

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

Thursday, February 13, 1969

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

**SCIENTOLOGY (PROHIBITION) BILL**

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

**PETITION: ABORTION LEGISLATION**

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON presented a petition signed by 214 electors of the House of Assembly. The petitioners viewed with concern any efforts to extend the grounds on which abortion was at present legally allowed and prayed that the House would not pass the Bill relating to abortion.

Received and read.

**QUESTIONS****TELEVISION TRANSMISSION**

Mr. RYAN: During the Christmas recess one of my constituents, who is apparently a sporting fiend, gave me a registered publication called *T.V. Week* which was dated December 28, 1968, and which contained an article stating that three television stations would show highlights of the Davis Cup on the evenings of Thursday, Friday and Saturday of that week. The article also reported that channel 9's programme manager, Mr. Rex Heading, had said that his station would be "feeding" a direct telecast to channel 9 network stations in other States and would show half an hour of highlights each night to Adelaide viewers. He also said that the laws in this State did not allow direct transmissions where people were paying good money to see a game on the spot. I realize, and pointed out to my constituent, that the State of South Australia has no control over television transmission, which is vested in the Commonwealth Parliament, but my constituent told me that he was drawing my attention to the statement by Mr. Heading, to which I have referred, concerning the laws in this State, and asked me to refer it to the Attorney-General. As this statement is apparently not correct, and as 'this is an official registered publication available to the public, will the Attorney-General ascertain whether the statement is true and, if it is not, ensure that this magazine publishes facts?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: From what the honourable member has said there seems to be a mistake somewhere, and I shall be pleased to look into the matter.

**BAROSSA VINTAGE FESTIVAL**

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: As the Minister of Immigration and Tourism knows, next April the Barossa Valley Vintage Festival will take place and will extend over a couple of days. Judging by previous attendances, it seems that there will be thousands of visitors, not only from this State but also from other States and overseas. Will the Minister favourably consider making arrangements to have highlights of this year's festival filmed, perhaps by an officer of the Tourist Bureau, in order to publicize this State and also in the interests of tourism?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I think the honourable member asked a similar question about another event, and I considered the possibility of arranging for further filming. I think these arrangements are being made, but I will check and give the honourable member a considered reply soon.

**RAILWAY SERVICE**

Mr. VIRGO: On December 5, I asked the Attorney-General to take up with the Minister of Roads and Transport the provision of facilities for the railways comparable with those provided by airlines. I am sure the Minister and, judging from his reply, the Attorney-General would be interested (I hope alarmed) to hear the contents of a letter I received recently from a Western Australian, as follows:

Whilst travelling through your State by train, I noticed remarks published regarding poor railway services. The tea and coffee procured by the conductor at Murray Bridge was just passable, but the lunch served at the Adelaide railway station was the worst we have had put before us in the preceding six months while we were travelling in the supposedly uncivilized countries of the Far East.

This is an indictment, which, unfortunately, is justified, of the service offered by the railways. I remind the Attorney-General of his previous reply in which he said that he had asked a question similar to mine but had got nowhere. The Attorney-General concluded his reply by saying:

However, now that we have a Minister who is energetic and forward looking, I will discuss the matter with him with great confidence that something can perhaps be done.

Has the Attorney-General discussed the matter with his energetic and forward-looking colleague in the Upper House, and, if he has, can he say whether the Minister of Roads and Transport intends to do anything about providing decent facilities for the travelling public? I

realize that, because of the train strike, this is an inappropriate time to ask such a question, but I hope the Attorney-General will not try to get out of the difficulty by using this excuse.

**The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE:** It would not have occurred to me to try to get out of answering the honourable member's question in any circumstances. I have discussed the matter with Mr. Hill, and I know that the honourable member will agree with the description which I gave Mr. Hill and which he has now repeated. Although I should be happy to discuss the matter again with the Minister, I should like to say, from my own experience, that I think that those who have written to the honourable member must have had an isolated and unfortunate experience because, whatever else one may say about the railways, I believe that the catering service is pretty good.

**Mr. Virgo:** What about having to get up in the middle of the night at Murray Bridge?

**The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE:** That has nothing to do with the catering service as such; those are the arrangements which have to be made because of the time table. I have always found the meal at the Adelaide railway station dining-room to be extremely good. The department's reputation, and certainly its reputation for outside catering, is high. I think those who have been in touch with the honourable member have had an isolated and unfortunate experience that is not in conformity with the general run of experience. However, I shall be happy to take up the matter again with the Minister.

#### CHOWILLA DAM

**Mr. HUDSON:** In the report of the technical committee of the River Murray Commission relating to the Chowilla and Dartmouth proposals, no information of any description is given about the particular assumptions made on the rate of evaporation for the Chowilla dam. I should be pleased if the Minister of Works could ascertain for me, first, what assumptions were made in 1961 about evaporation at Chowilla and, secondly, what assumptions were made on this occasion, including details of the relationship assumed between the rate of evaporation and the volume of water in Chowilla. Further, can the Minister explain the reasons for the change in any assumptions made concerning evaporation, and can he say what tests were carried out to support that change?

**The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE:** As the honourable member is seeking information

about the various assumptions and parameters basic in the study, some time might be taken in getting the information, but I will certainly get it as soon as I can.

#### RUTHERGLEN BUG

**Mr. ARNOLD:** During this season growers in the Upper Murray have been plagued by an infestation of Rutherglen bug about which comments have been made in the newspapers. Since the weekend rain and as a result of the weather conditions, the Rutherglen bug in the area has multiplied out of all proportion and there is also brown rot. Will the Premier have the Agriculture Department investigate the matter, as much loss in the apricot harvest has already occurred?

**The Hon. R. S. HALL:** I understand that, since the rain, the problem of the Rutherglen bug has intensified and that the incidence of brown rot has increased alarmingly. As a result, there is the prospect of great financial loss in the river areas. The Minister of Agriculture has already told me that he will ask the chairman of the committee which was recently appointed by the Government to look into the deciduous fruit industry to see whether the problem can be investigated urgently.

#### STAMP DUTIES

**Mr. CORCORAN:** Has the Treasurer a reply to the question I asked some time ago about donations to national parks or conservation organizations in this State?

**The Hon. G. G. PEARSON:** Yesterday, in reply to a question, I told the honourable member that the question might have slipped my mind, also escaping the department's attention. However, on examining the matter overnight, I have found that in fact the department has not overlooked it but has taken it up. The Prime Minister was written to by the Premier on December 24 last and asked that donations to statutory conservation authorities (and this would include the National Parks Commission) be considered deductible items for taxation purposes. To date we have not received a reply from the Commonwealth. Such a concession would, of course, give an incentive to those interested in conservation to make donations and this in turn would assist the commission in its finances. I might add that the Commonwealth Government has already recognized the importance of conservation by allowing donations made to the Australian Conservation Foundation Incorporated to be deductible items for taxation purposes.

## RECEIPTS TAX

Mr. GILES: Throughout South Australia many small shops that are not post offices sell postage stamps. Some correspondence in the daily press has stated that money received from the sale of stamps in such shops will be liable to the receipts tax. Can the Treasurer say what is the position regarding the sale of stamps by these shops?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Following the comments in the press, I have examined the matter and, in the circumstances, the Government is prepared to regard people selling postage stamps on licence as *de facto* agents of the Commonwealth Government. In this relationship, we will not insist that the tax be paid.

Mr. HURST: Several people asked me about this aspect some weeks ago as they had been given a ruling by the department that they had to include this amount in their return. Will the Treasurer ascertain whether officers have informed these persons that the previous ruling has now been changed?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I cannot say with any certainty whether the information has been passed on to inquirers. The honourable member will appreciate that what I have said today will probably receive some press coverage and that those people will know that the situation is as I have stated it today. I will ask whether the names are recorded in the office as inquirers, and if they are they will be informed.

Mr. VENNING: Will the Treasurer explain the receipts tax legislation as it affects primary producers in the sale of their wheat and wool and outline the stage at which these two commodities become taxable?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: True, this matter affects primary producers, but it also affects other people, in so far as the receipts tax is chargeable on the gross receipts obtained, from the sale of any commodity, by the seller from the buyer. The two matters the honourable member raises are the examples of the application of the tax, so I will use them as a means of illustrating my reply. The receipts tax is levied on the gross value of the sale of the goods sold. In the application of it, it is interpreted as being the value of goods sold at the time and at the point where the property in the goods passes from the buyer to the seller. I use those words advisedly because they are terms well understood in law and in interpretation. I repeat: the point and the price at which the property in the goods passes from the seller to the buyer. Therefore, in the case of wool, assuming it is sold at auction at the

Wool Exchange in Adelaide, the tax would be levied on the price the buyer at that auction pays to the seller for the wool that is on the broker's floor or wherever it might be—most likely at Port Adelaide. In the case of wheat or other grain, the property in the goods passes when the grower delivers his grain to the silo. At that point it ceases to be the property of the grower and becomes the property of the Australian Wheat Board or the Australian Barley Board, as the case may be. Therefore, the tax the grower pays will be the amount paid to him for delivery of his grain to the silo, whether the silo be at the terminal port, on a railway line, or at some other point; but at that point in time when the grower tips his wheat into the silo the property in the wheat passes from the grower to the buyer and becomes his property. The tax is payable on the gross amount received by the seller from the buyer at the point at which the property in the goods changes hands.

Mr. CASEY: As a primary producer, as I am, the Treasurer realizes that primary producers have an option of paying the new receipts tax at the end of the year when they compile their income tax return, through their taxation consultants, or of paying it under whatever arrangement is determined by the Treasury, which can apply certain rules and regulations. Has the Treasurer given stock and station agents permission to remove this tax from the account sales of primary producers whose accounts they hold or whose goods have been sold through them? If that is the case, the primary producers will not have to do this work at the end of the year. Can the Treasurer say whether stock and station agents are allowed to take out of the account sales of primary producers the receipts tax or can a primary producer pay whenever he desires, whether six-monthly, 12-monthly, or whatever the case may be?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member referred to primary producers, but I point out that this relationship exists not only in the primary production field but also in any relationship between agent and principal. It rests with the primary producer whether or not he elects to be a bulk taxpayer. If he so elects he must notify his agent (in this case the stock company) that he is a bulk taxpayer, and that will absolve the company, being the agent, from the responsibility of deducting the tax from the proceeds that pass through its hands to the producer. Unless the farmer, in this case, notifies his agent that he is a bulk taxpayer, under the

Act the agent is obliged to deduct the tax. Full provision is made in the Act for the agent to recover the tax he has paid on behalf of his principals from the proceeds he passes on to his client.

#### GLENSIDE HOSPITAL

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I have been told that extravagant expenditure on works carried out on the outside of the Glenside Hospital building has limited the work that can be done in renovating the inside of the building. This statement surprises me. Accordingly, in the interests of the public, will the Minister of Works obtain a report on the proposed renovations?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: This is the first I have heard of the suggestion. Knowing the honourable member's experience as Minister of Works, I can imagine how surprised he would be by such a statement. I see no merit in such a procedure being carried out and, to dispel any such rumour, if this is the case I will investigate it at once and make a statement accordingly.

#### NUCLEAR POWER

Mr. RICHES: When the Minister of Works replied yesterday to a question asked by the member for Frome about the case that South Australia would present to the Commonwealth Minister for National Development for the construction of a nuclear power station, he emphasized the aspect of the use of nuclear energy for the production of power. However, because we have available natural gas and other sources of power supply, use for that purpose may be somewhat of a matter for the future. Will the Minister say whether, in the case that he presents to the Commonwealth Minister, he will shift the emphasis to the use of nuclear energy for the desalination of water, and will he amplify the reply he gave yesterday? I know that the Minister has given much thought to the possibility of desalination, and advice on the latest thinking of the department on that matter would be appreciated.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I thank the honourable member for his interest in the matter. The question asked yesterday by the member for Frome referred principally to the Electricity Trust and the generation of power. However, when I was replying to another question last week, I referred to desalination. The most important factor in large-scale desalination is the availability of much electrical energy, and both of these projects tie in closely. I assure the honourable member that the trust has carefully considered the use of

nuclear energy for power generation and that the Engineering and Water Supply Department officers have similarly considered the use of that energy for desalination. Both authorities have kept abreast of the latest world developments in each field and I assure the honourable member that both aspects will be considered in my submissions to the Commonwealth Minister. In fact, in my opinion, the aspect of desalination would add strength to our case.

#### CONTAINERIZATION

Mr. McANANEY: Can the Premier say what effect the revised freight charges on containerization that have been announced will have in South Australia?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The announced reduction in the freight charges relating to container freight between the United Kingdom and Australia is, I think, a reduction of 7 per cent or 7½ per cent. This reduction is significant to South Australia, because the container system freight charge is common to all States: in other words, this freight reduction will apply equally to Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne and Fremantle. Of course, the advantage to be gained depends on whether the freight comprises small manufactures, or large bulk raw material such as wool. However, in some industries the advantage will be significant and will be passed on fully to South Australia.

Mr. McANANEY: In view of the reduced charges and of the advantages to the State, can the Minister of Works say how the plans for containerization at Port Adelaide are progressing?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I take it that the honourable member is seeking information about what steps are being taken at Port Adelaide to cater for the growing trade in containers in South Australia. No. 3 dock is presently being deepened and properly established so that the Australian National Line will be able to come to Port Adelaide. This work is currently in progress, and it is hoped that the facility will be available for these vessels to come into Port Adelaide towards the end of this year. The arrangement is that when A.N.L. vessels are not in that berth it will be available for other vessels that may be requiring the special facilities provided there for unloading the special cargoes that will be provided, including container cargoes. At present, as members are aware, containers are coming into Port Adelaide and being unloaded by means of the normal facility. The Marine and Harbours Department has concluded arrangements with

two oversea companies that are currently constructing their depots in the reclaimed area of the Gillman industrial estate, and I inspected one of the sites concerned about two weeks ago, when the piling was going into position. It is clear that adequate provision is being made in Port Adelaide for the handling of containers.

In addition, further negotiations are proceeding with another interested party to acquire land in the Gillman area also for the handling of containers. I am carrying out further investigations into the special types of crane that may be required in the future to handle this special type of cargo at Port Adelaide, so that the port will be able to participate more and more in handling the container type of cargo that has become so important in various ports of the Commonwealth and overseas.

#### KULPARA SCHOOL

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Minister of Education the reply that she promised to obtain about whether the Kulpara school residence was among the nine school residences which were considered uneconomic to maintain and needed to be replaced?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: A house for Kulpara is not listed in this particular programme, but arrangements are being made by the department for the provision of a new house for the head teacher. Action is being taken by the Director of Lands to dedicate Crown land (allotment 6, township of Kulpara) as a residence site. In a previous programme a residence was approved for erection at Tanunda. This residence is not now required and, following dedication of the residence site at Kulpara, approval will be sought to transfer the funds allotted for the residence at Tanunda to enable a new residence to be erected at Kulpara.

#### POULTRY

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to the question asked before the Christmas adjournment by the member for Light (Mr. Freebairn) about the poultry farm management study?

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

The poultry farm management study, conducted by poultry advisory officers and officers of the farm economics section of the Department of Agriculture, has been continued. The report for the year 1967-68 has been completed, and should be released to the public shortly. At this stage I can state that this report indicates the wide variation in returns from different types of egg production

enterprises. Some farmers are working at below cost of production, while others are still showing a reasonable margin of profit. I shall be pleased to make available to any interested honourable member a copy of this report as soon as it is ready for issue.

#### ANZAC HIGHWAY

Mr. BROOMHILL: My question refers to the sewerage work being undertaken on the Anzac Highway at Glenelg and at Adelphi Terrace, fronting the Patawalonga River. Yesterday the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) explained the difficulty that shopkeepers on the Anzac Highway have been experiencing because of the lack of customer parking facilities and the consequent effect on business. I refer specifically to the difficulty being experienced by the management and patrons of St. Leonard's Hotel, which has an entrance to the drive-in bottle department from the Anzac Highway and an exit to Adelphi Terrace. I understand that both the entrance and the exit are impassable and, although I regret that I have not examined the work (because I was told of this matter only just before lunchtime today), will the Minister of Works find out whether a temporary entrance and a temporary exit can be provided to this very important part of the hotel's business while this work is being performed?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I shall be pleased to examine the effect of the work on this important industry in this important part of the honourable member's district to find out whether relief can be given.

#### SMOKY BAY JETTY

Mr. EDWARDS: As the Minister of Marine has recently completed a tour of Eyre Peninsula, can he give a report in reply to my question of late last year about the present condition of the Smoky Bay jetty, the future of the jetty, and whether the Marine and Harbors Department will consider repairing it?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: The jetty at Smoky Bay has been leased to the District Council of Murat Bay since 1965. The council is responsible under the lease agreement for the maintenance of the superstructure. The superstructure of the outer 700ft. of the jetty beyond the landing steps is now in a very bad condition and constitutes a real hazard to the general public. Not only is the decking rotted, loose, and missing in places, but the supporting girders, cross-head, etc., are also in an advanced state of decay. The matter was discussed with the Chairman, District Clerk

and the Councillor for the Smoky Bay ward on January 23, 1969, and they agreed that the only acceptable course of action now was for the Marine and Harbors Department, at its own cost, to remove the decking, etc., from the outer 700ft. of the jetty and demolish one pile bent and two bays just beyond the steps to prevent unauthorized access to the outer end, and the sooner this is done the better. I personally inspected this jetty on January 12 this year, and I agree with the proposals. The shortened section of the jetty will be 560ft. in length and there is ample water at the steps for fishing and other small boats, even at times of low water.

#### HEATHFIELD SCHOOL

Mr. EVANS: In 1968, when I asked a question of the Minister of Education about playing fields at the Heathfield High School I was told that there was every indication that tenders would be called in 1968 for the construction of these fields. As tenders have not yet been called, will the Minister ascertain when they will be called?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I shall be happy to inquire for the honourable member.

#### TOURIST BUREAU

Mr. McKEE: Will the Minister of Works, in the temporary absence of the Minister of Immigration and Tourism, ascertain how many people are employed by the South Australian Government Tourist Bureau and how many other State Governments have an agency operating in South Australia?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: I will ask the Minister of Immigration and Tourism to obtain this information.

#### RAILWAY PASSES

Mr. CLARK: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Minister of Roads and Transport to the question I asked last week about refunds for season-ticket holders who had not been able to travel on the railway services on various days because of a rail strike?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: About 3,000 applications have been received for refunds on periodical tickets covering travel during the week ended February 1, 1969, during which week traffic was interrupted by a strike of railway employees. Although regulations do not provide for refunds being made on metropolitan tickets, in the instance under review refunds will in fact be made and it is expected that all of these will have been handled by the end of this week.

#### CLOVERCREST SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: The Minister of Education will recall that previously I have asked questions about the site of the Clovercrest Primary School having been rejected by the Public Works Committee because it was unsuitable and that an alternate site had been sought without result. As the matter was to be referred back to the Public Works Committee, can the Minister say whether this matter has been finalized?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I have received no further reports on it, but I will ascertain what is happening about this school and try to have the information by next week.

#### WHEAT

Mr. CASEY: A couple of days ago, when asking the Minister of Lands to inquire of the Minister of Agriculture about statements made by the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry (Mr. Anthony) concerning the wheat industry in Australia, I drew the Minister's attention to Mr. Anthony's statements, but in his reply the Minister of Agriculture said that he had not seen these statements. I now draw the Minister's attention to the *Farmer and Grazier* published on February 6, 1969, and in particular to an article on the front page headed "Wheat Curbs up to Industry"; also to page 7 of the *Advertiser* of Tuesday, February 4, 1969; and to the *Stock and Station Journal* of February 6, 1969. Will the Minister of Agriculture tell his colleague that these three publications have published statements attributed to the Minister for Primary Industry concerning wheat, and will he obtain a reply to my previous question?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will do that.

Mr. HUGHES: I hope that I receive more co-operation from the Minister of Agriculture on the question I am about to ask than I received on a question I asked about the wheat situation eight days ago. That question was considered vital by the people I represent, yet I have received no reply. Before the House adjourned for the Christmas break, the Government saw fit to introduce a Bill enabling the rationalizing of grain deliveries and providing that 75 per cent of the grain would be taken into the silos. In considering the priority of shipping, it was stated at a meeting at Kadina that no priority of shipping was available to any section of farmers. However, before I left home for the sittings of the House last Tuesday, I was waited on by a delegation of farmers who

have much wheat still stored in heaps in the paddocks and, after the heavy rain over the weekend, they were most concerned that relief had been given to farmers who had carted their wheat to Port Pirie, Port Lincoln and Ardrossan. The rather strange thing about it is that the cost factor (which the Government always maintains it considers) is not being considered at this juncture, because people who normally cart wheat to Port Pirie have been carting to Wallaroo and those who normally cart to Wallaroo have been carting to Ardrossan. Of course, as well as adding to the costs of the farmers, this has tied up a ship at Port Pirie for four days while another ship has been loading grain. On behalf of the farmers in my district, I ask the Minister of Lands to ask the Minister of Agriculture to discuss this matter with the General Manager of South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited with a view to obtaining relief at the silos at Wallaroo to enable people who still have wheat stored in paddocks to transfer it to silo storage.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: On obtaining leave to make a statement to explain his question, the honourable member immediately launched an attack on the Minister of Agriculture, accusing him of being inconsistent and of not replying to a question the honourable member apparently asked about eight days ago.

Mr. Hughes: That's right.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I do not know how long the honourable member expects a reply to take and I do not know what were the terms of his question, but I do know that the Minister of Agriculture is one of the busiest Ministers in the Government yet, at the same time, one of the most considerate. He is the last person to ignore a request from a member of this House, and I say that without knowing the precise question referred to. The honourable member then went on to explain his question. Without hesitation, I would say that his was one of the most complicated explanations possible, and I could not honestly make head or tail of the question.

Mr. Hughes: I am not asking you to: I am asking you to take it to the Minister of Agriculture. I don't want your opinion.

The SPEAKER: Order!

#### PORT AUGUSTA HOSTEL

Mr. RICHES: Has the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs a reply to my recent question seeking information about the erection of a hostel at Port Augusta?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The honourable member invited me to make a statement on this matter either yesterday or today. I have now a short statement on the proposal, as I thought it better to get this statement rather than to speak off the cuff yesterday. The Aboriginal Affairs Department is currently negotiating for the purchase of land at Port Augusta for the erection of a hostel to accommodate Aboriginal women and children from the North and Far North whilst attending outpatient treatment at the Port Augusta Hospital. Facilities will be provided for pre-natal and post-natal care. Architects are working up details of a suitable design for accommodation for about 50 people, and the first stage of construction is expected to commence in June. For this purpose we are using moneys from the Commonwealth Government granted under the State Grants (Aboriginal Advancement) Act, 1968. Although that is all I can tell the honourable member at present, he will realize we have not yet clinched the deal even on the land, but we hope to do this soon and to begin work within the next few months.

#### QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

Mr. HURST: During the recent heat wave I visited patients at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and was appalled at the lack of air-conditioning in the hospital. On that day the weather caused me some distress, and I was concerned at the conditions in which doctors and the staff of the hospital had to work. Will the Premier discuss with the Chief Secretary the question of providing air-conditioning throughout this hospital in order to give some relief to the patients and staff?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will discuss this matter with my colleague.

#### TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Mr. VIRGO: I wish to ask a question of the Premier. I noticed in this morning's newspaper (and I have checked in the galley proofs) that yesterday after a lengthy debate the Legislative Council carried a motion regarding the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study. I am waiting for the Premier's attention.

The Hon. R. S. Hall: I can hear you.

The SPEAKER: Order! To whom is the question directed?

Mr. VIRGO: I am addressing it to the Premier.

The SPEAKER: The Premier is conferring with his legal adviser.

Mr. VIRGO: I hope it is not necessary for me to repeat the preamble to my question. Can the Premier say whether the Government will comply with the requirement of the resolution passed by the Legislative Council by having the report submitted to this House for decision before it is implemented?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Government will be making an announcement on the M.A.T.S. Report early next week, and I am sure the honourable member will listen to it with interest.

#### JAMESTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. ALLEN: On November 20 last year I asked a question of the Minister of Education about the Jamestown Primary School Headmaster's residence, pointing out that the building was 92 years old and badly needed replacing. On December 4 the Minister replied that the house was listed as a replacement but she could not indicate when it would be replaced. However, I understand that a recent announcement was made that nine country headmasters' residences were to be renewed, and I believe that the Jamestown residence was included in the list. Can the Minister of Education say whether additional land has been obtained for the new residence, thus enabling the old building to be demolished and increasing the size of the schoolgrounds?

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

#### SALISBURY HIGHWAY

Mr. CLARK: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I recently asked about the proposed widening of the Salisbury Highway?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Funds are being made available to the city of Salisbury to enable the progressive construction of the Salisbury Highway as a divided highway. The upgrading of the road is necessary because of increased traffic volumes as a result of the rapid development of this area. It is expected that work over the next three to four years will be confined to the section between the Port Wakefield Road and Spain Road. Progress will be determined somewhat by the availability of land as, although the bulk of the land required for road widening has already been obtained through subdivision, there are several parcels of older developed land still outstanding. Land is being acquired, when available, for the section between Spain

Road and Park Terrace, but there are no definite plans at this stage for actual road widening to be carried out. The city of Salisbury is aware of Highways Department proposals and is, in fact, carrying out the work. Householders can obtain information direct from their council.

#### AIRCRAFT WORKS

Mr. LANGLEY: I was recently approached by a constituent concerning the retrenchment last Christmas of tradesmen at the Parafield aircraft works. I point out that maintenance work has recently been carried out on Dakota aircraft for the Navy, and it is intended that work on Dakota, Winjeel and Canberra aircraft will be phased out in 1973. On the other hand, tradesmen at Parafield have just successfully completed assembling a Fuji aircraft for the aircraft's South Australian representative (Holdfast Motors Proprietary Limited). As work on certain aircraft will continue until 1973, and as the assembly has commenced on the Japanese aircraft to which I have referred, will the Premier ascertain whether the workshop will now continue to function until 1973, instead of June 30, 1969, as previously stated?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I have made constant inquiries about the future of the Parafield repair workshops and, the honourable member having raised the matter on this occasion, I will ascertain whether any alteration has occurred in the time table regarding the closure of the workshop. From memory, I think the last date given concerning when work would cease was some time in April, and that information came to hand earlier this year. I will ascertain whether any alteration has occurred more recently. I entertained principals of the Fuji company only last week, or the week before that, and talked with them, in company with the person in charge of Holdfast Motors Proprietary Limited, about the aircraft to which the honourable member has referred and which is being assembled at Parafield. As the aircraft, which is strongly constructed, is one of the few light aircraft that has full aeronautic certification (or recognition) from the Department of Civil Aviation, there is expected to be a substantial demand for it in South Australia. The Industrial Development Branch is actively associated with the local company in this matter. If I go to Japan in April or May, I intend to visit the Fuji company in the interests of industrial promotion. I assure the honourable member that the Government has the



Fuji company's operation well in hand and is doing as much as it can to encourage it. On the other hand, I remind the honourable member that this is not likely soon to be a sizeable industry as, in fact, at present it deals only with assembly work. We greatly welcome this operation but we should not over-estimate its effect on the employment of South Australians. We have the matter under constant surveillance, and I will make the necessary additional inquiries immediately.

#### SCHOOLGROUNDS

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked last week and again yesterday about the planting of grass on ovals at the Glengowrie High School and the letting of a contract for the development of the ovals at the Brighton Boys Technical High School?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The sowing of the oval at the Glengowrie High School was completed on January 24, 1969. The reticulation system has also been completed and is in operation. With regard to the grassing and reticulating of the oval at the Brighton Boys Technical High School, a contract was let on December 24, 1968, for this work. Preliminary work commenced soon afterwards. However, a request was then received to relocate the hockey field. This necessitated alterations being made to the reticulation system. The design changes have now been completed and it is expected that the contractor will recommence work on site in one week's time.

#### MODBURY HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: On November 26, the Minister of Education gave me a list of secondary school sites held by the Education Department in the outer suburban section of the Barossa District. This reply stated that the department held land for a high school at Modbury Heights (part section 1586, hundred of Yatala) consisting of 20 acres. The report also stated that the department realized the school site was affected by the proposed Modbury Freeway as indicated in the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study Report. Can the Minister say whether the department is considering obtaining an alternative site? If it is not, has it any other action in mind?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The whole matter of the schools that may be affected by the M.A.T.S. Report is being investigated by officers of the department who will make a recommendation to me on these matters in

due course. However, I will inquire for the honourable member whether there is available an interim report that will give her any information about the specific site to which she referred.

#### BUSH FIRES

Mr. GILES: On January 15, the Minister of Agriculture received a deputation to discuss the bush fire problem in the Adelaide Hills. At this deputation it was suggested that the Director of Emergency Fire Fighting Services (Mr. Kerr) and I visit the councils in the Adelaide Hills area. This we did on January 29, and it became evident from talking to these well attended meetings of councils and fire-fighting officers that many people did not have a full appreciation of the provisions of the Act. Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture to convene a symposium on bush fires at which the Bushfire Advisory Committee, the Bushfire Research Committee, and officers of the E.F.S. can be made available to answer questions asked by council members and fire-fighting officers so that the provisions of the Act may be fully explained? From such a symposium might come suggestions on how bush fires might be prevented in the Adelaide Hills and in other areas.

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

#### SALT

Mr. RICHES: My question deals with the saltworks at Port Augusta and the Premier's proposed visit to Japan. There are salt fields immediately south of Port Augusta in which considerable interest was displayed by Japanese buyers while Sir Thomas Playford was Premier. I remember standing on the fields with Sir Thomas and representatives from Japan. Arrangements were made then for the Government to build loading facilities at the head of Spencer Gulf and a local company was formed but negotiations broke down. Saltworks have subsequently been established with considerable success in Western Australia, but the waters of Spencer Gulf, have proved to give a heavier salt yield than most other waters (98 per cent pure salt when taken from the fields, without any interference by fresh water streams running into the gulf). This has been described as the best salt-producing area anywhere in the Southern Hemisphere. When the Premier visits Japan, will he make special representations in this regard to Japanese interests to see whether something cannot be done to rehabilitate these saltworks? I know that his department has been negotiating

toward this end and that it has the details in its possession. I hope that, as a result of the Premier's visit, something more concrete may be available to us in this regard.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I appreciate the honourable member's question. One person has been in to see me twice concerning this proposition and I have told him that, when there is a business proposal, we will gladly look at it in regard to the Government's responsibilities that may be involved in loading facilities and support works necessary in setting up such an industry. In addition, several inquiries have been received from prospective industries in South Australia that would need large additional quantities of salt. Obviously, we are keeping our contacts with these companies current. There are many inquiries that my department and I are making and it is hoped that some of them will be successful. I cannot say that one of these salt-using industries will come to South Australia but, if it does, there could be an added demand for salt within the State. If this were so, a local salt industry would become important in both local and export terms. I will make sure that this is one of the points I follow up when I visit Japan. I assure the honourable member that this matter is current, both in my thinking and in my department's thinking.

#### PARLIAMENT HOUSE ACCOMMODATION

Mr. CLARK: As the Minister of Works knows, following legislation passed this week there will be a need for accommodation for eight additional members in this House. It may not be difficult to accommodate the eight new members in this Chamber but, as the Minister also knows, accommodation in Parliament House already is at a premium. Has the Minister given some thought to this matter? If he has, will he say what the plans are?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I have already initiated inquiries on this matter. Under the new Bill, there will obviously be an urgent need for at least eight additional members of the House of Assembly, and the Clerk of the House has told me that he will require additional staff. This poses several problems, and I assure the honourable member that inquiries are being made on how to meet the extra requirements for the service and accommodation of members. This matter will take some time to resolve and the necessary arrangements could be costly, but I will tell the House just as soon as plans have been made.

#### GREENHILL ROAD

Mr. GILES: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a reply to my question of February 5 regarding the straightening of the curves at the bottom end of Greenhill Road?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The honourable member asked me a question about straightening out Burnside's curves, and my colleague states:

Realignment of these curves cannot be carried out without considerable land acquisition and expense. Improvement at this locality would also tend to emphasize and increase any hazards existing at adjacent curves. It would therefore be necessary to undertake extensive improvements over a long length of road to enable any worthwhile upgrading to be achieved. Bearing in mind the character of this road and its relatively low accident record, extensive improvements of this nature are not considered warranted at the present time, particularly since safety rail protection is installed.

#### HOLDEN HILL SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: On November 7, 1968, the Public Works Committee reported favourably on a proposal to erect a new primary school at Holden Hill and on November 25 Cabinet approved the expenditure of \$249,000 to enable the scheduled programme to proceed. Can the Minister of Education give particulars of any developments regarding the provision of this school?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will obtain for the honourable member the latest information available.

#### CHILD-MINDING CENTRES

Mr. VIRGO: I have been approached by a constituent who conducts three child-minding centres now under the supervision and, I may say, rather rigid control of the Marion council: to its credit, the council demands an extremely high standard of accommodation and conduct in these centres. This constituent's cause for concern arises from her having been provided with a draft copy of a document entitled, "Child-minding centres, proposed regulations", and being told that consideration is being given to bringing these regulations into force under the control of the Minister of Social Welfare. Unfortunately, I cannot say under which Act this will be done and I hope that the Minister will be able to tell me that. I understand that this arrangement is intended to remove the supervision and control of these centres from the councils and to vest control in the Minister. Does

the Minister know anything of this proposal and, if he does not, will he find out the reason for this action and what is intended?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The first I knew of this matter was a question from the Leader, the import of which was the direct opposite of the import of the honourable member's question. I think the Leader implied that it would be a good thing to take control out of councils' hands. I have not seen the regulations. I understand that the Leader's question arose from a visit to him, at his invitation, by representatives of the Association of Child-minding Centres. Representatives of this association will call on me within the next week and I intend to discuss the whole matter with them. However, I am now in the difficult position of having had representations from two Opposition members to contrary effect.

#### PETERBOROUGH RAMPS

Mr. CASEY: Before Christmas I asked several questions about hand rails on ramps at Peterborough that were reconstructed during the railways standardization programme. I have been awaiting a reply from the Minister of Roads and Transport to my last question, which I asked several months ago. However, apparently he has forgotten about it. I should like to add to my earlier statement by pointing out that, although the Railways Commissioner claims that it is not the policy of the Railways Department to provide hand rails on ramps, between the end of last year and the present time I had made inquiries and have inspected hand rails installed by the department in some Adelaide suburbs in the past few years. I cannot understand why hand rails can be provided at suburban ramps but cannot be provided at ramps in country areas.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member cannot debate the question.

Mr. CASEY: Will the Attorney-General ask his colleague why hand rails cannot be provided at the Peterborough ramps under the standardization programme? If the Attorney gets a reply to my previous question and to this one, I shall be pleased.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I remember the series of questions that the honourable member asked last year and I thought that he had replies to them.

Mr. Casey: They were very vague.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The honourable member now complains that the replies were not good enough because they were vague, but I thought he said that he had not had replies.

Mr. Casey: I asked a further question.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will certainly follow up the matter and see whether I can get replies for the honourable member.

#### ROYAL VISIT

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Can the Premier say whether the Prime Minister has sympathetically considered his request that South Australia be included in the itinerary for the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to Australia later this year?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: As soon as I knew that Her Majesty was coming to Australia, I sent a telegram to the Prime Minister and followed that up by a letter. I have not yet received a reply, although I will check whether it is in the mail today. If I do not receive a reply by the end of this week I will raise the matter again.

#### WOOMERA ROAD

Mr. RICHES: From time to time, representations have been made to the appropriate authorities about the sealing of the road between Port Augusta and Woomera. The replies received from the Commonwealth state that money has been made available to South Australia in a lump sum for general road-works in outback areas, the responsibility of giving priority to the Woomera road being a matter for the State Government, whereas the reply from the State Minister is that a case has been made out for a special grant for work on this road and that the Commonwealth has not yet replied to that submission. The Attorney has assured me that the matter will not be allowed to rest there, and I am sure that his colleague would see that it was pursued until a reply was received. Will the Attorney again take up this matter with his colleague and let us have a Ministerial statement about this road?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

#### PESTICIDES

Mr. HURST: The Minister of Agriculture, I think before Christmas, took steps to restrict aerial spraying of D.D.T. because of the possible effect that pesticide would have on plants and on the health of the community. Will the Minister of Lands ask his colleague whether those measures were intended to cover the sale, for use in gardens, of D.D.T. by department stores and other shops? If they were not, will the Minister ascertain whether D.D.T. garden sprays are as detrimental to the health as is aerial spraying?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I think that the restrictions applied to agricultural spraying (not necessarily only to aerial spraying), which would be involved in the production of meat and probably vegetables, but as I am not sure whether it applied to domestic gardens I will obtain this information.

#### SECONDHAND DEALERS

Mr. VIRGO: On September 18 I referred to the Attorney-General a letter that he and I had received from the Clerk of the City of Marion, pointing out an alleged anomaly in the Act that would allow the setting up of a second-hand dealer's business in a residential area despite an objection by the council, because the permit for the licence was issued by the Police Department and overrode the council's objection. The Attorney-General told me then, and several times since, that he was inquiring into the matter and hoped to be able to tell me what action he was taking. Has he reached a decision?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I regret that the honourable member has not received a final reply. Councils have never taken a hand in these matters, because the issue of licences has been a matter for the local court, I think. Having considered the points which the honourable member has raised and which were transmitted to him by the City of Marion, I have not made any recommendation to Cabinet to alter the situation.

#### STUDENT TEACHERS

Mr. HUDSON: Under the heading "Student Book Grants" an article in today's *News* states:

A lump-sum advance payment is being made today to teachers college students to help them buy textbooks this year. Students are receiving an advance of \$45, repayable in nine fortnightly instalments of \$5. The Education Minister (Mrs. Steele) approved the payment following meetings with student representative councils of the colleges and the S.A. Institute of Teachers last year.

Can the Minister of Education say whether the \$45 was determined so that it would be in line with the average needs of students in purchasing textbooks?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: As I promised when I received a deputation from students, meetings were held between the students and the Director-General of Education at which some of the problems they raised were considered, and this was one of them, particularly as it related to new students attending the colleges for the first time. At one stage it was suggested that a larger grant should be made, but this was considered unsatisfactory and

was not accepted because the student would have to pay back a larger sum for a much longer period. Since making the announcement about a fortnight ago I have received no representations on this matter.

Mr. HUDSON: On September 17 last the Minister, in reply to the member for Whyalla (Hon. R. R. Loveday), said that expenditure for the financial year 1967-68 on teachers college students' textbooks and travelling allowances was \$126,500 and \$229,500 respectively, making a total of \$356,000. If the Minister will recall, it was that figure that we demonstrated to be an average of \$101 a student, and this led to the increase in the allowance from \$85 to \$105. Naturally, the cost of textbooks to the department in any one year under the old scheme was less than the cost of textbooks for one full year, because each textbook would last longer than one year. The implication in these ratios, if they have been employed to determine the increase in the student allowances, would be that the student allowance for books alone should have been about \$35. That would have been an almost exact matching of the department's own costs. Will the Minister say what estimate was included for textbooks in determining the increase in student teachers' allowances to be paid this year, and, if it was different from the \$45 loan that is now being made to students, will she consider referring this fact to the special committee she has established, so that the committee may make appropriate adjustments to its own thinking on this matter and so recommend a suitable increase?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The honourable member's explanation, as is so often the case, was very involved. However, when I see the text of the question in *Hansard* I will study it and obtain a report on the matter.

#### SHIPBUILDING

Mr. HURST: In this morning's newspaper it was reported that Australian shipping firms had let contracts to Japanese companies to build containerized cargo ships. No doubt the Premier is aware that the shipbuilding industry at Whyalla has suitable facilities to build ships of all types and sizes, and at Birkenhead the Adelaide Ship Construction Company is able to build small ships. Will the Premier say what steps, if any, he took to try to retain these shipbuilding orders in South Australia?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The shipbuilding yards at Whyalla have constructed two container ships for the Australian service. These

ships may not be as large as the oversea container ships but they are of a reasonable size and will be used to transport container cargo around the Australian coast. The building of ships in Australia depends largely on a Commonwealth subsidy to the purchasers because, as the honourable member must realize, ships can be obtained from overseas more cheaply than they can be constructed in Australia. It would be fair to say that the building of every ship at Whyalla would be assisted with a Commonwealth subsidy to the purchaser. I am not aware of what arrangements have been made by oversea companies or whether the shipbuilding yards at Whyalla are able to construct ships of the size of those mentioned in the article, because I have not seen the article and I do not know the size of the vessels. We have been concerned in the past about the possibility of building an 85,000-ton ship at Whyalla, and I have made many representations to Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited and to the Commonwealth Government about that matter. I will try to obtain information about these oversea orders for the honourable member.

#### BUILDERS LICENSING ACT

Mr. VIRGO: On August 27 last year I asked the Minister of Housing a question about the appointment of persons to the Builders Licensing Advisory Committee, and the Minister was good enough to explain then and subsequently that the whole matter was being considered and that he hoped shortly to be able to have the matter finalized so that the committee could be appointed and the Act operating as it was designed to operate. Has the Minister any information on the progress being made in this direction?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I think that, subsequent to the honourable member's asking the question to which he has referred, I answered another question asked by him.

Mr. Virgo: There have been several questions.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: There have been some difficulties in drafting the proposals which the Government has in mind in regard to this measure. Although it is virtually completed I am afraid the Bill cannot be ready for introduction this session. Much time has been spent on the matter, although I do not blame anyone for our present position. In fact, the chairman of the board has given his time freely, and the Parliamentary Draftsman has given all the time that he could give in liaison with the chairman of the board. I regret to say that I cannot introduce in the House this

session the amendments desired by the Government, but the measure will receive priority as soon as we meet again, because it has already been delayed considerably.

#### SNAKE GULLY RESERVOIR

Mrs. BYRNE: I have previously raised the possibility of constructing a new reservoir at Snake Gully on the Little Para River. On January 18 last an article appeared in the *Advertiser* stating that the site investigations by the Engineering and Water Supply Department had shown that it would be possible to build a dam on the Little Para River north of Salisbury, and the Minister is quoted in the article as saying that such a dam had been under consideration for some time and that investigations were taking place. He is also reported as saying that suitable rock was available in the area for either a rock fill or concrete dam, that it would be a service reservoir supplying the Salisbury and Elizabeth area, and that it would act as a storage that could be supplemented by existing mains. It was finally stated that "it must be realized that the flow of the Little Para River has an important bearing on the replenishment of the underground supplies of the northern Adelaide Plains". Can the Minister of Works say in what year investigations were begun in connection with the possibility of constructing a reservoir in this area, and can he say whether any land has been acquired by the Government over the years for this purpose?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I will obtain the information for the honourable member. Having been asked whether it was possible to build such a reservoir, I said that it was. Considerable investigation had taken place in this matter and, indeed, investigation is currently being undertaken in other localities in the Adelaide Hills as part of the department's forward programme in trying to get a few years ahead of our requirements, particularly in respect to the metropolitan area. The project to which the honourable member has referred is one of those included in this programme. In my reply which appeared in the article referred to, I went to some trouble to point out the importance of the Little Para River in replenishing the underground water supplies of the plains north of Adelaide, a factor which is most significant and which is tied up with the operations of many producers who wish to use this underground water. Therefore, before any decision was made, this result had to be considered carefully. I will obtain for the honourable member the details she has requested.

**EUDUNDA TO MORGAN RAILWAY LINE**

The SPEAKER laid on the table the report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence, on Eudunda to Morgan Railway Line.

Ordered that report be printed.

**WHYALLA HOSPITAL (VESTING) BILL**

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to vest certain property that constitutes and is known as the Whyalla Hospital in Her Majesty the Queen, to provide for the future control and management of the hospital, and for purposes incidental thereto. Read a first time.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

As honourable members may be aware, certain administrative difficulties have occurred in relation to the hospital at Whyalla. Since these difficulties appeared in the circumstances to be insoluble, the previous Government decided that the hospital, which is being operated by an association known as the Whyalla Hospital Incorporated, should be taken over by the Government and operated as a public hospital under the Hospitals Act. On its assumption of office the present Government, after examining the situation, decided to give effect to the decision of the previous Government. To effect this transfer of responsibility, the Government has been advised that an Act of this Parliament is necessary and accordingly honourable members are now asked to consider this Bill.

Clause 1 is quite formal. Clause 2 sets out the definitions of expressions used in the Bill. Clause 3 provides for the fixing of a "vesting day", that is, the day on which the transfer will actually take place. The determination of the actual day will depend on the progress of the administrative and financial arrangements necessary to ensure a smooth changeover. Clause 4 sets out the legal effect of the transfer which will take place on the vesting day. Clause 5 is intended to ensure that the rights of any creditor of the hospital or of any person having an actual or prospective claim against the association will be substantially unaffected by the changeover. A corporation is created to stand in the place of the association and, as a corollary, to sue or take any other proceedings on behalf of the association. At subclauses (3) and (4) appropriate provision is made to meet successful claims against the corporation.

Clause 6 specifically empowers the corporation to assume the obligation of the association with regard to the repayment of moneys loaned by the Whyalla Town Commission. In fact the Government has undertaken this obligation of repayment since the inception of the borrowing programme but only *vis a vis* the association. The obligation will now be related specifically to the commission. Clause 7 empowers the Registrar-General to make any necessary alteration to his records. Clause 8 institutes the hospital as a public hospital within the meaning of the Hospitals Act.

Clause 9 ensures that an opportunity exists for hospital staff, who on the vesting day obtain employment with the Government otherwise than as officers under the Public Service Act, to count their previous service with the hospital for the purposes of leave of absence. A similar provision already exists to cover the case of persons who become officers under the Public Service Act. However, I would point out that this section does not confer any right or entitlement to future employment with the Government. Clause 10 is generally self-explanatory and is designed to ensure that no unforeseen circumstances will inhibit the transfer of control.

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

**CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION ACT  
AMENDMENT BILL**

Report of the Select Committee to be brought up.

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

That the time for bringing up the Select Committee's report be extended to Tuesday, February 18.

I wish to say briefly that the committee has come to its conclusion and decided on the contents of the report, but it has just not been physically possible to have the report ready for laying on today. However, it will be ready on Tuesday.

Motion carried.

**INDUSTRIAL CODE AMENDMENT BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from February 12. Page 3553.)

Mr. VIRGO (Edwardstown): I support the second reading, but when the Committee stage is reached there are a couple of things the Opposition desires to do. Generally speaking, the Bill meets with the Opposition's approval in that it re-establishes the position of Deputy President. It still retains, in the general context, the existing principles in

accordance with the Code, as it was amended, to provide for the appointment of Commissioners, a practice which everyone realizes has functioned well. However, we desire to make one or two alterations after the Bill has been read a second time.

Bill read a second time.

Mr. VIRGO (Edwardstown) moved:

That it be an instruction to the Committee of the whole House on the Bill that it has power to consider a new clause to make provision for the appointment of an Industrial Registrar as an Industrial Magistrate.

Motion carried.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 23 passed.

Clause 24—"Power to issue orders to take evidence."

Mr. VIRGO: This clause amends the principal Act by giving the power of originating industrial proceedings to the Deputy President as well as to the President. This is in conflict with the Bill and the Act, as amended, and is out of step with the established principle, namely, that the President of the court shall be the principal officer vested with the necessary power. In earlier sections provision has been adequately made for the Deputy President to act and assume the full powers and responsibilities in the absence of the President but, unfortunately, if this clause is passed, it will permit the Deputy President to assume the same responsibilities in originating industrial proceedings as are currently vested in the President. This is an undesirable situation. If the Deputy President were to do this at the direction of the President or with the prior consent of the President it would be different, but a situation could easily develop in which the Deputy President decided to start a course of proceedings contrary to the views and desires of the President. If section 46 of the Act remains as it is nothing will be taken away by the Bill's provisions and it would still leave full control of the court in the President's hands. Will the Minister agree not to press this clause?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE (Minister of Labour and Industry): This clause is equally important to a number of other clauses of this type contained in the Bill. The whole purpose of this clause and others is merely to provide that the Deputy President shall act in the absence of the President. This is the whole purpose of this group of clauses and it will give the same powers to the Deputy President as the President enjoys under the Act, so that the Deputy can act in the President's absence.

If the honourable member examines the series of clauses we are dealing with he will see that clause after clause is being amended by having the words "Deputy President" inserted to give him power to do things or to give him protection, on the basis that he would act only in the President's absence. To accomplish what the honourable member has in mind would be involved. I think the clause should remain as it is.

Mr. VIRGO: I am surprised at the Minister's view. He suggests that this amendment would take care of the situation when the President is not available, but clause 3 already does that.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: Yes, but he must be given certain powers.

Mr. VIRGO: Under clause 3, the Deputy President shall act as the President. There is no restriction there. There is one man in control, and if it is the Deputy who is in control while the President is away there is still one man in control, whereas the clause would put two men in control. Instead of deleting the clause we should add a rider: "the President may, or, in his absence, the Deputy President may . . ." I would not object to that. If the Minister agrees to such an alteration it will still achieve the same result.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: Is this the only clause of this type to which the honourable member objects?

Mr. Virgo: Yes.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I move:

After "or" to insert "in his absence".

Although I do not believe the amendment is necessary, I am happy to move it.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Clauses 25 to 37 passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

#### ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from February 12. Page 3574.)

Mr. EDWARDS (Eyre): I support this Bill. Most of the problems that have been mentioned have referred to the Court of Disputed Returns and the proceedings of that court. I agree with the member for Chaffey (Mr. Arnold) that an independent judge, not a returning officer, should give a final decision on matters of this nature. Much has been said about postal votes and about who will determine whether they have been posted in time. In country areas, particularly in small towns on Eyre Peninsula and in other sparsely settled areas, mail is stamped only when it is about to be picked up for despatch for

further delivery. In such towns the postmaster is usually the proprietor of the only store, the mail is picked up not on Saturday but, say, on Monday or Tuesday, and is stamped immediately before it is picked up. In these circumstances, except in the unlikely event of a person's seeing another person post a ballot-paper on a day after the polling day, no-one could prove that the ballot-paper was not posted on the Saturday.

I am sorry that you have clamped down on interjections, Mr. Speaker, because many interjections could have been made when members opposite were speaking. Yesterday the member for Adelaide (Mr. Lawn) said that his dog had jumped up and run to the television screen to look at the Premier and you, Mr. Speaker, on television. However, the honourable member did not know that the dog had jumped up in recognition of two fine men. Further, I think the fact that the honourable member's dog licked the screen when you were speaking on television, Mr. Speaker, showed that the dog found and was recognizing a new master.

I am sure that much unnecessary work and time is involved in handing out how-to-vote cards on election day. The displaying of these cards behind glass or clear plastic in a prominent place in polling booths would save the Parties much money and Party workers would not have to spend time handing out the cards. From my experience at the recent Millicent by-election I think that many people can be upset by the present system of handing out how-to-vote cards. Some who were handing out these cards at Millicent agreed with me that the system should be changed. You, Mr. Speaker, and other members realize how difficult it is at election time to obtain enough willing helpers to hand out these cards, and I hope the authorities will consider favourably the suggestion to change this system. I support the Bill.

Mr. HUGHES (Wallaroo): I do not intend to delay this measure, because I consider that it is a Committee Bill, and when it reaches that stage I will have more to say on various clauses. The proceedings of the Court of Disputed Returns, which were conducted in this Chamber last year, revealed several loopholes in the Electoral Act. To me, the Millicent by-election will go down in history because of the type of evidence that was presented to the court by various people who claimed that they had either signed or witnessed postal votes. I was present in the Speaker's Gallery when evidence was being heard, and I was staggered

at the replies of various witnesses in support of their claims that they had witnessed postal votes before the day of the election. One witness apparently changed the date of the rubber stamp and, to me, it seemed that in that instance the witnessing of the postal vote had taken place on the Sunday morning and not on the Saturday at 11.30. I was amazed to hear of the various methods that were used to induce people to sign declarations, because I did not think that such things took place in this State. Because of the irregularities that were revealed at these proceedings, most members want the Electoral Act to be amended. Mr. Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the House.

*A quorum having been formed,*

Mr. HUGHES: While the bells were ringing to summon members back to the Chamber, there were some rude interjections from members opposite, but I believe that the members for Chaffey and Stirling should be the last to say from which side of the House members are missing. I agree with the clause of this Bill that provides that postal votes should be in the polling box by 8 p.m. on the day of the poll. If the present system continues, whereby a postal vote can be received up to seven days after the close of the poll and is counted if the returning officer is satisfied that it was posted before the close of the poll, further opportunities for irregularities will occur. The instance of the Millicent by-election was not the first time that the attention of the House has been drawn to certain irregularities in the section of the Act concerning postal votes. I remember that, when a previous member was elected for Chaffey, much controversy was caused concerning the accuracy of the time and the validity of the stamp marks of some postal votes. The Government is acting wisely in this instance, and I believe the people of this State will accept this provision, because it will stop irregularities similar to those that occurred in the Millicent by-election. I agree with the provision that allows any person over the age of 18 years to be eligible as a witness to an application form for a postal vote. Prior to the amendment, practically every adult in South Australia had the right to witness and sign a voting envelope containing an elector's vote. As the Act stands today, one must be enrolled as an elector of the Commonwealth of Australia in order to be able to do this. I believe that the new provision is a step in the right direction, because it recognizes the younger people in the community as being responsible



people. If the Labor Party had had its way last year, 18-year-olds would have been eligible also to vote, but this Government was not prepared to go that far. Nevertheless, the Government apparently paid heed to our representations on that occasion, because it would not have been introducing this particular provision otherwise. The Government did not believe last year that 18-year-old people were sufficiently responsible to vote, but at the time I said that I had great respect for the young people and that, despite what other members said, they were more advanced than previous generations in their knowledge of this Act and of many other measures, as a result of the higher education and greater opportunities they received.

I have always believed that a returning officer should have an ordinary vote, just as any other citizen has a vote. I think everyone should receive this same privilege, irrespective of his position on voting day or on any other day, and I trust that in the future returning officers will have the opportunity to cast a vote as ordinary citizens and that they will not receive a casting vote. The provision in the Act that gives the returning officer a casting vote in the case of two opposing candidates' polling an equal number of votes is in my opinion entirely wrong. A returning officer should not have to toss a coin in order to decide who should win an election. Indeed, the toss of a coin might decide not only who should win an election in a certain district but also who should govern the State as a whole, and I do not think that is right. In the event of an equality of votes I believe that the sitting candidate should be declared elected.

The Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe: What if a sitting candidate retires?

Mr. HUGHES: That would be an entirely different matter and then, if there were an equality of votes, there would be a fresh election.

The Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe: What about the case of a redistribution, when there are all new candidates?

Mr. HUGHES: The same thing would apply. If there were two fresh candidates and there was an equality of votes, in that case there would be a new election.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: What if a member was the member up to election day, then there was a redistribution with the districts being changed, and this member stood as the candidate for the new district?

Mr. HUGHES: Then there would be a fresh election. If, following a redistribution,

the Treasurer stood for a seat other than Flinders and there was an equality of votes, there would be a fresh election.

Mr. Hurst: Who should get the seat if the member for Eyre and the member for Flinders tied?

Mr. HUGHES: If there was an election in Flinders, the member for Eyre stood against the present member for Flinders, and there was an equality of votes, the present member for Flinders should be declared the member. If such a contest was actually held, I would not say who would win, but I do not think it would be the member for Eyre. I wish to refer to the provision in clause 5 for a referee.

Mr. Edwards: You'll want a referee if you keep on in this vein.

Mr. HUGHES: I challenge the member for Eyre to come to Wallaroo (or I will go to his district) and debate with me any issue he desires.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member to come back to the Bill.

Mr. HUGHES: Clause 5 provides for the appointment of a local court judge, a special magistrate, or a legal practitioner, of not less than seven years' standing, as electoral referee. Why does the Government want this provision in the Bill? In the Returning Officer for the State (Mr. Douglass) we have one of the most capable men in Australia, who has given outstanding service. He is not a "yes" man, and that cannot be denied. The Government may appoint a local court judge, but we have already been told that judges have more than enough to do now. They are being paid high salaries. If one follows the movements of special magistrates, one finds they are already overloaded with work. When we have talked about increasing the number of judges in the State, how many times has it been agreed that, because of the load of work on these men's shoulders (they do shoulder a load of work, and they are doing a good job), they should not be given more work? Why give them more work when we have been told that they have more work than they can handle? Why pay a legal practitioner to do a job when he is earning a substantial income in his profession? I have nothing against the legal profession or the work it does. I do not know what we would do without the profession but, at the same time, I object to any of these people being appointed as a referee to take the place of the State's Returning Officer. It leads me to think that, because of the Returning Officer's fairness to everyone in the State,

the Government wants to get rid of the present Returning Officer. I cannot think of any other reason. This work would be one of his major tasks.

Mr. RYAN: Who would know the Act best?

Mr. HUGHES: No local court judge, special magistrate or legal practitioner would know the Electoral Act better than does the Returning Officer. Because of that, I strongly object to having any change in this connection. I hope the Government in its wisdom will not press that Mr. Douglass be relieved of this obligation, which is his by virtue of the high office he holds. I certainly would not be a party to giving this duty to people who already have certain jobs or to anyone who, because of the situation he occupies, is already overloaded with work, and I certainly do not favour the idea of appointing a legal practitioner, because we already have in the Returning Officer one of the finest men and one who is most knowledgeable on the Electoral Act. I hope the Government will not press for this additional appointment.

*Later:*

Mr. RYAN (Port Adelaide): I agree with other members that this is an extremely important amendment. It has been in the minds of the Party in Government and has caused concern to those in Opposition since 1961, and the Bill is long overdue, but we now witness an amazing spectacle. The Attorney-General, who as an Opposition member was adamant that these amendments were necessary, has been noticeably absent since the debate has been resumed. If any major points are raised (and there have been, previously) in this second reading debate, the Minister should be in the Chamber.

Mr. Rodda: He can hear you.

Mr. RYAN: The Minister in charge of the Bill was extremely critical because these amendments were not introduced previously, and as an Opposition member he criticized Ministers for not being present in the House, but when this debate was resumed (and it has been continuing for two hours this afternoon) he was not in the House.

Mr. Rodda: He has not missed any point you have made.

Mr. RYAN: And he will not gain any knowledge from the member for Victoria's contribution, either.

Mr. Hudson: You agree that the Minister is beyond help?

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Port Adelaide does not need any assistance in making his speech.

Mr. RYAN: It is not often that I agree with you, Mr. Speaker, but I do this time. I distinctly remember that this important matter first reared its head in 1960, at the time of the Frome by-election caused by the death of Mr. O'Halloran, when our worthy present member for Frome (Mr. Casey) was elected to Parliament. There were many irregularities at that time and this Party, of which I am a member, was loud in its claim that amendments were necessary to avoid a repetition of what had happened during the Frome by-election. The amendments we proposed then were defeated by the Government.

Now today, in 1969, the Attorney-General, who as an Opposition member during the term of office of the Labor Government was loud in his demands for an amendment of the Act, is not present. If that is the way this Parliament is to be treated, it is about time the matter was voiced loudly in this Chamber. There are several other clauses in the Bill that I do not favour, and they have been clearly enunciated by members of the Opposition. I do not say that the amendments submitted by the Attorney-General are all bad: many of them are extremely good, and they are long overdue. Let us hope they will rectify some of the past anomalies. However, some of these amendments should be rejected when we come to the Committee stage.

First of all, the Attorney-General says that this legislation is somewhat similar to that adopted by the Commonwealth. We do not want to confuse the electors, because some of them are never too sure whether an election is a State or a Commonwealth election. All they know is that an election is being held; they are not certain of the ramifications or requirements of an election, but they try to do their duty as electors. Instead of observing uniformity with the Commonwealth legislation, in certain parts of this Bill we have gone in the opposite direction, and there is no uniformity. That which did exist is removed from our legislation, which will now in some respects be different from that of the Commonwealth. For instance, there is the provision that deprives a candidate in a State election of the right of being a witness to an application for a postal vote, but he will retain that right in the case of a Commonwealth election.

Therefore, when a person requires assistance in applying for a postal vote, he will be confused by being told, "The candidate can help you if it is a Commonwealth election, but not if it is a State election." When we have

two Commonwealth elections simultaneously, one for the House of Representatives and one for the Senate, a candidate can assist and witness an application for a postal vote; but, in the case of a State election, the candidate must say to the applicant for a postal vote, if this provision is carried, "I cannot assist you because I am not allowed to witness an application for a postal vote if it is a State election." That immediately creates an anomaly, which is undesirable. We want uniformity in these matters. There is already enough confusion in the minds of the electors: do not let us create more. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

#### LOTTERY AND GAMING ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 3)

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.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Lottery and Gaming Act, 1936, as amended. Read a first time.

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

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

It is presented for consideration of Parliament in accordance with an election promise made by this Government and in accordance with the financial programme set out in the Budget presented during September last. The promise was that the Government would abolish the winning bets tax when the income to the Government from the operations of the Totalizator Agency Board equalled the return from the winning bets tax. The board commenced operations on March 29, 1967. The revenues from the winning bets tax for the 12 months to the end of March, 1967, were \$1,007,000 and for the year ended June 30, 1967, were \$1,010,000. The income actually received by the Government from T.A.B. for the 12 months to the end of January, 1969, was a net \$857,280, made up of ordinary commissions (\$774,121), fractions (\$162,792), unclaimed dividends (\$70,677), and Broken Hill commissions (\$1,215), less the reimbursements paid to the clubs to the extent of \$151,525 for the first year after they ceased to share in the reduced winning bets tax.

However, now that the reimbursements to the clubs will cease and, as T.A.B. turnover is expanding, the income available to the Government will steadily be increased. In fact, T.A.B.

turnover has been expanding this year at a rather greater rate than was earlier expected. The best estimates that can be made by the Treasury indicate that for the 12 months to the end of May, 1969, the income available to the Government from T.A.B. will almost certainly fall a little short of the pre-T.A.B. revenues from the winning bets tax. For the 12 months to the end of June next the income may be very slightly above the pre-T.A.B. revenues, whilst it is almost certain that for the 12 months to the end of July next the income from T.A.B. will have clearly exceeded the pre-T.A.B. revenues from the winning bets tax. Accordingly, the appropriate as well as the convenient date for the complete removal of the winning bets tax is July 1, 1969.

Clause 5 so provides by the simple expedient of limiting the incidence of the tax to bets made prior to the first day of July, 1969. The recent Budget, in forecasting legislation for the removal of the winning bets tax, indicated that in that legislation the Government would also propose to secure authority from the same date to bring the levels of the tax on bookmakers' turnover and the stamp duty on betting tickets to the levels generally operating in the Eastern States. I believe all members agree that it is highly desirable in the interests of the development of the State that those taxes and charges which impinge upon industrial development should be kept so far as practicable below the comparable taxes and charges in other States. It follows that, for that policy to be implemented and maintained, this State must be prepared either to exercise greater economies in social expenditures than other States or to keep other taxes fully up to interstate levels, or both.

The bookmakers' turnover tax in Melbourne is currently 2 per cent of which 1½ per cent goes to the Government and ½ per cent to the clubs. In Sydney the total of 2 per cent tax raised jointly by the Government and the clubs together is distributed in the proportion of 1½ per cent to the Government and ½ per cent to the clubs. In Brisbane a 1½ per cent turnover tax is distributed in the proportion of 1.2 per cent to the Government and 0.3 per cent to the clubs. In other centres the rate is generally 1½ per cent with the greater proportion going to the Government. It is now proposed that in South Australia the turnover tax shall from July 1 next become a standard 1.8 per cent instead of the existing 1½ per cent. Of this the share to the clubs is to remain 1½ per cent of turnover on local

events and  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent of turnover on interstate events whilst the Government's new share will be 0.55 per cent on local events and 1.55 per cent on interstate events. The proposed new rate will be closely equal to the overall average in the Eastern States. However, the new overall Government share in this State will be about 0.83 per cent which will be clearly lower than in any of the three Eastern States whilst the share of the clubs of about 0.97 per cent will continue to be much higher than elsewhere. With regard to the stamp duty on betting tickets, the New South Wales provision is for 2c in the paddock and 1c elsewhere; in Victoria it is 2c in the grandstand enclosures on metropolitan courses and 1c elsewhere, and in Queensland it is 2c in the paddock on metropolitan courses and 1c elsewhere. For South Australia, instead of the present two-fifths of 1c the Bill proposes the same rate as applies in Victoria, that is, 2c in the grandstand enclosures on metropolitan courses and 1c elsewhere.

There have been representations to the Government that one-half of the revenues to be secured to the Government by the proposed increase in the bookmakers' turnover tax should be passed over to the racing and trotting clubs. However, in the light of the revenue necessities of the State and the fact that the clubs are already getting a far better proportion of total tax in South Australia than elsewhere the Government has decided that the requests could not properly be granted in the present circumstances.

As from the next financial year, when the new rates come into effect, the Government will be receiving and setting aside in the Hospitals Fund rather more than \$1,000,000 a year of T.A.B. revenues that were not available three years ago, but will be without just over \$1,000,000 of winning bets tax which was earlier available for general revenue purposes. It will receive perhaps \$140,000 from the additional turnover tax and about \$75,000 extra from stamp duties, but against this the reduced betting with bookmakers and totalizators on-course will have reduced Government revenues by perhaps \$75,000 a year on present experience. The clubs likewise will be receiving rather less than formerly in their share of the turnover tax and from on-course totalizators because of the effect upon on-course betting of the operation of T.A.B.

and they will in the future be without the \$300,000 they used to receive from the winning bets tax.

The clubs will, however, be progressively better off as their T.A.B. revenues move upward significantly. In other words, the changes made in racing levies during the past two years may be expected to benefit the clubs relatively more than they will assist Government revenues. Turning now to the specific clauses of the Bill, clause 1 contains purely formal provisions. Clause 2 amends section 40 of the principal Act by providing specifically for a continuation of the present turnover tax of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  per cent which applies on courses generally until July 1 next and thereafter at the rate of 1.8 per cent. The clause also provides that the existing 2 per cent tax applicable in registered premises shall continue unaltered. Clause 3 amends section 41 of the principal Act by likewise providing for the continuance of the existing proportionate distributions of commission to clubs until July 1 next and thereafter adjusting them so that the clubs receive the same proportion to betting turnover as previously, namely,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  per cent of turnover or twenty-five thirty-sixths of the new tax on local events and  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent of turnover or five thirty-sixths of the new tax on interstate events.

Clause 4, which amends section 44 of the principal Act, likewise continues the existing rate of duty on betting tickets until July 1 next, and thereafter provides for the requisite new rates of duty. Finally, clause 5, which amends section 44a of the principal Act, provides for the removal of the winning bets tax by simply limiting its application only to bets made prior to July 1, 1969.

Mr. HUDSON secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

Mr. BROOMHILL (West Torrens): I move:

That Orders of the Day (Other Business) Nos. 1 to 4 be made Orders of the Day for Tuesday, February 18.

Before moving this motion, I obtained the agreement of the members responsible.

The SPEAKER: Then I accept the motion.  
Motion carried.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 5.11 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, February 18, at 2 p.m.