the whispering qualities of the wall of the Barossa reservoir, some tourists, particularly from other States, who visit the reservoir often come away from the area unaware of this feature. Will the Minister of Works consider erecting at the reservoir a notice board giving particulars similar to those on the board erected at the South Para reservoir, with additional information advertising the whispering qualities of the wall and how they have been brought about?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I shall be happy to take up this question for the honourable member and to see whether her suggestion can be implemented. However, I think it might be an advantage if I did so in consultation with the Minister of Immigration and Tourism.

SOUTH-WESTERN SUBURBS DRAINAGE

Mr. BROOMHILL: My question concerns the south-western suburbs drainage scheme through which floodwaters from Mitcham and other areas find their way into the Patawalonga boat haven. We saw over the weekend what can be expected in future in regard to the volume of floodwaters that will flow into the boat haven, and the Glenelg council is concerned that this will result in considerable depositing of silt there, creating difficulties for the council that have not previously been

experienced. In addition, considerable expense is likely to be involved in dredging the silt that will build up. As the council has asked the Minister of Local Government to consider bringing the operation of the Patawalonga Basin under the maintenance section (section 13) of the South-Western Suburbs Drainage Act, will the Attorney-General ask the Minister whether the representations made have been considered and whether he will consider fully the points raised by the council?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS

Mr. LAWN: Recently I received a letter from a lady whose children had, in the past, received free school books. However, this year her application for free books was refused. She admitted in her letter that her husband had received an increase last year in the wages he received as a sheet metal worker. I wrote to the Minister of Education to find out the reason, and her reply states:

I wish to advise that Mr. Thomas's wages have increased since 1968 to an extent which takes him above the means test limit, which is the basis for determining eligibility for free books.

For some years, prices have risen continually (there was a 35c increase in the cost of living in South Australia for the December quarter) and, consequently, the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Court has granted small wage increases each year. Can the Minister say whether the Education Department adjusts each year the limit of the means test for free school books or whether the limit remains static, in which case, as the court increases wages each year, eventually everyone will be above the limit?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I shall be pleased to obtain particulars for the honourable member. Also, if he will supply me with the name and particulars of the person to whom he refers, I will look into that matter.

ENFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. JENNINGS: I received the following reply from the Minister of Works, after the Loan Estimates debate last year, to a question I had asked about the Enfield Primary School:

As I promised the honourable member when he raised this matter during the discussion on the Estimates on October 2, I called for a report concerning progress on the modifications at the Enfield Primary School to provide a general purpose room, improved library accommodation, staffroom, sick bay, office for the deputy headmaster and store room. I am advised that drawings and specifications for the electrical work and services associated with

the project have now been prepared and the Public Buildings Department is ready to proceed. It is expected that the work will commence about the middle of November.

Having relayed that information to the school, I have now been informed, at the beginning of another school year, that nothing whatever has been done: there is not the suggestion of anything being done. Will the Minister take up the matter again as one of urgency?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I will get an up-to-date report for the honourable member immediately.

SCIENTOLOGY

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Recently we noticed that the Attorney-General permitted the Church of the New Faith, to teach scientology, to be registered just prior to the passing of legislation that sets out to deal with this body by providing for the seizing of its records, thus preventing its operating. I noticed in the *Advertiser* of February 7 that a representative of this body claimed that, as it was a registered body, it could not be de-registered, so the church would remain. Will the Attorney-General give his learned legal opinion on this pronouncement, saying whether, if he is unable to de-register the church that he has just registered, he will, in the event of the body's refusing to hand over its records, use an axe or a battering ram to ensure entry?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: This is the second time the honourable member has asked a question along similar lines. Last week he asked me whether I considered I would be committing blasphemy if any action were taken. Of course, both questions are just too absurd to deserve serious answers. The honourable member knows, as I know and as I told him last Thursday, that the incorporation of the body has no effect whatever on the powers contained in the Bill, which has now been passed by both Houses of Parliament (the amendment having been agreed to since the honourable member asked his question last Thursday). As for the so-called Church of Scientology being a church, in my view it is not a church. In fact, having been incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act makes not one jot or tittle of difference to that.

SEMAPHORE ROAD

Mr. HURST: I refer to the widening of the Semaphore Road at a bend where Dunnikier Road bisects it and the road runs alongside the railway line between Glanville

and Ethelton to Formation Hill. For the purpose of widening the road, the Highways Department has acquired some of the houses alongside it. A group of houses farther along the road has not yet been acquired and there has been no indication of an intention to acquire. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport whether the department will acquire these properties or whether it intends to shift the line of the road slightly to enable the widening to be carried out?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will study the honourable member's question and discuss it with my colleague.

ROADMAKING

Mr. CASEY: I sincerely hope that, on this occasion, the Attorney-General pays some attention to my question, for when I last asked a question he did not have a clue about what I asked him. As he has informed me that he has a reply to my question about roadmaking in the Peterborough district, I shall be pleased if he will give it.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I am glad that the honourable member has asked me for the reply because, as he pointed out in the preamble to his last question, I am always prompt with replies to questions. In reply to this question, which was asked only at the end of last week, my colleague states:

Highways Department engineers have had several long discussions with Mr. Weydling regarding the supply of crushed products for road purposes and have also tested various materials from his crusher for proposed use by the Corporation of Peterborough. Further discussion is currently in progress. When the Highways Department's requirements for crushed stone are known, public tenders will be called for its supply. Any tender submitted by Mr. Weydling, and any proposition he may make regarding amended specified delivery rates to enable any necessary modifications to be made to his crushing plant, will be fully considered.

TEA TREE GULLY POLICE

Mrs. BYRNE: Will the Premier ascertain from the Chief Secretary whether there is to be any reduction in staff at the Tea Tree Gully police station?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be happy to make the necessary inquiries.

PROCEDURE ON QUESTIONS

Mr. VIRGO: Mr. Speaker, can you tell me what evidence a member has, when he gets a nod from you that you have acknowledged that he desires to ask a question, that,

in fact, you have put it down? The last time I was called was at 2.20 p.m. and since then members on both sides have had two or three opportunities to ask questions.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member will appreciate that on various occasions a number of members put their hands up. I can nod in only one direction at the one time, and I may be nodding to another when the honourable member thinks I am nodding to him. If the honourable member will consult *Hansard* he will see that I have often called him and given him prior questions, so I think the honourable member has had a pretty fair go.

ARTERIOSCLEROSIS

Mr. LAWN: The Premier will recall that, from January, 1964, onwards, I, by way of question, debate and correspondence, requested the then Premier, Sir Thomas Playford, to purchase and import from Germany a machine for the treatment of arteriosclerosis. Actually, I requested two machines—one for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and one for the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Whilst Sir Thomas did not grant my request he did say that, if I could get the medical profession to agree, he would be only too happy to import the machines. I am not blaming him for the fact that they were not brought out here. Shortly after the late Hon. Frank Walsh became Premier, Professor Jepson agreed to experiment with this oxygen treatment, but he did it by hand. Later he recommended to either the Walsh Government or the Dunstan Government that a machine be purchased, and in fact it was purchased and used at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. However, I have heard this year that the machine is covered with a white sheet. Will the Premier ask the Chief Secretary whether the machine is being used and, if it is not being used, why not?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Yes.

DERAILMENTS

Mr. VIRGO: Has the Premier obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about derailments?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: My colleague reports:

The committee has held a number of meetings and has had discussions with officers of the South Australian Railways. Arrangements have now been completed for the committee to visit New South Wales, and arrangements are in hand for a visit to Victoria. It will be appreciated that there is some problem in arranging visits at times satisfactory to all concerned. It is expected that a preliminary

report will be presented within a few weeks; however, the final report may take some considerable time. The matter is extremely complex, as is indicated by the fact that derailments of fast freight trains are a world-wide problem.

ABALONE FISHING

Mr. CORCORAN: Has the Minister of Lands a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to the question I asked last week about an inquiry into the abalone fishing industry?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: During the term of office of the previous Government, Parliament initiated an inquiry into the fishing industry in this State by a Parliamentary Select Committee whose report was published on September 14, 1967. The report and recommendations of the committee were comprehensive and formed the basis upon which many of the controls subsequently applied by regulation in the interests of conservation of resources were designed. The committee considered evidence from a wide range of witnesses, including individual fishermen from all over the State, fishermen's associations and kindred bodies, and officers of Government departments of this and other States. In these circumstances, my colleague is of the opinion that a further inquiry as suggested by the honourable member is not warranted at this juncture. However, as the Minister of Agriculture announced last week, a conference of representatives of the abalone fishing industry and Commonwealth and State fisheries officers has been called for February 26, when all aspects of the present controls, including the restriction on the removal of abalone from the shell at sea, will be discussed.

I point out in passing that the honourable member's request for the appointment of a committee comprising representatives of people engaged in the industry, the Fisheries and Fauna Conservation Department, and those involved in the marketing of abalone is somewhat similar to the comment I made when the Select Committee, whose report is the basis of the present abalone fishing regulations, was appointed.

GAS TANKER

Mr. VIRGO: On December 11 last I asked the Attorney-General a question about a newspaper report of a rail tanker being built in Sydney for the South Australian Gas Company. The Attorney was good enough to supply me, a month later while the House was in recess, with a reply, the text of which was that the matter had been referred to the South Australian Railways Department but that, as the

tanker was being purchased by the Gas Company, the choice of a manufacturer rested solely with the company. Subsequently, the Attorney sent me a copy of a letter he had received from the South Australian Gas Company, and I think that letter is worthy of some comment. The text of the letter is that the Railways Department was aware of the proposal to procure the rail tanker and that drawings were submitted to the Chief Mechanical Engineer. The following part of the letter disturbs me:

No indication was given of a desire to tender for the fabrication of the rail car but we—

that is, the Gas Company—
agreed to their suggestion—

that is, the suggestion of the Railways Department—

that the bogies be purchased from them at \$3,600.

I consider this concluding paragraph of the letter to be open to much questioning:

Our Chief Engineer (Mr. J. P. Burnside) is of the opinion that the facilities at the Islington workshops, particularly for stress relieving, are inadequate for such specialized equipment and that this was the reason for their apparent lack of interest in the project.

I think most people would dismiss that comment summarily as being incorrect. My concern in this matter is for the full employment of South Australian labour, and I think there is reason for concern about a contract, which should be and could be properly carried out in this State, going to another State. Accordingly, will the Attorney take up with the Minister of Roads and Transport a request to require the Railways Department to tender for such work, as it is obvious that the department's workshops are able to carry it out?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I question the premises on which the question has been asked, but I will take the matter up with my colleague.

REFRIGERATED MILK

Mr. BROOMHILL: I understand that the Wholesale Milk Buyers and Distributors Association has approached the Education Department, stating that refrigerated milk storage could be supplied, at the association's expense, to all schools that have a delivery of more than 200 bottles of milk a day. As this suggestion seems a sensible one, can the Minister of Education say whether she has yet considered the matter and what results her investigations have established?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I cannot recall receiving a letter, but it may be in the process of coming to me with a recommendation. I will certainly get a report on the matter for the honourable member.

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENT

Mr. LAWN: Last week the Premier, in a Ministerial statement, said that Executive Council had appointed the member for Victoria (Mr. Rodda) as Parliamentary Under Secretary to assist the Premier, and he later stated:

The appointment will enable me as Premier to devote more time to major aspects of policy, State administration, and industrial promotion.

That statement prompted me to ask the Parliamentary Under Secretary whether he could say what were his duties and, in reply, he referred to the friction between the Premier and the Chief Secretary and stated:

My duties will be to assist these honourable gentlemen in their very honourable undertakings.

As it is well known the Chief Secretary stated last year in another place that he is not on speaking terms with Ministers in this House, can the Premier say whether the duties of his Parliamentary Under Secretary include acting as intermediary between himself and the Chief Secretary?

The SPEAKER: Does the Premier wish to reply to that question?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: No, Sir.

MURRAY RIVER

Mr. HUDSON (on notice): What were the minimum flows recorded over the last 10 years at Mildura, Lock 6, Berri, Loxton and Waikerie, for each of the months from November to April inclusive?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The Director and Engineer-in-Chief reports as follows:

Records available do not permit a complete answer to the question raised by the honourable member. Murray River flows in South Australia are gauged only in relation to the flow entering South Australia and at Lock 1, Blanchetown. Flow is not gauged at Mildura, and in the table Lock 15 (Euston) flows are shown as at the nearest station.

The information I have been able to provide for the honourable member is contained on two pages of completely statistical material, which I ask to have inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

MURRAY RIVER
MINIMUM MONTHLY DISCHARGES
in cubic feet a second

Year and Month	Lock 15 (Euston)	Intakes to South Australia	Lock 1	Year and Month	Lock 15 (Euston)	Intakes to South Australia	Lock 1
1958—				1964—			
November	24,980	24,540	23,580	January	1,400	1,330	98
December	5,870	9,000	24,020	February	950	2,506	544
1959—				March	855	1,407	Nil
January	1,280	856	217	April	1,240	1,173	315
February	1,610	1,528	288	November	35,800	29,950	27,150
March	2,820	3,841	2,490	December	4,470	4,000	29,860
April	2,270	5,470	4,786	1965—			
November	5,560	5,096	3,452	January	1,260	1,455	Nil
December	3,220	4,105	2,242	February	920	1,638	450
1960—				March	632	1,795	312
January	2,500	3,205	1,872	April	990	1,267	228
February	1,520	4,197	2,052	November	600	1,492	378
March	900	1,405	478	December	1,080	917	600
April	960	1,193	350	1966—			
November	23,170	28,870	27,670	January	1,220	1,828	790
December	8,770	6,732	14,280	February	1,520	1,461	952
1961—				March	855	925	Nil
January	1,845	943	Nil	April	1,020	1,204	546
February	1,560	1,682	296	November	7,685	5,741	3,414
March	2,000	1,629	Nil	December	9,900	7,893	4,745
April	3,380	1,163	Nil	1967—			
November	2,530	1,424	Nil	January	3,050	2,146	444
December	4,185	2,417	950	February	1,280	1,319	456
1962—				March	990	1,682	516
January	3,140	1,689	154	April	960	1,199	468
February	2,080	2,191	392	November	935	1,419	24
March	825	1,387	655	December	1,170	1,390	24
April	990	1,269	284	1968—			
November	2,675	1,692	28	January	1,450	1,425	Nil
December	1,845	1,630	Nil	February	960	1,450	Nil
1963—				March	825	1,314	89
January	2,020	1,960	308	April	752	1,149	152
February	1,160	1,821	Nil	November	5,470	4,168	3,468
March	492	1,049	70	December	2,140	1,622	576
April	1,440	1,658	240				
November	3,770	3,163	2,607				
December	2,580	1,778	94				

Mr. HUDSON (on notice): What were the maximum salinity readings in parts of dissolved salt a million over the last 10 years at Mildura, Lock 6, Berri, Loxton and Waikerie for the months of November to April inclusive?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The Director and Engineer-in-Chief reports as follows:

The accompanying table lists the maximum salinity readings at the five stations as requested by the honourable member. The readings for Mildura (Redcliffs) are based on field tests carried out by the silver nitrate titration method. The results of this test are usually

expressed in parts a million chloride ions but a conversion factor is used to give apparent parts a million total dissolved salts. Experience has shown this is reliable for practical purposes. The readings from South Australian stations are determined from laboratory tests. Long-term records are not available for Loxton but readings from Lock 3 are included.

I seek leave to have the accompanying statistical material included in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

SALINITY AS TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS
at Redcliffs (Mildura) Lock 6, Berri, Lock 3 and Waikerie
in parts a million:

Year and Month	Redcliffs (Apparent T.D.S.)	Lock 6 (T.D.S.)	Berri (T.D.S.)	Lock 3 (T.D.S.)	Waikerie (T.D.S.)
1958—					
Nov.	48	No record	118	No record	No record
Dec.	38	No record	No record	No record	No record
1959—					
Jan.	101	No record	No record	No record	No record
Feb.	147	No record	No record	No record	No record
Mar.	128	No record	No record	No record	No record
Apr.	170	No record	No record	No record	No record
Nov.	166	No record	No record	No record	No record
Dec.	44	No record	217	No record	192
1960—					
Jan.	120	No record	255	No record	258
Feb.	176	No record	209	No record	289
Mar.	151	No record	No record	No record	255
Apr.	151	No record	305	No record	337
Nov.	130	No record	82	No record	115
Dec.	78	No record	94	No record	102
1961—					
Jan.	92	No record	No record	No record	139
Feb.	92	No record	335	No record	287
Mar.	97	No record	No record	No record	No record
Apr.	103	No record	329	No record	No record
Nov.	107	No record	257	No record	No record
Dec.	126	No record	273	No record	No record
1962—					
Jan.	136	199	217	246	304
Feb.	143	234	244	310	322
Mar.	210	228	275	282	356
Apr.	258	331	281	281	348
Nov.	136	165	194	214	280
Dec.	126	207	257	248	314
1963—					
Jan.	147	209	276	293	375
Feb.	210	212	246	299	369
Mar.	288	212	226	269	313
Apr.	172	244	257	256	290
Nov.	168	133	158	164	175
Dec.	130	168	223	220	262
1964—					
Jan.	143	248	331	291	388
Feb.	202	259	317	332	397
Mar.	202	209	197	237	250
Apr.	168	299	401	337	379
Nov.	124	95	109	136	118
Dec.	94	95	92	105	124

Salinity as Total Dissolved Solids—continued

Year and Month	Redcliffs (Apparent T.D.S.)	Lock 6 (T.D.S.)	Berri (T.D.S.)	Lock 3 (T.D.S.)	Waikerie (T.D.S.)
1965—					
Jan.	170	182	171	255	641
Feb.	218	223	487	492	462
Mar.	235	256	551	425	542
Apr.	216	307	413	466	522
Nov.	395	211	270	305	371
Dec.	281	220	339	313	416
1966—					
Jan.	273	No record.	360	363	407
Feb.	382	270	326	343	413
Mar.	279	335	494	403	456
Apr.	189	233	355	481	500
Nov.	181	171	166	213	241
Dec.	124	121	135	156	160
1967—					
Jan.	118	111	132	141	146
Feb.	252	189	215	210	253
Mar.	258	222	264	274	307
Apr.	256	278	319	299	372
Nov.	384	366	433	537	662
Dec.	382	323	433	563	658
1968—					
Jan.	193	376	425	509	699
Feb.	183	383	475	562	697
Mar.	195	368	444	523	591
Apr.	181	340	417	494	572
Nov.	202	182	227	254	267
Dec.	193	136	183	193	221

NOTES: 1. Redcliffs salinity—data deduced from field tests.

a. Nov. 1958 to Dec. 1961 inclusive—average for each month.

b. Jan. 1962 to Dec. 1968 inclusive—maximum for each month.

2. Lock 6, Berri, Lock 3 and Waikerie—figures from laboratory analyses of the monthly samples (River Murray salinity survey).

MENTAL HEALTH

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS (on notice):

1. What is meant by the term "recovery" in mental health services reports?

2. What is the cost a mental patient for a "recovery"?

3. How many mental patients have been discharged within the last 12 months completely recovered and not re-admitted and not subject to recall?

4. How many pre-frontal lobotomy operations were performed in South Australia in the last 12 months?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Director-General of Medical Services reports as follows:

1. "Recovered" means the disappearance of the signs and symptoms of a mental illness so that the patient returns to the state of mental health which he enjoyed prior to the onset of illness. It does not mean that the patient can be guaranteed to be permanently well. Some patients have episodes of illness, but may

recover fully from each episode; for example, in the case of physical illness, a patient may "recover" from an attack of asthma but remain prone to further attacks—on the other hand a patient "recovers" from an attack of appendicitis in a different way as the removal of the appendix makes further attacks impossible. The same situation applies to "recovery" from the various types of mental illness.

2. The duration of different forms of mental illness varies widely, and the recovery from a similar type of illness in one patient may be more rapid than in others. Discharge from hospital also is not necessarily synonymous with "recovery". Patients may be discharged when the signs and symptoms of their illness have remitted to a degree that makes life back in the community possible; in the same way a patient suffering from a physical illness may be discharged home before he has "fully recovered". The usual method of calculating hospital costs is on the basis of the daily average cost a bed occupied and these figures are published each year in the Auditor-General's Report. For example, the full daily average cost at the Glenside Hospital, including all debt charges, interest, etc., for the year ending June 30, 1968, was \$6.45 a day.

3. In the time available it has only been possible to research the re-admissions related to discharges for the last six months. In the published statistics re-admission data is related to admission, not discharges. From July 1 to December 31, 1968, 1,320 patients were discharged from the hospitals of the Mental Health Services. To date, 296 of these patients have had a further admission to hospital. The same reservations must be placed on the definition of the term "recovered" when referring to discharged patients but, at the time of discharge, the patients' acute symptoms had receded to a stage where they could be returned to live in the community. When a patient is discharged he is not subject to recall, but must be re-admitted. In the year ended June 30, 1968, 74.8 per cent of patients admitted to hospital of the Mental Health Services were voluntary admissions.

4. During the last 12 months there were no pre-frontal lobotomy operations performed in the mental hospitals in South Australia. However, I am informed that, for the year ended December, 1968, two pre-frontal lobotomies were performed at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and three at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

MENTAL HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from February 6. Page 3468.)

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE (Minister of Education): I support the Bill, but I did not intend to speak to it until after I had listened to the speeches made during the second reading debate last Thursday. I had an appointment in my office, and after it was completed I went on working but could not help hearing on my amplifier some of the speeches that were made by Opposition members. As I listened to them I felt impelled to speak in this debate. I have never heard such blatant, maudlin, and irrelevant nonsense as that spoken by Opposition members concerning this Bill. Obviously, they played the game of follow-the-leader, because they said nothing different from what had been said by the Leader, and that is why I realized that most of them had not read the Minister's second reading explanation of the Bill. At a later point in my speech I intend to read some of that explanation. It seemed to me that the Opposition used the Bill for blatant political purposes and added nothing to the debate on what was a sensible proposition put forward by the Government.

I point out that the incidence of mental illness is not visited on any one section of the community. All people are subject to this

kind of illness and we naturally look sympathetically on those who are afflicted in this way, whether born mentally afflicted or whether the illness comes as a result of a mental breakdown and they have to spend some time in a mental hospital. Mental illness can fall on all sections of the community, not as was suggested by the member for Adelaide that it only falls on those who are incapable of meeting the cost. Nature does not discriminate in this matter, and we find that people from all sections of our society suffer from mental sickness.

I emphasize that the attitude to and the acceptance of mental illness have changed considerably, particularly in the last two decades. This situation has been brought about by public education and enlightenment concerning mental illness, the realization that any person can be afflicted, and the impact of modern drugs and advanced techniques of treatment. This fact is borne out by the statistics of admissions to psychiatric hospitals, not only in South Australia, not only in Australia, but throughout the world. Modern drugs available to doctors have had a most desirable effect. We know from the rates of discharge from psychiatric hospitals and from the decrease in the number of admissions to such hospitals that modern treatment and the enlightened methods of approach are most effective.

Also, people are now seeking voluntarily to enter psychiatric hospitals to undergo treatment, and from further statistics we realize that the period people remain in psychiatric hospitals these days has decreased greatly. It was interesting to hear the Premier, when replying to a question on notice a few moments ago on behalf of the Minister of Health, say that the proportion of patients voluntarily seeking admission to psychiatric hospitals for treatment was as high as 74.8 per cent for the year ended June 30, 1968. These simple, undeniable facts, borne out by statistics, are available to anyone who wishes to study them. I believe that Opposition members were indulging in emotionalism in its worst form during their speeches last Thursday, because they were playing on the emotions of people who are associated with patients in psychiatric hospitals or who have members of a family who are in some way afflicted by mental illness.

Much was said about conditions of some of our mental hospitals. These conditions may have applied a few years ago, but there has been a marked change in amenities and improvements to wards at our psychiatric hospitals. No-one knows this better than I do,

because I have visited psychiatric hospitals many times and have seen these conditions. Many changes have taken place in providing better amenities and better living conditions for patients in our mental hospitals. One member referred to the filthy condition of our mental hospitals, but I emphasize that it is impossible in some wards of psychiatric hospitals to maintain what we would regard as clean conditions, because of the mental condition of the patients who are unable to control themselves. However, because of the devoted attention of the attendants and nurses employed in our mental hospitals, these conditions have improved beyond recognition. I believe that people who live in our mental hospitals (rather, our psychiatric hospitals, because we like to forget the word "mental") are living under immeasurably better conditions than they enjoyed 10 to 15 years ago.

They are not really aware of the conditions under which they live. It is the parents or the relatives of patients in psychiatric hospitals who feel that their loved ones are living in not very desirable conditions, who feel their plight so keenly. I say this definitely and feelingly because I have had personal experience of this; I have talked to many relatives of patients who have felt exactly as I have. I ask leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS (REDIVISION) BILL

A message was received from the Legislative Council agreeing to a conference on the Council's amendments to which the House of Assembly had disagreed, the conference to be held in the Legislative Council Conference Room at 4.15 p.m.

At 4.11 p.m. the managers proceeded to the conference, the sitting of the House being suspended. They returned at 10.37 p.m.

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier): I have to report that the managers have been at the conference, but that no agreement was reached. At that time I prepared my notes to say a few words here, but thought it best to wait and see what the Council would do with the Bill. I am pleased to report that another course of events has occurred. I ask leave to make a few short comments.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the House for permission to continue. Although the proposal for this Bill

must now go to an electoral commission for the drawing of boundaries, I believe that this is a significant point in time as we now have a Bill agreed to by both Houses of the South Australian Parliament providing for the redivision of the House of Assembly districts. Whilst I know that I cannot commit members opposite on what their attitude might be to the findings of the electoral commission, I believe that this is a turning point in the search for a compromise concerning electoral boundaries for this House. I believe that from now it will be a relatively smooth passage for the redistribution that must take place. Despite the words that were said and representations made at the conference, I commend the Legislative Council for its decision not to insist on its amendments. Those who have been embroiled in the search for a solution now know that members of any House that has to make this decision must face a difficult time, and I appreciate that the members of the Legislative Council were concerned with their electoral boundaries. I hope that this concern can be translated to the satisfaction of both Houses and an early effective redistribution of districts of that House achieved.

One of the conditions that I offered at the conference (a condition which, of course, was not actually accepted then, because we did not reach agreement) was that if the Legislative Council did not insist on its amendments the Government would facilitate the introduction of a Bill, either this session or next session, which would deal separately with a redistribution of Legislative Council boundaries on the same basis as that of the amendments that we considered this evening, namely, to provide for equal representation for country and city areas as defined in this Bill. Although no agreement was reached, I consider that the offer would still stand in the light of the subsequent move by the Legislative Council in this regard. Indeed, if representations are made by the Legislative Council concerning this matter, I feel honour-bound in regard to that promise.

Mr. McKee: Was that part of the deal?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: It is not to be referred to as "part of the deal". If it is a factor in this House's obtaining electoral redistribution, is the honourable member to continue—

The SPEAKER: Order! I cannot allow the Premier to pursue that line.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, but I think I should be treated in a better manner than that of the member for Port Pirie. Am I to be upbraided for keeping a promise? I do not accept the interjection.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Premier having obtained leave of the House to make a statement, I said that it could be made only without interjection. Interjections are out of order.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I consider that I have fairly stated one of the important conditions laid down at the conference. Although other matters were considered, I think these have been fully canvassed in the Legislative Council debate which has just taken place on the motion of the Chief Secretary. The motion, "That the Council do not insist on its amendments", was in accordance with Government policy. Several alternatives, which were considered at the conference by both sets of managers without a commitment from either side, were not accepted, and we now know that the Council's amendments are not insisted on. Finally, I wish to commend all concerned for what I consider to be a most satisfactory solution, and I feel proud to have played even a small part in bringing about the redistribution scheme that we have been seeking for many years.

The SPEAKER: If the honourable Leader of the Opposition wishes to speak, he must have the leave of the House.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): I, too, am glad that we have managed to get the Bill through both Houses and that it is possible now for the electoral commission to proceed to its work. It was clear in the conference that there were widely divergent views concerning the franchise, redistribution and method of election of the Legislative Council, and that it was not possible in any short conference to come to any sort of effective compromise on these issues.

Mr. Corcoran: It's taken seven years to get some sense into the Assembly.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Quite so. It was a long, hard conference and, for some time, we were not able to make any progress at all. Then, although I cannot say that all managers from the Council were unanimous in rejecting them, every one of the propositions

put up to them was rejected. The Premier has told honourable members that he gave an undertaking to members of the Council that, if they did not insist on their amendments, he would, on behalf of the Government, facilitate the introduction of a Bill to give effect to the same provisions regarding their distribution as those contained in the amendments.

Mr. Clark: The same ones?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. I make it clear that this was not an undertaking on behalf of the managers; it was made clear at the conference that this was not the case.

The Hon. R. S. Hall: It was a course of action you approved.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. The Government was able to say that, because it was said on behalf of the Government, not binding the managers or this House. Let me say here and now that I made very clear to the managers from the Legislative Council that such a proposition would never, in any circumstances, receive the support of the Labor Party. There was no undertaking on behalf of this House that it would pass any such measure: there was merely an undertaking that a Bill would be introduced so that members of this place could consider the proposal put forward by the Council.

The Hon. R. S. Hall: That was an agreed course; that a Bill would be introduced.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. Of course, the Government had made clear previously, in seeking to accept the Legislative Council's amendments, that it agreed to the proposals that the Council put forward, but we have made clear in this place that we do not accept those proposals, and that disagreement remains. Therefore, the position now is that the Council is not involved at this stage in the proceedings of the electoral commission, which can proceed. I hope that shortly this Parliament will be able to consider the report of the commissioners and, in consequence, a Constitution Act Amendment Bill. I also make clear that, for the Opposition to agree to pass any Constitution Act Amendment Bill, the last vote in this Parliament will need to be the third reading vote in this House. If we agree to the proposals of the electoral commissioners then we will support the measure in this House, with this House having the last say. Only in those circumstances can we guarantee to the people of South Australia that the agreement we have made and the compromise we

have reached will be the effective compromise in South Australia's constitutional reform.

The Legislative Council intimated that it did not further insist on its amendments.

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

Mr. BROOMHILL (West Torrens): I move:

That Orders of the Day (Other Business) be made Orders of the Day for February 12.

I have discussed this matter with the members concerned and they have agreed to the motion.

The SPEAKER: I accept the assurance of the honourable member for West Torrens.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.50 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, February 12, at 2 p.m.