

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, June 17, 1969

The House met at 12 noon pursuant to proclamation, the Speaker (Hon. T. C. Stott) presiding.

The Clerk (Mr. G. D. Combe) read the proclamation summoning Parliament.

After prayers read by the Speaker, honourable members, in compliance with summons, proceeded at 12.10 p.m. to the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Speech of His Excellency the Governor. They returned to the Assembly Chamber at 12.53 p.m. and the Speaker resumed the Chair.

DEATH OF FORMER MEMBERS

The SPEAKER: It is with profound sorrow that I draw the attention of the House to the deaths, since our last meeting, of the following former members of the Parliament of South Australia: the Hon. R. R. Wilson, member for the Northern District in the Legislative Council from 1949 to 1965; Mr. Clarence Goode, member of the House of Assembly for Stanley from 1905 to 1915 and for Victoria from 1915 to 1918, and Commissioner of Crown Lands and Immigration and Minister of Agriculture in the Vaughan Government from 1915 to 1917; Mr. E. E. George, member for Burra Burra in the House of Assembly from 1930 to 1933; and Mr. H. B. White, member for Murray in the House of Assembly from 1953 to 1956. As Speaker, I express the deepest sympathy of the House to their respective relatives. Having had the pleasure of knowing each of those members I am sure that, with much sincerity, they fulfilled the functions for which they were elected to Parliament. In a tribute to their services, and as a mark of respect to their memory, I ask honourable members to observe one minute's silence.

Members stood in their places in silence.

[*Sitting suspended from 12.55 to 2.15 p.m.*]

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1)

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of the general revenue of the State as were required for all the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

The SPEAKER: I have to report that, in compliance with the summons from His Excellency the Governor, the House attended in the Legislative Council Chamber where His

Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, of which I, as Speaker, have obtained a copy, which I now lay upon the table.

Ordered to be printed.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended the House of Assembly to make appropriation of the several sums for all the purposes set forth in the Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure by the Government during the year ending June 30, 1969.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Treasurer) moved:

That the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply.

Motion carried.

In Committee of Supply.

The CHAIRMAN: I will read from His Excellency the Governor's Speech so much thereof as relates to Supply:

Supplementary Estimates for additional expenditure of \$1,235,000 for this financial year will be laid before you and Estimates for the year ending June 30, 1970, will be presented for consideration. A Supply Bill providing \$40,000,000 for the Public Service of the State during the early part of the next financial year will be laid before you.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Treasurer): I wish to place before the House for consideration Supplementary Estimates for 1968-69 totalling \$1,235,000. Before dealing with them in detail, however, I believe it would be useful for me to follow the normal practice of giving a brief summary of the present state of Revenue Account and the probable results for the year.

REVENUE BUDGET, 1968-69

On September 5, 1968, against the background of accumulated deficits totalling \$8,365,000, I presented to the Chamber the 1968-69 Revenue Budget which proposed a nominal surplus of \$21,000 for this year. However, as I indicated then to members, it was known that new wages and salaries awards were bound to become effective during the year, and in fact two major determinations (in a national wage case and in the matter of a teachers' award) were then pending. Accordingly, the realistic forecast was for a significant deficit unless the Commonwealth Government could be prevailed upon to make additional grants available or there should be some quite unexpected lift in State finances.

There have been a number of variations from the original estimates for individual items

of receipts and payments but overall the prospects are now for a result quite close to a balance. Briefly, the adverse impacts of additional wage and salary awards amounting in all to about \$4,000,000, and of losses in revenues of about \$1,000,000 due to late implementation of new taxes and charges, together with other net short-falls of revenues of perhaps \$750,000, seem likely to be offset by new and adjusted Commonwealth grants of \$4,500,000 or thereabouts, and by net savings in expenditures of the order of \$1,250,000. I think members would probably find it of interest if I were to give a few more details of the variations.

Receipts:

The major improvement has been in Commonwealth grants. In the first place, the factors which are used in the calculation of the annual taxation reimbursement grant have increased more than originally estimated. The increase in the State's population in the year to December 31, 1968, and in the level of average wages throughout Australia in the year to March 31, 1969, have both shown improvements greater than taken into account originally, and as a result the principal grant seems likely to be increased by rather more than \$1,000,000. Secondly, the Commonwealth Government at a conference in March, 1969, became convinced of the seriousness of State problems in meeting major wage awards and other current Budget problems, and agreed to make available an additional grant of \$12,000,000 to be shared among the States.

South Australia's share of that total is about \$1,350,000. Thirdly, South Australia had lodged a detailed submission for further grants to assist in overcoming its long-term and intractable Revenue Budget problem. The Commonwealth, on being satisfied that the State was doing all that could reasonably be expected to help itself by exercising economy and by taxation measures, recently approved a special grant of \$2,000,000. The likely favourable effect of the three variations this year is about \$4,500,000. I should like to say now that we are grateful to the Commonwealth for the extra assistance, even though it is less than we sought and expected. I should also say that our long-term problems require much more than assistance in only one year and, at the forthcoming annual meeting with the Prime Minister, the Premier intends to make quite clear the need to have this special grant carried into 1969-70 and subsequently incorporated into the principal grant.

The receipts from State taxation will clearly be below estimate. In general the implementation of new and extended charges was about one month behind original planning and collections have accordingly been less than was earlier estimated. On the volume and value of normal business it appears that a small decline in stamp duties is likely to be offset by a small improvement in succession duties receipts. The receipts of all the business undertakings are expected to fall below estimate. For the railway undertaking the loss of revenue is expected to be between \$400,000 and \$500,000 owing to the movement of last season's good grain harvest being slower than originally estimated. This factor also appears to be having some effect on the receipts of the harbour services, but to a lesser extent.

The revenues from water and sewer rates are now expected to fall some \$400,000 below the first forecast owing to reduced usage of water and, consequently, billing for excess not reaching the levels earlier thought likely. For the forestry undertaking the original estimate was made in the hope that the decline in sales of forest produce would be overcome quickly and that surpluses would become available for transfer to revenue upon as favourable a basis as in earlier years. The recovery is occurring more slowly than hoped and receipts are accordingly below estimate. Among other variations the major one is a probable fall below estimate in receipts of the Hospitals Department, largely because of new and increased fees being brought into effect later than planned.

Payments:

For payments the present indication is that the total will be about \$2,750,000 in excess of the appropriations approved by Parliament. Having regard to the fact that the cost of various awards that came into effect after the framing of the Budget is calculated at a figure approaching \$4,000,000, it can be seen that there are economies and savings of about \$1,250,000 in aggregate for all departments. The major excesses in expenditure that will eventually appear in the published accounts will be about \$1,400,000 for the Education Department and about \$650,000 for the Railways Department. The fact that the expenditures will exceed appropriation for these two departments is due entirely to the cost of major awards. The same reason will apply to a number of smaller excesses.

In fact, because of the very careful control of expenditures during the year, the necessity for additional funds for normal departmental

purposes (other than for salary and wage awards) will be virtually limited to the Public Buildings Department and the Social Welfare Department. I should add that this careful control will produce savings in some departments more than sufficient to offset the higher wage and salary costs in those departments. I intend to comment on some of these matters in a little more detail when dealing with the items in the Supplementary Estimates.

Summary 1968-69:

It appears that, after taking account of the individual variations in receipts and payments, this year's Revenue Budget result will be close to a balance. However, as I pointed out last year, small variations in timing of receipts and payments at the end of a year, even over a few days, can affect the final result by several hundred thousand dollars. In an annual Budget of almost \$300,000,000, receipts and payments are each averaging well over \$1,000,000 a working day.

APPROPRIATION REQUIREMENTS

If the appropriations approved by Parliament in the principal Appropriation Act (supported by Estimates of Expenditure) early in a financial year are not sufficient in any particular category to cover the Government's actual commitments during that year, it is then necessary for the Government to call on other sources of appropriation authority. There are three such sources, namely, a special section of the main Appropriation Act, the Governor's Appropriation Fund, and a supplementary Appropriation Bill supported by Supplementary Estimates.

Appropriation Act—Special section 3 (2) and 3 (3):

In the main Appropriation Act is a special section that gives additional appropriation to meet increased costs owing to awards of wage fixing bodies and to meet any unexpected upward movement in the costs of pumping water through the two major mains. This special authority is being called upon this year to cover the larger part of the costs of the two major awards, namely, the total wage determination for departments generally and the teachers' award affecting only the Education Department, and also to cover a number of other salary and wage determinations, though it has been possible to meet some portion of the new award costs out of the original appropriations. It has not been necessary this year to call upon the special authority to cover excess costs of water pumping.

Governor's Appropriation Fund:

Another source of appropriation authority is the Governor's Appropriation Fund, which in terms of the Public Finance Act may cover the expenditure of up to \$1,200,000 in addition to that otherwise authorized. Of the \$1,200,000, up to \$400,000 is available, if required, for new purposes, that is for purposes not previously authorized either by inclusion in the Estimates or by other specific legislation. The appropriation in the fund is being used this year to cover some smaller excesses above departmental provisions and the costs of a number of new purposes, but it is not sufficient to provide for all the expected claims for additional appropriation.

Supplementary Estimates:

Therefore, the Government has decided to put before you Supplementary Estimates to cover the excess expenditures of five of the larger departments and sections and to relieve the fund accordingly. The proposals are for additional appropriation totalling \$1,235,000 as follows:

	\$
Chief Secretary and Minister of Health—Miscellaneous	275,000
Public Buildings Department . .	350,000
Education Department	250,000
Minister of Education—Miscellaneous	250,000
Social Welfare Department . .	110,000
	\$1,235,000

DETAILS OF APPROPRIATIONS

The details of the appropriations listed in the Supplementary Estimates are as follows:

Chief Secretary and Minister of Health—Miscellaneous:

It was originally proposed that the Whyalla Hospital would become a Government hospital as from October, 1968. Accordingly provision was included in the Estimates for a continuation of grants in the normal way for the early part of the year only, and for payments thereafter to be met from appropriations under the Hospitals Department. It took longer than first expected to resolve all the matters connected with vesting in the Government, and the transfer is now set down for July 1 next. Therefore, it has been necessary to continue grants for the full year, and additional appropriation of \$275,000 is required. The appropriation originally included under the Hospitals Department for Whyalla Hospital will not be used but, as members know, it is not possible to transfer

appropriation authority from one section to another.

Public Buildings Department:

For the Public Buildings Department the original appropriation was \$7,411,000. The additional cost of salary and wage awards this year has been about \$170,000, but fortunately the original allotments for these particular wage and salary purposes have been adequate to cover the further costs. However, extra funds have been found necessary to meet unavoidable commitments in the maintenance, repair and servicing of various Government buildings, principally Education Department, and police and courthouse buildings. To cover these increases it has been necessary to provide for a further \$350,000 in Supplementary Estimates.

Education Department:

The original appropriation for the Education Department was \$53,267,000. The additional cost of the teachers' award and the total wage determination is estimated to be of the order of \$1,450,000, and it is probable that the department's total excess above the original provision for all purposes will be contained within that sum. However, whilst it has been possible to meet all salaries and wages without calling upon the full supplement available consequent on the effect of award increases, it has been necessary during the year to make somewhat greater provision than originally set down for materials and services for primary, secondary and teacher education. The authority of the special section 3 (2) of the Appropriation Act does not extend to cover the increased expenditures on contingency lines and, therefore, it is necessary to include provision of \$250,000 in the Supplementary Estimates.

Minister of Education—Miscellaneous:

The payment of Commonwealth grants to the States for recurrent purposes of universities is linked to the payment of State grants and the collection of fees. Each \$1.85 of fees and State grants attracts \$1 of Commonwealth grants up to specified limits. For some years the policy in this State has been to approve annual budgets of the universities at levels that will attract the maximum Commonwealth grants available. It has also been the practice to pay recurrent grants by monthly instalments fairly evenly over the course of the academic year. Any variation in receipts from fees, either up or down from estimate, is normally matched by a compensating adjustment in State grants.

The fees actually received by the University of Adelaide in 1968, and likely to be received in 1969, are below the levels estimated when the State's 1968-69 Budget was prepared. To take account of this factor and to give an even distribution of grants it is now desirable to provide a further \$90,000 for the University of Adelaide.

The procedures now evolving under the newer Commonwealth-State arrangements for colleges of advanced education are similar in many respects to those for universities. In particular, the Government has regard to the extent of Commonwealth financial assistance when determining the level to which it will support the annual budgets of the colleges. The assessed needs of the South Australian Institute of Technology for 1969 are greater than appeared likely when the State's 1968-69 Budget was presented, and now it is desirable to advance a further \$160,000 to the institute to give an even distribution of funds in 1969. The Commonwealth Government proposes to amend its legislation to provide for higher grants to match increased State contributions on account of the institute, but it may be several months yet before the funds are received from the Commonwealth.

Social Welfare Department:

For the Social Welfare Department the original appropriation was \$3,250,000. The additional cost of salary and wage awards this year will be about \$50,000 but it will be possible to cover this further cost within the original appropriations for salaries and wages. However, extra funds will be required to meet necessary costs of running the department's homes and for payment of public relief. To meet these additional commitments on the various contingency lines the Supplementary Estimates now include provisions totalling \$110,000. The total additional provision for the purposes I have explained is \$1,235,000.

Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the first line of the Supplementary Estimates.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

SUPPLY BILL (No. 1)

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended the House of Assembly to make provision by Bill for defraying the salaries and other expenses of the several departments and public services of the Government of South Australia during the year ending June 30, 1970.

In Committee of Supply.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Treasurer) moved:

That towards defraying the expenses of the establishments and public services of the State for the year ending June 30, 1970, a sum of \$40,000,000 be granted: provided that no payments for any establishment or service shall be made out of the said sum in excess of the rates voted for similar establishments or services on the Estimates for the financial year ending June 30, 1969, except increases of salaries or wages fixed or prescribed by any return made under any Act relating to the Public Service or by any regulation or by any award, order or determination of any court or other body empowered to fix or prescribe wages or salaries.

Motion carried.

Resolution adopted by the House. Bill founded in Committee of Ways and Means, introduced by the Hon. G. G. Pearson, and read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time. It provides for the appropriation of \$40,000,000 so that the Public Service of the State may be carried on in the early part of next financial year. As members know, the annual Appropriation Bill does not normally receive assent until the latter part of October and, as the financial year begins on July 1, some special provision for appropriation is required to cover the first four months of the new year. That special provision takes the form of Supply Bills (normally two such Bills each year), and without this Bill now before the House no Parliamentary authority would be available for normal revenue expenditure from July 1, 1969.

The appropriation proposed in the first Supply Bill is normally designed to cover requirements throughout July and August and may be required for the early part of September. The amount (\$40,000,000) is the same as that in the first Supply Bill introduced 12 months ago. It will be necessary for a second Supply Bill to be submitted to the House in the latter part of August to provide for requirements while the Estimates and the main Appropriation Bill are being considered.

A short Bill for \$40,000,000 without any details of the purposes for which it is available does not mean that the Government or individual departments have a free hand to spend, as they are strictly limited by the provisions of clause 3. In the early months of 1969-70, until the new Appropriation Bill becomes law,

the Government must use the amounts made available by Supply Bills within the limits of the individual lines set out in the original Estimates and the Supplementary Estimates approved by Parliament for 1968-69.

In accordance with normal procedures, members will have a full opportunity to debate the detailed 1969-70 expenditure proposals when the Budget is presented. In recent years the Budget has been introduced just prior to Parliament's adjourning for the week of the Royal Show, and I propose to follow that practice this year.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): It appears to me that the Bill, although not in exactly the same form as those sometimes presented to this House, covers the same purposes as Supply Bills previously presented at this stage of the proceedings and, in consequence, I support the second reading.

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

Later, the Bill was returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

PETITIONS: RENT INCREASES

Mr. CORCORAN presented a petition signed by 253 tenants of Government-owned houses at Mount Burr and Millicent. It stated that the recent substantial increase in the rents of such houses was unconscionable and unwarranted and would cause real hardship. It further called on the House to prevent the imposition of these unjustifiable increases.

Mr. BURDON presented a petition signed by 78 tenants of Government-owned houses at Mount Gambier forest, Myora forest, and Caroline forest reserves. It stated that the recent substantial increase in the rents of such houses was unconscionable and unwarranted and would cause real hardship. It further called on the House to prevent the imposition of these unjustifiable increases.

Mr. RODDA presented a petition signed by 130 tenants of Government-owned houses at Nangwarry. It stated that the recent substantial increases in the rents of such houses was unconscionable and unwarranted and would cause real hardship. It further called on the House to prevent the imposition of these unjustifiable increases.

Petitions received and read.

PETITION: ABORTION LEGISLATION

Mr. CORCORAN presented a petition signed by 243 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.

EXPLANATIONS OF QUESTIONS

The SPEAKER: Before calling for questions from members I draw the attention of the House to the statement I made last session that Question Time was occupying much time of the House until 4 o'clock and that frequently, when some members had indicated that they wanted to ask a question, time had expired and, unfortunately, they could not ask the question. It has become a habit of some members to preface their questions by giving much information and making a long speech, and I hope that this session members will try to observe Standing Order 125, which states:

In putting any such question, no argument or opinion shall be offered, nor shall any facts be stated, except by leave of the House and so far only as may be necessary to explain such question.

I appeal to members to observe this Standing Order, because it assists other members who are trying to obtain information from Ministers in order that they can truly represent the people who elect them to Parliament. As it is only fair to say that members should co-operate with Standing Orders, I intend to implement this Standing Order as far as I can and, in doing so, I hope that members will co-operate with me.

QUESTIONS

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: During the period of office of my Government a Director of Industrial Development (Mr. Donald Currie) was appointed. With some considerable difficulty he was obtained on a contract to the Government from private enterprise, and when he was first approached to take the position he refused it. We were grateful for the opportunity to get him for the Government, because he had excellent qualifications for the post, and his work in the post during the period we were in office was excellent and exemplary. The contract made with him was proper and binding, and it provided for his employment by the Government for a period of years. As has been previously the case in this House, we pointed to the fact that his position in the department was being made untenable by the Government's acting in breach of that contract and by depriving him of staff in the department

to enable him to carry out the work for which he was appointed and for which he was being paid. It now seems that as a result of the Government's action he has been forced to seek other employment because he could hardly be expected to carry on with no staff to help him do the job to which he was appointed. He has now become development director of Alcoa of Australia Limited, a senior industrial development post in private industry in Australia, and he has been lost to the South Australian Government in such circumstances that it will be impossible for future Governments to attract to the service of the Government in this State senior executives from private industry. Consequently, will the Premier table in this House the original contract with Mr. Currie, such minutes and correspondence as passed between Mr. Currie and the Premier or between Mr. Currie's representative and any representative of the Government or of the Premier, on the subject of his continued employment by the Government and the conditions of it, and whatever contract was made on his leaving the Government service in South Australia?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I had hoped that this subject would not be raised again in this House, because of Mr. Currie's personal feelings. I assure the Leader that when Mr. Currie left it was his desire that as little as possible be said about his departure. However, as I anticipated that the Leader would not leave this matter alone, I have a short precis of events concerning Mr. Currie's employment by the South Australian Government that I desire to read. Seven points are contained in this document. First, Mr. Currie was appointed Director of Industrial Development in the Premier's Department on August 21, 1967—

The SPEAKER: Order! Is the Premier making a statement in reply to a question, or does he seek leave of the House to make a statement?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: This statement is in reply to a question and sets out the sequence of events concerning Mr. Currie's employment and his leaving that employment.

The SPEAKER: The Premier should seek leave of the House.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Mr. Currie was appointed under a contract of employment for five years at a salary of \$15,750 a year. Secondly, on November 27, 1967, the consultant firms of W. D. Scott and Company Proprietary Limited and Arthur D. Little Incorporated were engaged by the South

Australian Government to make a survey and report on plans for industrial development in South Australia, at a fee of \$153,500. Thirdly, on August 5, 1968, the consultants submitted a strictly confidential report to the Premier setting out the staff required by the Industrial Development Branch of the Premier's Department and the suitability of officers then serving in that branch. The report has been kept confidential to members of Cabinet. Fourthly, following further consideration of the consultants' report, Mr. Ramsay was appointed Director of Industrial Promotion and Mr. Currie accepted appointment as Industrial Research Officer for the remainder of the term of his contract. Fifthly, on September 5, 1968, Mr. Currie sought advice as to the amount of compensation that would be paid to him if he resigned. Sixthly, the Attorney-General conferred with Mr. Currie's solicitor, and agreement was reached whereby Mr. Currie sought to be released from his position at the close of business on February 21, 1969. On payment of a retiring allowance of \$30,000 a deed of release was duly executed by Mr. Currie and the Premier, and Mr. Currie ceased duty that day. Seventhly, a further sum of \$333.58 paid to Mr. Currie represented the monetary equivalent of outstanding leave entitlement. I quote as follows from the report submitted to me by the consultants engaged by the Leader when Premier:

An evaluation of the above factors leads us to the conclusion that Mr. Currie is not qualified either by background experience or by performance on the job to satisfactorily fulfil the position of Director of Industrial Development as described in this report.

Mr. CORCORAN: Will the Premier say whether the report was subscribed to by Arthur D. Little Incorporated, the consultants employed by the Leader when he was Premier? If it was, will he say which officer of that company signed the report? Alternatively, will he say whether the report was, in fact, signed by a Mr. Laurie Curtis, of W. D. Scott and Company? If, as the report has suggested, Mr. Currie was not competent to do the work he had been appointed to do, will the Premier say why the Government paid Mr. Currie \$30,000 as severance pay? Is the Premier prepared to table all the reports and correspondence relating to this matter?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I remind the honourable member that Mr. Currie was not dismissed: he asked to be released. In those circumstances the Government, after negotiating with him, made the arrangements I have already outlined. As I said, it was Mr.

Currie's desire when he left that as little as possible be said about this matter, and I do not intend to take it further.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Obviously, the Premier does not intend to table the reports asked for by the Leader of the Opposition. Will the Premier say whether the reason for his refusal is that he is ashamed of the unethical, unreasonable and unfair attitude of the Government in this matter?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I remind the honourable member that I acted on a report of consultants engaged by his own Leader on behalf of the former Government.

Mr. BROOMHILL: I point out to the Premier that his refusal to provide the information sought by Opposition members will leave the Opposition and the public of South Australia with the impression that the Government has something to hide. I think the Premier should consider this aspect and reconsider his earlier reply. Will he provide me with the date of the report from which he read and which slandered Mr. Currie, and will he also reconsider the matters raised by the Leader of the Opposition?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member is in error, of course, in his statement and his comment. Mr. Currie was not dismissed: he came to me and asked to be released and under what conditions he would be. He was not slandered as the honourable member said he was. In fact, I heard hardly a question in the honourable member's various statements. I repeat that I have given the House a precis of the circumstances of Mr. Currie's engagement and of his leaving the State Government service.

Mr. Broomhill: I want only the date of the report.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I have mentioned a specific condition of Mr. Currie's leaving in regard to finance and have given reasons for his leaving in the sense of his not continuing to be Director of Industrial Development in South Australia. Any further information can only harm Mr. Currie—perhaps to say that any further information given would be distasteful to him would be a better way to put it.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: You're trying to hide behind some statement you are making about Mr. Currie. Mr. Currie is prepared for you to make everything available to this House.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. R. S. HALL: It should be evident to the Leader of the Opposition that I had this information in my possession, apart from

the aspect of Mr. Currie's leaving, and I safeguarded as much as I could his involvement in the question. My aim throughout what has been a controversy so far as the Opposition is concerned has been to safeguard Mr. Currie in every way, and I will continue to do this.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Mr. Currie came to the office of Director of Industrial Development with the following background and abilities: he had excellent scientific qualifications, had been manager of the petrochemical plant of Imperial Chemical Industries of Australia and New Zealand Limited at Botany Bay and had had extensive overseas experience with I.C.I. He was general manager of I.C.I. in this State and, during his period as manager, I.C.I. had a significant expansion in this State. He had the best record of industrial relations of any plant manager anywhere in the State at the time. He was well known in Asian industry, was fluent in Japanese, had worked for I.C.I. in Japan and had studied subsequently in the Japanese area.

After his appointment as Director of Industrial Development, he was asked by the Indian Government to go to India at its expense to advise that Government on its relations with Australian industry. In the course of his work in the department he initiated a programme for industrial development planning in South Australia that gained the admiration of the large group of industrialists of the Victoria Promotions Committee and of a group of industrialists from Sir Roland Wilson down. I met them in New South Wales and Victoria, and they said, "If Mr. Currie's programme of development were adopted elsewhere in Australia it would be a significant advance for the rest of Australia." It is in these circumstances that we heard from the Premier this afternoon, that he had received a report from some unnamed officer of a firm, he refused to specify that Mr. Currie was not suitable for the job. As the Premier had, long before the date of that report, already taken action against Mr. Currie and his policies in the department from the moment that the Premier took office (action of a kind that was taken against any officer by Ministers of this Government if they suspected or knew that that officer had at any time been seen to associate with me outside office hours)—

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: Come off it!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I can cite people the Minister matted. I know the questions the Premier asked of his own secretary.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In view of the facts to which I have referred, why will the Premier not say who was the officer involved in this matter? I challenge the Premier to do so. It was not the officer of Arthur D. Little Incorporated, the group I engaged in the United States of America to make a report on industrial development, but in fact an officer of an associate company, Mr. Laurie Curtis, who is a close and active political associate of the Premier. The Premier then saw fit to endeavour to hide behind a suggestion that it was at Mr. Currie's request that nothing should be said about this.

Mr. Lawn: That's not true.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I challenge the Premier and ask him specifically as a result of this whether he will table the documents, because I intend to read to the House Mr. Currie's views on this matter of whether he seeks any protection. As a result of the demands of the Government, Mr. Currie has made no public statement, but he has certainly written to me privately. In view of the unprincipled attack made on him this afternoon, I intend to read this statement to make quite clear to the House and the public that it is not Mr. Currie who is seeking any protection in this matter. He states:

As far as I am concerned you can make whatever use you wish of my South Australian experiences. Hall and company are a thoroughly lousy and unprincipled lot of goons. I cannot think of any way in which I behaved improperly, and, if they want to blacken me, let them.

In view of that, I challenge the Premier to table all the documents and correspondence in this matter so that the public may know the truth.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I should like to ask the Leader whether Mr. Currie began his letter "Dear Don".

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Of course he did; certainly.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Thank you. The Leader has said that, in accusing the Government of being a thoroughly reprehensible (I think he said) lot of goons—

Mr. Hudson: Unprincipled.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: —the writer has addressed him as "Dear Don".

Mr. Jennings: What do you call Ramsay—"Dear Alec"?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I did not realize the gentleman was on such personally good terms with the Leader.

Mr. Hudson: What is wrong with that?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Of course, there is nothing wrong with that.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I do not propose to allow the Premier to answer interjections: he must answer the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I regard the Leader's words in this House as a statement rather than a question. As a statement, they have done nothing to back up his ultimate question asking me to make certain papers available. Obviously, there is only a personal interest in this in one person, who has left this State and has agreed to certain circumstances concerning his leaving.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: Under threat from you.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: There was no threat whatsoever.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. R. S. HALL: In those circumstances, there is nothing to be gained from my adding to what I have said.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: A short statement appeared in this morning's *Advertiser* relating to the present unemployment position in the various States as at May 31, 1969. Has the Minister of Labour and Industry any comment to make on the figures referred to therein, particularly regarding the South Australian position?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: This is an important matter that is of considerable interest at this time. An improvement in the employment situation in South Australia was indicated in the review of the employment situation as at the end of May, 1969, issued yesterday by the Commonwealth Minister for Labour and National Service. There was a decrease of 530 persons registered for employment with the Commonwealth Employment Service, compared with the figures at the end of April. This represented 1,448 people fewer than were registered for employment at the end of May last year. Expressed as a percentage of the estimated work force, the number registered for employment was 1.34 per cent, compared with 1.7 per cent at the end of May, 1968. For Australia as a whole the number of persons registered as a percentage of the estimated work force has been 1.3 per cent at the end of May, 1968, and 1.1 per cent at the end of May, 1969. Thus, while the registered unemployed as a percentage of the work force for South Australia is still

slightly greater than for Australia as a whole, there has been a significant improvement in South Australia's position when compared with Australia as a whole.

During May there was a decrease in the number of males and females, both adults and juniors, registered as unemployed in South Australia. At the same time there was an increase of 30 job vacancies available. The number of recipients of unemployed benefits decreased in South Australia for both males and females: there was a total decrease of 147 to 1,998, which is the lowest figure since April, 1966. However, for Australia as a whole the number of male recipients increased while there was a decrease in the number of female recipients: there was a net increase of 42 recipients. During May, South Australia's employment situation noticeably improved. The improvement took place not only in an absolute sense, but there was also an improvement in South Australia's position relative to Australia as a whole.

ROAD ACCIDENTS

Mr. GILES: Last year, 257 people in South Australia were killed in motor vehicle accidents and already this year 134 people have been killed in this way. Last Thursday, at the police auditorium I viewed a film called "08", which deals with the effect on a person's driving of certain percentages of alcohol in his bloodstream. Will the Premier ask the Chief Secretary to investigate the possibility of allowing this film to be viewed by various bodies throughout South Australia, and will he ascertain whether an officer from the Police Department (preferably from the Breathalyzer Squad) could attend and explain this film, answering any questions that might be asked by those present? By this means, it is hoped that the accident rate in South Australia can be lowered; indeed, as many as 40 per cent of accidents in this State are estimated to be directly associated with drinking.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will get a report from my colleague.

SCHOOLTEACHERS

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Over the weekend press reports referred to the Australian Labor Party Convention, one of the speakers at that convention having been reported as saying that 1,180 teachers (or 11.08 per cent) of the teaching force of the State had resigned last year and that most of the teachers who resigned were "good, qualified teachers who had been able to get better jobs". Can the Minister of

Education say whether there is any truth at all in that report?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I was interested to read that statement at the weekend made by a person attending the Australian Labor Party Convention. Having returned from a week-long visit to Northern Territory schools, I asked that information be supplied to me on this matter so that I might answer what I thought could well be a question put to me in the House today.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: A Dorothy Dixier if you like.

Mr. McKee: Zara Holt!

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I'm no Zara Holt. Actually, the figures quoted by Mr. Harris, the person referred to, related to the total losses of teachers for 1967, not 1968. In 1968, 1,131 teachers came under the heading of "losses". The subcategories of losses were as follows: resigned or ceased active duty; retired on grounds of age; retired on grounds of invalidity; deceased; services completed; appointments terminated; and dismissed. Of those numbers, 435 were members of the permanent staff and 696 were members of the temporary staff, making a total of 1,131. The total number of teachers employed in 1968 was 10,016, including part-time teachers expressed as 206 full-time equivalents. Therefore, 9.3 per cent or 942 of the total teaching service actually resigned. The losses of teachers during 1968 were offset by gains of 1,765 teachers, making a net gain of 634 teachers for the year.

An analysis of reasons given by the 942 teachers who resigned in 1968 has not been made, but the reasons given by 237 teachers who resigned during the period January 1 to May 15, 1969, are as follows:

Home responsibility	57
Pregnancy	41
Health	19
Travel (interstate and overseas) . .	103
Alternative employment	17
<hr/>	
Total	237

A figure of 95 per cent of the 237 teachers who resigned were assistants or temporary assistants. It is reasonable to assume that the reasons for resignation of teachers in 1968 would follow a similar pattern, which does not substantiate Mr. Harris's statement that most of the teachers had resigned to accept better employment. This emotional statement must be viewed in its political context, namely, a

meeting of a political party. Any system of education can be improved, and additional finance would assist in overcoming some of the problems facing this department, but there is certainly no crisis in education in South Australia.

SCHOOL SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: On January 14 this year I wrote to the Minister of Education drawing attention to an electronic school surveillance system that provided protection against vandalism and theft for 144 school buildings in Toronto. This system, which has operated for the past two years, has saved the board of education an estimated \$105,000 annually in repairing damage caused by vandals and in avoiding theft and the payment of high overtime caretaking costs. The system is connected directly to the school fire alarm system with sensors throughout each building to report fire. Can the Minister say whether this matter has been investigated and what conclusions, if any, have been drawn?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I do not have a report with me today. I believe I would have acknowledged the honourable member's letter saying that the matter was being investigated. I am sorry a report has not reached the honourable member before this: I will certainly call for a report.

HEATHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. EVANS: Can the Minister of Works say when tenders are now expected to be called for the development of the playing fields at Heathfield High School?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I do not have the information with me, but I will obtain it for the honourable member tomorrow, if that is possible.

PORT AUGUSTA EMPLOYMENT

Mr. RICHES: Recently, the Minister of Works was good enough to visit Port Augusta, where he addressed a meeting of engineers on proposed public works in the North of the State. Although unable to attend the meeting, I understand that the address was well received. However, we would like the Minister to clarify one point. I understand that the Minister said that, although the consumption of coal at the Playford power station would be reduced, no significant reduction in the labour force would take place. As it is difficult to understand how a reduction in the use of coal would not result in a reduced labour force will the Minister give a little more detail about this

matter, as a reduction in employment would be significant to the local community?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I shall be delighted to do as the honourable member asks. The advice given me by the Electricity Trust has been based on what will happen when natural gas is fed into the electricity installations at Torrens Island and when that station is fully on load. Although what I said appears a little conflicting at first sight, the reduction in the use of coal will be minimal and therefore no significant variation is expected in employment at the Port Augusta power station. When the natural gas pipeline operates at Torrens Island not all of the power from Port Augusta will come to the metropolitan area: some of it will go to the new substation to be opened shortly at Brinkworth and there will be a branch line to various places in that area. I assure the honourable member that, although my speech at Port Augusta might appear to contain conflicting statements, the important point is that once the natural gas pipeline operates at Torrens Island this will not mean a significant variation in the employment at Port Augusta: any variation will be minimal.

ELIZABETH TRANSPORT

Mr. CLARK: Recently, after much press publicity by way of letters to the editor and a statement to the press by me as the member for the district once again urging the necessity of a regular bus service to be established between Adelaide and Elizabeth, the Minister of Transport, so we are informed by the press, made a trip by rail to Elizabeth.

Mr. Virgo: He went only one way.

Mr. CLARK: I am happy to hear that at least he went one way. After making this rail journey, the Minister was reported in the *Advertiser* of June 6 as saying:

My officers have been investigating the position over the past few weeks, and I hope to have a recommendation for Cabinet to consider soon.

Will the Attorney-General ask his colleague whether he has yet made a recommendation to Cabinet on this matter and, if he has not, whether he can say when this may be done?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I can do even better for the honourable member: I can tell him that the matter has been considered by Cabinet after certain recommendations were made to it by my colleague.

The Hon. R. S. Hall: I called for a report six months ago.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Premier called for a report on this matter six

months ago, and I am now able to tell the honourable member the result of the deliberations that have taken place in Cabinet. Ever since the Government came to office it has been actively investigating the matter of a bus service to Elizabeth, and the Premier's prompting me shows that. Throughout these investigations it has not at any stage indicated that it is opposed to the principle of a direct service along the Main North Road but the issue is a very complex one and one which has many repercussions with other current forms of transport both to Elizabeth and within the city of Elizabeth. Also, at one stage the Government deferred consideration of the issue until the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study proposals were fully considered.

However, as a result of its long deliberations, the Government has now reached a definite decision regarding the question. The present feeder bus service in Elizabeth will be further improved and a direct bus service via the Main North Road will be implemented from Adelaide to the eastern districts of Elizabeth. The changes will take a little time to implement but the relevant authorities are being advised to hasten the introduction of the new services as much as possible.

APPLIANCE CONVERSION

Mr. HURST: My question refers to the conversion of domestic appliances for the use of natural gas. About eight days ago Eastern States newspapers reported a summary of mishaps that had occurred in those States because of lack of technical know-how in the conversion of home appliances for the use of natural gas. Similar conversions in South Australia are commencing and I read in this morning's press of an accident at Elizabeth. Will the Minister of Works find out what additional technical knowledge the South Australian Gas Company has of making these conversions, so that South Australian householders will not experience serious consequences similar to those experienced in the Eastern States?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I read with interest reports of occurrences in Melbourne to which the honourable member has referred and I also read a report in the press of a comment by the General Manager of the South Australian Gas Company on these occurrences and on steps being taken in South Australia to obviate the difficulty. I know that in many parts of the world conversions have been made without any damage occurring and I cannot

comment on the reason for these occurrences in Melbourne. However, I shall be pleased to have a report prepared and to give the honourable member the information he seeks.

WAYVILLE INTERSECTION

Mr. LANGLEY: For many years I have been asking questions about the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Goodwood Road and Greenhill Road. Land seems to have been acquired gradually for this project but road-widening work and the construction of the new Keswick bridge have further congested traffic using the intersection during peak periods. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport whether sufficient land for the project has been acquired, when tenders for the work will be called and when they will be finalized, and who will pay the cost of roadworks and installation of the lights?

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

STAMP DUTIES

Mr. RYAN: My question is to you, Sir, both as Speaker and as member for Ridley. All members of Parliament in South Australia have received a letter signed by you, as T. C. Stott, M.P. (General Secretary of the United Farmers and Graziers of South Australia), regarding the receipts duty. I will not read the whole letter, Mr. Speaker, because you have written it to all members. However, part of the letter states:

The anomaly in this tax is that it must be paid on the gross amount. Further, this means that in quite a number of cases in the handling of wool, dried vine fruits, or citrus the tax must be paid two or three times over. Delegates expressed the view that the tax was discriminatory, because it means that it is paid by primary producers and not by wage-earners. Your letter also states:

I am requested to state that these types of tax are creating a great deal of concern among primary producers and they most vehemently oppose such a tax.

Page 2059 of *Hansard* of 1968 records that, when the vote on the second reading of the stamp duties legislation was taken, there was an equality of votes and you, Mr. Speaker, said:

There being an equality of votes, I give my casting vote in favour of the Ayes.

In other words, the Bill was carried on your casting vote, and *Hansard* records a similar position regarding the third reading of the Bill: as there was an equality of votes, you gave your casting vote in favour of the Ayes, and the Bill was carried on that casting vote.

Do you support the views of your association (and I understand you will be General Secretary until June 22) in strongly opposing such a tax and, secondly, if a Bill were introduced to repeal this tax, would you support such a measure?

The SPEAKER: The honourable member would realize that this was a decision reached by a section of the United Farmers and Graziers of South Australia and, as General Secretary of that organization, I had to carry out its instructions: in accordance with the resolution, that the terms of the motion be conveyed to members of Parliament, asking them to consider favourably the request contained therein. That request I have forwarded to members, but whether a Bill is to be introduced I cannot say. Therefore, I cannot answer the honourable member's question. The member for Port Adelaide (and every other honourable member) realizes that the new stamp duty was mentioned in the Budget explanation and, had the Government been defeated on that measure, defeat on a money Bill would have meant that it would have had to resign.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: If honourable members want to indulge in a conversation I suggest they come to the Speaker's room and have a discussion on the matter, as this is not the place for it. That is the position. This was a difficult one, and I repeat that the difficult part about it is that the tax is on the gross amount. Those thoughts were made clear to the Treasurer when he introduced the Bill and the second reading debate took place. That is the situation. If another Bill is introduced I will certainly have a long talk with the Treasurer about it.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Mr. McKEE: I noticed in the press recently that the South Australian Chamber of Manufacturers had criticized the Government for breaking two contracts after accepting tenders from two suppliers. One tenderer was told that the goods were now being manufactured by the Prisons Department, and the other contract was terminated because a price increase was sought. Such practices could hardly be expected to attract industry to this State. Can the Premier say whether the Government intends to continue to use prison labour at the cost of possibly losing industry to this State and increasing our already high unemployment figure?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member seems to have put a good deal of

content into his question and made assumptions for which he can produce no proof. If he brings to me or to the Minister of Works the relevant tenders or contracts each one will be investigated. I hope that he can produce statistics to back up his question.

NUCLEAR POWER STATION

Mr. BURDON: I bring to the attention of the Minister of Works a recent statement made by the Premier relating to the establishment of a nuclear power station wherein the Premier said that he believed that the South-East or the Mount Gambier area would be a suitable site for such a station but that it would be necessary for such a station to serve both South Australia and Victoria. Will the Minister say whether any discussions have taken place with the Victorian Government regarding this projected power station and, if they have, what are the results of such discussions?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: The statement attributed to the Premier was correct, and I have made a similar statement. The power output in this State (or the requirements for such power) will not reach normally the output of a large nuclear station for some years—a station producing 500 megawatts and costing about \$100,000,000. My submission on behalf of the Government to the Minister for National Development (Mr. Fairbairn) at a meeting held in Adelaide some time ago was that it would be an idea to build a station in the South-Eastern part of the State from which we could feed not only into our system for industry in South Australia but also into Victoria (there is no major power station between the border and Geelong). This was put forward as a strong factor to influence the Commonwealth to build the first station in South Australia.

Mr. Virgo: He scrubbed that off.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I noticed it was also scrubbed off by Mr. Whitlam. He would not have a bar of this at all, whereas this Government has advocated that such a station should be established in South Australia and, even following the statement made by Mr. Fairbairn, we have continued to do this. Indeed, the Premier has written to the Acting Premier of Victoria (Sir Arthur Rylah) trying to get the co-operation of his State in this regard. It is very interesting to note we received criticism recently that we were not getting co-operation from another State for one of our State projects, whereas here we are seeking such co-operation to get a station built

in South Australia. I would have thought that the views put by this Government would receive the whole support not only of the South-East, from which I know it is coming, but of every member of this House.

Mr. HUDSON: Can the Minister say what stations have been built overseas, or are being planned at present, with a capacity as small as 500 megawatts? Can he also indicate what kind of demand for electricity would currently exist in South Australia each year and what capacity demand would exist, and what capacity demand for electricity would exist in the South-East of the State when taken in conjunction with the area between the Victorian border and Geelong?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I will get this information for the honourable member as quickly as I can, although it may take a few days to collate all the details required. I inspected a station of about 500 megawatts in the United Kingdom.

Mr. CORCORAN: I believe that on Thursday last the Prime Minister (Mr. Gorton) made a statement to the effect that a nuclear power station would be developed either in the Australian Capital Territory or on land belonging to the Commonwealth Government at Jervis Bay, New South Wales. I am well aware that subsequently the Commonwealth Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Whitlam), who of course has no power in this matter, did support the views of the Prime Minister. No doubt, the Minister of Works is aware of the statement made by the Prime Minister, which will be of great interest to him and his Government. Since that announcement was made, has the Minister or the Government of which he is a member taken any further steps to press the case for the establishment of a nuclear power station in the South-East of this State, which would provide power both to South Australia and to Victoria?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I think the action taken by this Government was taken some time before comments were made by the Prime Minister on behalf of Mr. Fairbairn, who is at the moment overseas. I do not think action has been taken since then, except that I announced that I regretted that that decision had been made and I would, on behalf of the Government, continue to press for this power station to be built in South Australia. I went on to say that, even if the first station was established in the A.C.T. and that was a *fait accompli*, we would still continue to press for the next one at least to be established

in South Australia. We expressed great disappointment and some surprise that this announcement was made, because that was the first that I had heard officially about the matter. The Government will certainly continue to press the case for South Australia in general and for the South-East in particular.

Mr. RICHES: Can the Minister say whether the possibility of using nuclear power for desalination is being considered at present? If it is, it seems to me that the location of such a station should be in the driest area of the State. Would that not be a consideration in determining the economic value to the State of such a station?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: This question has been considered. At the meeting I referred to between Mr. Fairbairn and me held in Adelaide earlier this year, I used the question of desalination as the second leg of my argument in support of the case for South Australia. The fact that a large desalination plant may not be required for a few years does not mean that we should not plan now for the power required. It need not necessarily be in the driest part of the State. We used this argument to support our case for a nuclear power station being established in South Australia. We should remember that we are talking about a decade or so ahead, because the construction of such a station would be most unlikely to take place until nine or 10 years' time at the earliest, so we are looking into the distant future. My direct answer is that desalination was and is being considered, but that does not necessarily mean, though, that a nuclear power station would go to the driest part of the State.

TEXTBOOKS

Mr. VIRGO: I wrote to the Minister of Education on March 25 pointing out what I then described as an alarming situation that children in high schools had paid for books and were expected to be pursuing their courses but that the books required were not available. The Minister's Secretary replied that the Minister was considering the matter (and I hope she was), but the reply I finally received from the Acting Minister of Education is completely untrue. The most important factor is that the children still do not have their books. Will the Minister investigate this matter immediately to ensure that children are provided with the books set down in the curriculum?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will not accept the statement that information given to

the honourable member by the Acting Minister of Education on my behalf was untrue.

Mr. Virgo: Have you read it?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Of course I have. I will obtain a report for the honourable member regarding his allegations and bring it to the House at the earliest opportunity.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. LAWN: On April 2, I wrote the Attorney-General and included a letter from a constituent of mine who had a complaint in regard to what, I suppose, the Attorney-General would call legal aid by the Law Society. On April 22, I received an acknowledgment from the Attorney-General's Secretary saying that inquiries were being made in the matter, but since then I have heard nothing further. As I am sure to have something to say about this matter very early in the session, has the Attorney-General a reply for me? If he does not have a reply today, will he get one by tomorrow afternoon?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I am afraid I do not have a reply for the honourable member. As the honourable member's letter came when I was overseas, I do not know of this matter, but I will follow it up straight away and try to get a reply by tomorrow.

GRAIN SILOS

Mr. HUGHES: Earlier this year I introduced two deputations to the Minister of Agriculture from people who were protesting against the building of additional silos at Ardrossan, as this would force grain from the northern part of the peninsula to be road freighted to Ardrossan to the detriment of primary producers in that area because of the cost of production, and would also be to the detriment of the Wallaroo port, because the Government-owned installations there have excellent rail connections. I understand that these deputations were followed up by representations from the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of South Australia and that the federation asked the Government to make Wallaroo the major grain and phosphate port for South Australia. It also asked the Minister of Agriculture not to provide additional harbour and grain facilities at Port Adelaide and Ardrossan pending a decision by the Minister of Marine. Last Thursday the Secretary of the local chamber telephoned me and said that the federation had been given an assurance by the Minister of Agriculture in this matter. However, an announcement made

by South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited was reported in the *Advertiser* of June 12 as follows:

Part of the wheat storage plan was the provision of permanent facilities for 10,500,000 bushels to be completed in the next few months. The storages, at 13 locations, would include a large shed at Port Adelaide to house about 3,000,000 bushels and one at Ardrossan with a capacity of 2,000,000 bushels.

Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture whether this announcement means that the co-operative has acted against his wishes and, if it has, what steps he intends to take?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes.

WHEAT QUOTAS

Mr. CASEY: Several weeks ago I wrote to the Minister of Agriculture on an important point concerning the wheat quotas formulated in this State. No doubt the Minister will recall that earlier this year, when the Government decided on wheat quotas for this State, it did not make clear to the people of this State what was going on, except that we were told that a committee was being appointed. An important point has now arisen concerning younger farmers in this State who have asked me about the position of farmers who cannot produce details of a five-year average. Many farmers in this category have not grown wheat for five years, so that they cannot provide details of a five-year average quota, and they are now uncertain of their position in the light of this type of quota. As the Minister has had my letter for a fortnight, I hoped I would receive a reply, because these people were anxious to find out where they stood financially in this important matter. Will the Minister of Lands again refer this matter to the Minister of Agriculture, pointing out that the matter is urgent for many wheatgrowers, particularly the younger farmers and those who have taken up land in the last three or four years and who wish to know how they will fare under the wheat quota system?

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

IRRIGATION REBATE

Mr. ARNOLD: It has been brought to my attention by irrigators in the Berri and Ral Ral Divisions of the Berri irrigation area that this year the rebate of \$2 an acre on water rates has been disallowed. As the normal rate of \$21.50 is subject to a rebate of \$2 an acre, can the Minister of Irrigation say why this rebate has been disallowed?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Tomorrow I shall be able to give the honourable member a complete reply.

TEA TREE GULLY SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: Previously, I have asked questions and spoken about the condition of and improvements necessary at the Tea Tree Gully Primary School. The school is built on about two acres and consists of two stone classrooms (originally built 99 years ago), 16 wood and iron prefabricated classrooms, three toilet blocks (a new solid construction block is now nearly completed, and this was necessary), a shed for sports equipment, a similar shed for wood storage, and a children's shelter shed to be duplicated shortly. The Education Department has permission to use the adjacent Tea Tree Gully oval during school hours. At present, 554 children attend the school, and this number will be increased by 30 at the mid-year intake. One aspect repeatedly raised by me as member for the district is the need to make use of about two and a half acres that were compulsorily acquired by the Education Department in order to extend the present restricted area. Can the Minister say whether these negotiations have been finalized and whether the previous owner has been paid in full? Also, on April 26, with members of the school committee and welfare club, I inspected the school and grounds and again saw its many short-comings, and it was obvious to me (as it has been since I have been the member for the district) that the only worthwhile solution to the problem is the construction of a new solid-construction school to replace the present classrooms. I know that the resources of the department are used mainly to meet accommodation requirements in rapidly-developing areas, but I point out to the Minister that this is an old school in such an area. When building lists are being prepared by the department consideration is given to replacing buildings at schools where the need is greatest, and urgency determines the priority. As the claims of this school would have been considered with those of other areas when future building programmes were being prepared, can the Minister of Education say where this school is placed on the priority list?

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

ENFIELD INDUSTRIES

Mr. JENNINGS: I address my question to the Premier, representing the Minister of Health, and to the Minister of Housing, to the Minister of Labour and Industry and to the

Attorney-General. The Bradford Kendall company in Kilburn has fairly recently introduced a compressor that has resulted in noise day and night that affects adjoining Housing Trust tenants. Also, from the Stewarts and Lloyds company, which is close to Bradford Kendall, there is a daily layer of noisome substance deposited on nearby houses, dependent, of course, on the prevailing winds. These companies have not been at all considerate regarding any complaints made to them. I think it can be said that the Enfield corporation has taken up with the Health Department the matter concerning the Bradford Kendall organization and, as a consequence, it seems to be fairly confident in the matter except that every letter received states, in effect, "It will be in a fortnight's time that we are going to do something about it."

However, people who have not had any sleep for a long time get rather impatient at the receipt of letters of this nature. I have been told by people who work within the Bradford Kendall factory that the electrical installations and things of this nature are far from what is expected. As these organizations are behaving themselves in an un-neighbourly fashion, will the various Ministers concerned expedite any investigations that are proceeding at the moment?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I rise to speak on behalf of my colleagues in this regard, and the answer is "Yes".

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I notice that the Governor in his Speech today referred to a number of major works. In most cases he stated their completion dates, but there was one project in which I am greatly interested—the major extensions and improvements in progress at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital—where the completion date was not given. Will the Minister of Works supply me with details of these works and give the completion dates?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: Works at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital were started last year. I will get their completion dates as soon as possible.

WALLAROO INDUSTRY

Mr. HUGHES: During his recent trip overseas, I understand from information given to me that the Premier had an opportunity of calling upon the syndicate owning land at Wallaroo, which it purchased in the initial stages for the building of a nitrogenous fertilizer works. I should like to hear a report

from that company on its future intentions in relation to this land.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: True, I called in for about three hours at Jackson, Mississippi, and while there I talked at the airport to three people—Mr. T. L. Reid, Junior, Dr. Charles Neill and Mr. W. P. Bridges—about a proposal they had previously had for setting up a nitrogenous fertilizer works at Wallaroo on land they had purchased there. From my conversation with them, it became evident that the export prices for nitrogenous fertilizer in other parts of the world, and particularly in the Middle East, were so low that they precluded the starting of a venture at Wallaroo. At the moment they can see no possible way of using the land in that area. I will read part of a 71-page report I have here of the interviews I had during my trip. The part relevant to the question asked ends with this sentence:

Mr. Reid assured me that, should any other economic use become available for the land they have purchased at Wallaroo, they would be keen to take advantage of it.

That is the sense of their parting remarks to us after talking to us for two or three hours.

MOUNT GAMBIER HOSPITAL

Mr. BURDON: The Chief Secretary earlier this year made a public statement in Mount Gambier following a question I had directed to him in this House through the Premier concerning the Mount Gambier Hospital, in respect of (a) the provision of a geriatric centre and (b) the use of the fourth floor of that hospital. The statement clearly indicated that work would be undertaken to make available the fourth floor for medical cases, thus freeing the ground floor of those medical cases and making the area completely free for geriatric patients. As the matter is urgent, can the Premier give an assurance that this work will be included in this year's works programme?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be pleased to get a report from my colleague for the honourable member.

BRIDGE KERBING

Mr. WARDLE: My question refers to the bridge across the Murray River at Murray Bridge and the several accidents that have occurred on this bridge in recent years, causing traffic to be diverted across the several ferries on the river. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads to consider having the kerbing on both sides of the bridge painted in a reflective white colour, as the centre line on the highway is painted?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will discuss the matter with Mr. Hill.

PORT PIRIE HOSPITAL

Mr. McKEE: Can the Minister of Works say when tenders are likely to be called for the further improvements at the Port Pirie Hospital recommended in the Public Works Committee's report tabled in the House this afternoon?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: No, I cannot. The usual custom is for all public works to be considered for inclusion in the Loan Estimates programme at the time of their preparation. Even if the work were on those Loan Estimates, a long time would elapse after approval was given for the preparation of the working drawings, so I am not able to inform the honourable member on this matter.

SCHOOL PAVING

Mr. CASEY: The Minister of Education might recall that during last session when I raised the question of paving at the Peterborough High School she told me that a contract had been let for screenings to be placed in certain areas of the school precincts. However, I have inspected the high school, with members of the high school council, and the members of the council consider, as I do, that these screenings, which cover only half the area we had originally asked to be paved, are not doing the job that we would like them to do. One reason is the climatic conditions in the area. When rain falls, which is not often up there, it scours the ground appreciably, and I consider that paving at schools in the North (I am not singling out Peterborough as the only school) would result in a saving to the Education Department in the long run. Recently, similar paving work was completed at the high school at Jamestown, which is close to Peterborough and where a contractor who could do this work is available. I understand that the school council has written to the department, explaining the position regarding the screenings which were used and which have proved to be unsatisfactory. Will the Minister of Education again take the matter up with the department and give every consideration to having this area paved as soon as possible?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will certainly follow the matter up for the honourable member and I will further discuss it with the Minister of Works, because this work would

be done by people in a department under his control. I will obtain the information for the honourable member.

FOOTBALL OVAL

Mr. VIRGO: In mid-April I received from the South Adelaide Football Club a letter, and a note on the bottom stated that similar letters had been sent to the Attorney-General and to the member for Unley, the two other members who have the honour of serving the area covered by this football club. The club, which is the only league football club in Adelaide without its own ground, has finally completed negotiations with the Mitcham council to obtain land and is now developing that land. In the letter the club asks what help can be expected from the State Government. I point out to the Attorney that this club provides a tremendous service to the children attending the various schools in the area (and I use the word "area" in its widest context). The oval will be available to the schools, so it will be virtually a service to the Education Department when it is fully developed. Because of these factors, has the Attorney-General made strong representations to the Treasurer for the inclusion of this project in next year's financial commitment? If he has not, will he do so, adding my strongest recommendation to the plea for finance?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: This letter arrived while I was overseas.

Mr. Corcoran: Everything arrived while you were overseas.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I am trying to understand the interjection.

The SPEAKER: Order! I think we had better get on with the business of the House.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The letter arrived while I was overseas. The question of the ways and means of helping this football club get its own club facilities has cropped up ever since I became a member in 1955, and, incidentally, it was a matter on which the honourable member's predecessor had extremely strong views.

Mr. Virgo: He expressed them frankly, too.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: He did, indeed, and I discussed the matter with him on several occasions. I intended to speak to the present member for Edwardstown about this. I think, perhaps, the most helpful course for me to pursue is to talk to him to see what can be worked out for the benefit of the club, and I hope that he will be able to spare me a few minutes in the next couple of days to do that.

LYNDOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: On the evening of June 2 last I was contacted by an officer of the Lyndoch Primary School Committee who registered a strong protest on behalf of the committee at the reduction of the number on the teaching staff at this school. The reason given for protesting was that the children's education would suffer again this year, as for two consecutive years the education of children in grades 3 and 4 had been disrupted, and that there was insufficient space to satisfactorily seat all children with safety in two rooms at the school. The next day (and the Minister of Education would be aware of this) I contacted the Minister's office by telephone and, as the Minister was not available, I conveyed this information to an officer and requested that a temporary teacher be appointed, as one was available in the town. The matter was investigated but the request was refused, the reason given being that there was an insufficient number of children at this school to warrant having three teachers there. Although I have not this in writing, I understand that a letter from the Minister to this effect is being forwarded to me. On June 9 I inspected the school and found that the children were crowded into two rooms, with little space between the desks in one room, and that in the infants' room, which is a timber frame building, furniture had had to be shifted and in one instance a piece of furniture had been placed in front of an escape hatch. Also, there was insufficient room for infants to engage in normal educational activities. Consequently, will the Minister of Education reconsider the question of appointing another teacher at this school?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will have a look at the matter and call for a further report.

AIRCRAFT NOISE

Mr. BROOMHILL: The Premier will probably have noticed that a large public meeting was held in the West Torrens area about two months ago on the question of airport noise. More than 1,000 people attended the meeting to oppose a proposal by airlines to extend their jet aircraft flights during the night hours. As a result of my interest in this matter I found that very little information was available in South Australia about the effects of aircraft noise. The following is part of an article in a recent issue of the *Sydney Sun*:

Authorities at Schiphol, Holland's international air terminal, are determined to

tackle the noise nuisance produced by aircraft flying low over the capital and its suburbs.

Schiphol is the first airport in the world to install a chain of sound recording and measuring instruments especially designed to indicate where and when engine noise can and should be reduced, both on taking off and landing.

Will the Premier consider approaching the acoustics branch of the Adelaide University to see whether it would be prepared to undertake research into this matter with the object of providing the State Government with some ammunition that could be used against the Commonwealth Government in respect of reducing aircraft noise?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: This is obviously a matter for the Commonwealth Government, which controls the regulations concerning the use of the airport at West Beach. It is a matter of some consequence whether this State and the university, as a recipient of some significant Government payments, should become involved in a survey which, as the honourable member puts it, could then be used as ammunition against the Commonwealth Government. This seems to be a chain of events that one cannot lightly enter upon. I think I can get some information for the honourable member, but I also think that this matter could have been taken up at Commonwealth level. I am sure a number of members of the Commonwealth Parliament would be interested in it. However, if the honourable member cannot find anyone in his own Party interested in it, perhaps I can find some of the members that I know who are interested in it. Although I would have thought that this was a matter for the Commonwealth Government particularly, I will endeavour to get a reply for the honourable member as soon as I can.

MINOR REPAIRS

Mr. JENNINGS: A couple of weeks ago I fancy I read a report that the Minister of Works had arranged for school maintenance work to be done immediately without correspondence going through the limbo of forgotten things in the Public Works Department, where it might get caught up with details of work for so many other departments. I know that this matter has concerned former Ministers of Education on both sides for a long time, and it has also concerned members of school committees. Can the Minister of Works amplify his statement and say whether in fact it applies only to minor works of schools or whether it applies to minor works

of other departments such as the Public Health Department?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I am very much aware of the problem to which the honourable member has alluded and which has been increasing in magnitude over the years as more and more schools and public buildings, for which this Parliament has voted the funds, have been built. To solve this problem as far as possible two steps have been taken. First, a great deal of decentralization is now occurring in the Public Buildings Department. Instead of gangs working out of Netley, two more depots are being established in the metropolitan area, one being at Greenacres, in the honourable member's district. In the country, major public works depots are being established, or are already established, in five or six major towns, and in addition a number of sub-depots are now spread throughout the country.

Secondly, a policy is in effect whereby, to do minor and urgent work such as repairing broken windows, leaking taps and pipes or things of that nature, a headmaster is authorized on his own authority to spend immediately a certain amount of money to get a local tradesman to do the work. This sum of money varies according to the classification of the school. This procedure is intended primarily for urgent and minor works and repairs in order to avoid the headmaster's reporting back through his department to the Public Buildings Department and to avoid subsequent investigations being carried out that would involve much delay. These two measures should overcome some of the admittedly irritating delays that have occurred. Obviously, requests for major alterations must still be referred to the Public Buildings Department to ensure that the alterations are correctly designed and that funds are available. Regarding the question of whether other departments can carry out minor works in this way, I am not sure of the position but I will have this checked up and inform the honourable member directly.

DENTAL CLINICS

Mr. CORCORAN: In his Speech His Excellency the Governor said that a number of trainee school dental therapists would soon graduate. I believe that they have, in fact, graduated, because a graduation ceremony was held a week or so ago. The Governor said that clinics would be established in Whyalla, Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Peterborough, Renmark and Murray Bridge. In view of the fact that on a number of occasions I have drawn the attention of the Minister (not necessarily

the present Minister) to the need for dental treatment in schools in the South-East, can the Minister of Education say why no clinics have been established in centres in the South-East such as Millicent, Mount Gambier and Naracoorte?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Of course, this matter does not come within the orbit of the Education Department: it is a public health matter under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Health. I will take this matter up with my colleague and get a report from him.

Mr. Corcoran: Do you agree that they should be established in these schools?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: In the first instance, it is a matter for my colleague to decide where they should be. I will take the question up with him.

JERVOIS BRIDGE

Mr. HURST: Will the Minister of Works ascertain whether his department intends to do any walling or landscaping on the approaches to the embankments of the Jervois bridge?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I take it that the honourable member is referring to the time when the new bridge is completed. Obviously, some of the old structure will have to be demolished and work will have to be re-done. I will ask the Director of Marine and Harbors what is envisaged in this. Part of this work will be the concern of the Minister of Roads and Transport, whose department is constructing the bridge. I will obtain a reply for the honourable member as quickly as possible.

EYRE PENINSULA RESERVES

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Some time ago and, I think, during the last session, on behalf of the Northern Naturalists Society (a competent body based in Whyalla) I drew the attention of the Minister of Lands to the need for a new fauna and flora reserve north of the Whyalla aerodrome. I also raised the question of the Hambidge Reserve, on Eyre Peninsula. Can the Minister say what steps have been taken in regard to these two matters, and whether consideration of the Hambidge Reserve cannot now be viewed in the light of the different situation concerning the wheat industry? I should like to see (as I am sure the Northern Naturalists Society would also like to see) the Hambidge Reserve remain untouched as a fauna and flora reserve.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The only recollection I have on the question of the Whyalla reserve is that the honourable member asked me a question and produced a

letter from the society suggesting that rubbish was being dumped and that there was neglect of some scrub land near the aerodrome. However, I will examine the question again to see whether a specific new reserve was asked for in that area. The question of Hambidge Reserve has not been resolved, but I make no apology for that. Whatever happens, if anything is to happen, a resolution will have to be tabled in both Houses of Parliament, thus giving members the opportunity to express their views on this matter before it could be proceeded with. The question has not been resolved, simply because there are so many other side issues, one might call them, relating to reserves on Eyre Peninsula. Several proposals about other reserves have been suggested by people with various interests, none of which is exactly similar to Hambidge but all of which have something in common with it. As the subject is rather complicated, I examined it myself on the spot in reasonable detail, although I should like to see it again. However, I do know, from first-hand experience, something about this land. This matter has not been forgotten, and a definite decision will soon be made. At present, the reserve is a dedicated reserve, and unless some positive action is taken it will remain so, because it can be altered only by a resolution of Parliament.

MOUNT GAMBIER COURTHOUSE

Mr. BURDON: It is now about three years since the former Minister of Works (Hon. C. D. Hutchens) exhibited at Mount Gambier plans for the proposed new courthouse building to the representatives of the National Trust who, at that time, requested that if the old courthouse were vacated it be made available to the National Trust. Can the Minister of Works say what progress has been made to replace this old courthouse building, and whether he has considered the excellent site that is available for this purpose?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: Being aware of the site to which the honourable member refers, I will obtain a report and inform him of the Government's planning and time table for this project.

SCALP BONUS

Mr. CASEY: In the last three or four years, and even during last session, I have advocated an increase in the dingo scalp bounty throughout the State. The Minister of Lands told me that he was seeking to get some ratification of this from other States, and I understand that agreement was reached at a recent

meeting of Ministers concerned with this issue, Can the Minister say what the agreement was and when it will be implemented?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The State Government initiated a conference on this subject about two weeks ago and invitations were sent to representatives of New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, and the Northern Territory. This Government believes that the bounty should be increased, and it probably will be increased in South Australia, but it is desirable that there should be some uniformity in all States. New South Wales has a much higher bounty of \$6, but that State has a rather different method of receiving payments, because the wild dog problem in the western districts of New South Wales is nowhere near as big as it is in the other States. Queensland has agreed to consider this question, and I will be seeing its Minister again shortly in order to obtain a final reply from him. Western Australia is against the idea, and I do not think there is any chance of that State's increasing the bounty. Unfortunately, the Northern Territory representative was unable to attend the conference, so that we do not know the attitude of the Northern Territory Administration. In all the circumstances it seems to me (although I do not want to be bound completely by this statement) that it will be wise for South Australia to increase the bounty and do the best it can with strict administration to ensure that the bounty is payable on dingoes destroyed in South Australia only. I think a final decision will be available within a week or so.

WOOMERA ROAD

Mr. RICHES: Has the Attorney-General received from the Minister of Roads and Transport a further report on the condition of the road between Port Augusta and Woomera, or has he any information about the proposals for reconditioning or upgrading that road?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: In connection with this matter Mr. Hill informs me that it is correct that the Commonwealth Government has stated that the money at present being made available to South Australia includes moneys for general roadworks in outback areas. The Commonwealth Government has added that it is the responsibility of the State Government to give priority to the Woomera road. The reply I gave to the honourable member during the last session covers a wider subject. The State Government

has made further submissions to the Commonwealth Government in connection with upgrading the Stuart Highway from Port Augusta to the South Australian and Northern Territory border, and it is on this submission that no reply from the Commonwealth has yet been received.

LAND VALUES

Mr. NANKIVELL: Will the Treasurer obtain for me from the Chief Valuer details of the actual unimproved land values at present applicable to the hundreds contained in the counties Buccleuch, Buckingham, Cardwell and Russell?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

ELECTORAL ROLL

Mr. VIRGO: My question relates to the function of the Attorney-General in his capacity as Minister in charge of the Electoral Department. However, I emphasize at the outset that my criticism of what has occurred does not relate to the action of any member of the State Electoral Department but rather to that of Commonwealth electoral officers, namely, registrars of various districts. During the absence overseas of the Attorney-General, what I believe to be a serious situation developed in that almost 1,000 notices of objection were wrongly served on electors, and this is almost a repetition of what happened regarding the Millicent District. One woman, who had lived in the same house for 42 years, received a notice of objection to having her name on the roll. Another instance related to the member for Whyalla (Hon. R. R. Loveday) with whom a notice was left that, if he did not fill in the relevant form, his name also would be removed from the roll. I think any humour that may be associated with the matter stops at this point, and I implore the Attorney-General to use his good offices to ensure that district registrars are not permitted to deprive people, who are legally entitled to vote, of the right to vote by removing their names illegally from the roll.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The matter has already been investigated. The registrar in question admits that a mistake was made, and he has been most apologetic about it. Steps have been taken to see that it does not happen again.

FOREST RESERVES

Mr. CORCORAN: The Minister of Lands will be aware that on several occasions in the past requests have been made by the South-Eastern Field Naturalists Association and me

about setting aside, as national parks, forest reserves in the South-East, and representations along these lines have now been made to me by the Agricultural Bureau. Members may recall representations made previously in this matter concerning Honan Scrub. Will the Minister say whether any progress has been made in this regard?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: No progress has been made. The Woods and Forests Department, which was approached in the matter, declined to hand over the land as reserves. On the other hand, I believe the department is a good custodian of the land and is not doing it any harm. There may be some areas in which it is intended to plant pines, although I think in most of the areas concerned there would not be any planting. However, I will raise the matter again with the Minister of Forests.

LAND BEAUTIFICATION

Mrs. BYRNE: Can the Minister of Works say what is the policy of the Engineering and Water Supply Department relating to beautifying areas owned by the department? What is the nature of the work undertaken? Will he also say whether the department permits such bodies as progress associations to beautify certain areas?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: Where large tanks are erected by the department (and I could name several for the honourable member) it is the department's policy wherever possible to plant trees and lawns in an effort not only to beautify the surrounding area but to mask the installation. Perhaps it would be just as well, in order to satisfy the honourable member, if I could have a full statement on this matter prepared for her, and I will let her have the information within a few days.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS

The SPEAKER laid on the table the following reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence:

- Clovercrest Primary School,
- Ingle Farm East Primary and Infants School,
- Milendella-Sanderston (Hundreds of Finnis and Angas) Water Supply,
- Port Lincoln South Primary and Infants School,
- Port Pirie Hospital Additions,
- Royal Park Sewerage Scheme,

Stanvac Primary School,
Whyalla (Eyre Avenue) Primary
School.

Ordered that reports be printed.

SENATE VACANCY

His Excellency the Governor, by message, informed the House of Assembly that the President of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Australia, in accordance with section 21 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, had notified him of the happening, in consequence of the death of Senator Keith Alexander Laught, of a vacancy in the representation of the State in the Senate of the Commonwealth. The Governor had been advised that, by the happening of such vacancy, the place of a Senator had become vacant before the expiration of the term of service within the meaning of section 15 of the said Constitution and that such place must be filled by the Houses of Parliament of the State, sitting and voting together, choosing a person to hold it in accordance with the provisions of the said section.

Later:

The SPEAKER: I have received an intimation from the President of the Legislative Council that he proposes to summon a joint meeting of the two Houses in the Legislative

Council Chamber on Wednesday, June 25, at 9.30 a.m., for the purpose of choosing a person to fill the vacancy in the Senate caused by the death of Senator Keith Alexander Laught.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Sessional Committees were appointed as follows:

Standing Orders: The Speaker, the Hon. Robin Millhouse, and Messrs. Arnold, Lawn, and Riches.

Library: The Speaker, and Messrs. Clark, Evans, and Venning.

Printing: Mrs. Byrne, and Messrs. Edwards, Ferguson, Giles, and Langley.

The Legislative Council notified its appointment of Sessional Committees.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier) moved:

That a committee consisting of Messrs. Evans, Giles, McAnaney, Rodda, and the mover be appointed to prepare a draft address to His Excellency the Governor in reply to his Speech on opening Parliament, and to report on June 18, 1969.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.3 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, June 18, at 2 p.m.