

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, June 19, 1969

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

SUPREME COURT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

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

QUESTIONS

JURISDICTION OF MASTERS

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: While the Labor Government was in office an amendment was made to the Supreme Court Act to provide that masters were part of the court, the purpose being to ensure that they would have jurisdiction in interlocutory matters, particularly in relation to the Commonwealth Divorce Act, because it had been contended that they were not in a position to make orders under that Act and, if they were not, this would cause grave delays indeed to proceedings to obtain maintenance and interim maintenance in divorce cases. Since then many divorce maintenance orders have been made by masters. I am now informed that a decision of the Acting Judge (Mr. Acting Justice Zelling) has purported to invalidate all these orders. In consequence, many hundreds of maintenance orders in South Australia are unenforceable until either the decision is overruled on appeal or some other action is taken. Will the Minister of Works ask the Attorney-General what action the Government intends to take so that people who have obtained these maintenance orders will be able to enforce maintenance proceedings, because otherwise many people dependent upon maintenance orders will be in a hopeless position?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I will take up this matter with the Attorney-General to find out whether we can get a speedy reply, especially because of the gravity of the matter suggested by the Leader.

STONEFIELD SCHOOL

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Because the attendance at the Stonefield Primary School, a small school in my district, had fallen below eight, the parents were informed some time ago that the school was likely to be closed

soon. The parents have the impression, from information given to them, that if the school is closed the children are likely to be transported by bus to the Eudunda school. A few weeks ago Mr. Kearney, Assistant Superintendent of Primary Education, attended a meeting at Stonefield, which meeting I attended, and the whole position was discussed with the parents. The parents unanimously considered that, if the school was closed, the children should be transported by bus to Truro, which is about 13 miles or 14 miles away. Most of the distance there could be covered on a bitumen road, whereas the road to Eudunda is about 26 miles long and is of rough metal. Will the Minister of Education find out whether a decision has been made to close the Stonefield school and, if it has, whether the wish of the parents that the children be transported by bus along the bitumen road to the Truro Primary School could be favourably considered?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: When enrolments fall below a certain figure the parents are notified and arrangements made for the children to attend another school. I have not had a report on the outcome of the meeting regarding the Stonefield school, but I will certainly call for one and see whether I can expedite it, after which I will let the honourable member have a reply.

GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

Mr. LAWN: Can the Premier say whether Cabinet is considering the purchase of Birks-gate as a residence for His Excellency the Governor or whether Cabinet has made any decision on the matter, and can he also say whether the Government intends to use the present Government House site as a site for a festival hall?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: No proposal has been put before Cabinet on this matter. The first I knew of it was when I read today's newspaper, or in the last few hours. I consider that, because of the expenditure now being incurred on renovation and necessary repairs at Government House, the Government is unlikely to purchase the house referred to for that purpose.

WATER RESOURCES

Mr. CORCORAN: I refer to a report in a South Australian paper of a statement made by the Director of Industrial Promotion (Mr. Ramsay) concerning the water supplies in this State, particularly in Adelaide, on May 26. The article, headed "South Australia 'Secure' for Water", states:

"Adelaide's water supply was much more secure than Melbourne's or Perth's for the next 10 or 15 years, without taking into account the Chowilla or Dartmouth proposals," the South Australian Director of Industrial Promotion (Mr. A. M. Ramsay) said yesterday.

Will the Premier say whether his views coincide with those of the Director of Industrial Promotion? Mr. Ramsay is reported to have gone on to say that water was not a developmental problem in the metropolitan area and that water flowing just below the surface in the South-East was one of the great water resources in this country. One might draw the inference from that statement that Mr. Ramsay may have had it in mind that at some time in the future water might be taken from the South-East to be used in other parts of the State. Will the Premier either confirm or deny that statement and tell me whether he or the Government has considered the future use of water originating in the South-East?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Government does not intend to use water from the South-East in the metropolitan area and, in fact, it has initiated a large-scale investigation into water resources and the needs of South Australia in this respect. Of course, the Minister of Works is familiar with the details of this study. In particular, an additional study has been set in motion specifically to obtain information concerning South-East water resources, and it is necessary to know the capabilities in connection with that water so that its future economic use can be planned. The Government certainly intends that that economic use shall take place in the South-East, and it is for that specific reason, of course, that the inquiry has been initiated. That statement cannot be binding on any future Government, but it outlines this Government's intention. In relation to the statement that there is no problem concerning water in the metropolitan area, I concur, as long as this House can agree to legislation authorizing the construction of the Dartmouth dam.

Mr. Corcoran: He didn't say that.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: No, but I am saying it. I am saying that South Australia's use of water in the long term is tied up with the Dartmouth construction, and whether or not we have that security will depend on this Parliament's passing the necessary enabling legislation. I have not seen the exact words attributed to Mr. Ramsay, but I believe that essentially it is true that, as long as we do not

have a catastrophic drought, South Australia's water needs for the next decade will be well looked after.

Mr. Corcoran: He didn't say that, either.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I think the honourable member used the term "10 to 15 years". I agree that for the next 10 or 15 years South Australia is secure in regard to water supplies, with the one proviso: without the dam to which I have referred there would be severe restrictions in a year similar to 1957. I fully expect that the necessary storages will be built and that we can look forward to the end of the century without experiencing any water supply problems.

KIMBA MAIN

Mr. EDWARDS: Can the Minister of Works say what progress has been made on laying of the main from Polda to Kimba?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: No, except that, having begun in February, work is progressing according to schedule. I cannot say exactly how far work has progressed, but I will have this information for the honourable member on Tuesday.

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: A weekly sheet called the Public Service Board Notice is now issued. Having examined many of these, I find that they record Public Service staff movements and resignations but that terminations of appointments are not recorded, as far as I could see. On the other hand, however, the termination of appointment of a teacher is recorded in the *Education Gazette*. The Minister of Education will recall the case of a teacher whose appointment was recorded as having been terminated, but a mistake had been made, and this was rectified afterward and the entry changed to a resignation. The teacher claims, however, that the mistake caused him to be put in the position where he could not obtain a job elsewhere in Australia as a teacher. In view of these facts, and the fact that in other walks of life the termination of an appointment is not publicized, will the Minister favourably consider ceasing the publication of terminations of appointment in the *Education Gazette*?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will certainly take up the honourable member's suggestion, consider it, and discuss it with the Director-General to ascertain the position. I know the case to which the honourable member has referred

MINISTERS

Mr. GILES: I wanted to address a question to the Attorney-General representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, but seeing that he is not present perhaps the Minister of Works would accept it?

The SPEAKER: The honourable member for Edwardstown.

Mr. VIRGO: As in the case of the honourable member for Gumeracha, I have a question for the Attorney-General but he is out of the Chamber. I may say that I think it is a disgrace to see only three Ministers on the front bench at Question Time.

The Hon. R. S. Hall: Question!

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Gawler.

ANGLE VALE SCHOOL

Mr. CLARK: The Angle Vale School Committee wrote to me expressing great concern regarding accommodation at this very old established school. (In fact, a few months ago I attended a very successful centenary celebration there.) The letter states:

At our school there are two timber classrooms occupied by grades 3 to 7, but grades 1 and 2 have no room to fit in. The old schoolhouse, with one classroom previously used, was condemned some years ago, and in November a demolition notice went through. All electricity and heating was disconnected, leaving the buildings very cold, dark and damp. Also, teachers, pupils and parents complain of mice and rats that have moved in. This is where grades 1 and 2 have to go for their lessons, and the parents of these children are naturally upset.

Will the Minister of Education investigate this matter to see whether the situation could be remedied as soon as possible?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Yes.

HILLS ROADS

Mr. GILES: Recently, the completion of the guardrail on Greenhill Road has greatly increased the safety of this road to the satisfaction of my constituents, but three other hills roads give us great concern because of their lack of safety provisions. This is illustrated by the fact that recently two cars have driven over the edge of Montacute Road, designated Highway No. 92. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport to inspect Highway No. 92, between Norton Summit and the Ashton cold stores, and the old Norton Summit Road, where only recently a bus load of cherry-pickers met with a serious accident,

and consider the possibility of erecting guardrails along the dangerous sections of these roads in order to increase their safety?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will certainly take up the matter.

DERAILMENTS

Mr. VIRGO: The Attorney-General will recall that the member for Mount Gambier and I asked questions last year about derailments and the action of the Government in appointing a committee. The last reply I received from the Minister of Roads and Transport through the Attorney-General, dated February 6, states:

It is expected that a preliminary report will be presented within a few weeks. However, the final report may take some considerable time.

As a few months has now elapsed, will the Attorney-General ask his colleague whether the preliminary report is available and can be given to the House?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will inquire.

WATER CHARGES

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: A constituent of mine who operates flower garden businesses in Allenby Gardens and Croydon has informed me that he received last year an account for excess water that he had to pay on a date stipulated in July. The account he has received this year bears the same reference number as did the account last year but states that payment must be made on or before June 28. In the absence of the Treasurer, can the Minister of Works say whether this indicates a change in procedure whereby many consumers will have to pay for excess water twice in the one financial year?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: As this seems rather extraordinary to me, I will certainly look into the matter. I assure the honourable member that no change of which I am aware has been made in the method of assessment or payment. Perhaps this is a special case.

The Hon. C. D. Hutchens: I will give details.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: If the honourable member will do so, I will look into it immediately.

WATERVALE WATER SUPPLY

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Earlier this year the Minister of Works informed me, I think in the House, that planning for the Watervale water scheme extension had become urgent

because of a critical shortage of water at Auburn last summer. Will the Minister let me have later a report on progress being made on this scheme?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: Yes.

SILOS

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Minister of Lands obtained from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my question of Tuesday this week about the building of additional grain silos?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have discussed this matter with the Minister of Agriculture who has supplied a long statement, which I ask to have incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

GRAIN SILOS

Deputations from representatives of the Northern Yorke Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and the Wallaroo and District Progress and Development Committee met me earlier this year when full and frank discussions were held on the matter of bulk grain storages on Yorke Peninsula, and in particular on reports that additional permanent storages were envisaged for Ardrossan which would make that port a major terminal port for bulk grain. The deputationists claimed that the logical port for bulk loading of grain produced in the Wallaroo area and the surrounding districts (including the upper portion of Yorke Peninsula) was Wallaroo, where port facilities and bulk storages were already established. They considered that the development of Ardrossan as a major terminal port for grain would divert grain from Wallaroo, to the detriment of that port and to farmers in the area.

I pointed out to the deputations that the South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Company Limited was established under the provisions of the Bulk Handling of Grain Act as a farmers' co-operative outside of Government interference and that the Minister had no power under the Act to dictate to the company as to its policy. I also pointed out that in the face of the acute storage problem caused by the record harvest last year and the prospect of a 45,000,000 bushel carry-over, I could not contemplate any action which would discourage the construction of temporary storage facilities as quickly as possible. Nevertheless, following the deputations I had protracted discussions with the company and the Australian Wheat Board, and on May 7, I wrote to the bulk handling company in the following terms:

I note that your board has re-affirmed its decision of March, 1969, to construct a 2,000,000-bushel shed type storage at Ardrossan and has awarded a contract to Ascom Proprietary Limited. I delayed replying to your letter until I was able to do a thorough comparison between storages in the Ardrossan division and the Wallaroo division which I have now completed. Whilst I agree that on the figures presented of receipts at the two terminal ports mentioned, the case for

Ardrossan appears fully justified, I have some reservations in regard to further permanent storage being located at Ardrossan for wheat receipts in view of the production figures in the two divisions previously referred to.

For the reasons I have already given, I accepted the company's decision to erect a 2,000,000-bushel temporary horizontal "carry-over" bulk grain storage at Ardrossan; but I made it clear that this acceptance did not carry with it any indication of the Government's views on, or commitment to, any programme of future port improvement. The company informed me that it proposed to erect this year structural steel bins at three country silo stations in the Wallaroo district to provide additional bulk storage of 1,500,000 bushels, raising the total bulk grain storage in that division to 11,900,000 bushels.

From this rather lengthy explanation, it should be obvious to the honourable member that the report he quoted refers to temporary "carry-over" storage at Port Adelaide and Ardrossan, and that the construction of those facilities by the bulk handling company does not imply the rejection by the company of my representations to it. Following the return from overseas of my colleague, the Minister of Marine, the whole question of future terminal port upgradings is under consideration by the government.

BERRI OCCUPATION CENTRE

Mr. ARNOLD: I understand that at present about 18 students, two of whom come from Waikerie, attend the Berri Occupation Centre. I understand further that about six other children from Waikerie wish to attend but that, because there is insufficient room and staff, they cannot do so. Will the Minister of Education see whether something cannot be done to improve the situation?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will bring down a report for the honourable member.

GAUGE STANDARDIZATION

Mr. McKEE: In November of last year the Commonwealth Minister for Shipping and Transport, in replying to a question by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Whitlam), said that the South Australian Government and the Commonwealth Government had agreed to engage independent consultants to report on the most efficient way of achieving rail standardization between Adelaide and Port Pirie. Can the Premier say whether this firm of consultants has been engaged and, if it has, when it is likely to make a report?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The responsibility for action now rests with the Commonwealth Government which, I understand, is considering the proposals before it in relation to this matter. In fact, I spoke by telephone to the

Commonwealth Minister for Shipping and Transport last week and was told that this was the position. I was sorry to see in this morning's press the report intimating that the South Australian Government was holding up the matter. Mr. Jessop is either misinformed or in error: in fact, the situation is that the South Australian Government is awaiting word from the Commonwealth Government on this matter.

Mr. McKEE: Will the Premier say "Yes" or "No" to my question whether his Government has agreed with the Commonwealth Government to engage independent consultants to report on an efficient way to standardize the railway line between Adelaide and Port Pirie?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Yes.

Mr. VENNING: My question is directed to the Premier, who appears to be handling questions on gauge standardization. When is it expected that the standard gauge from Port Pirie to Broken Hill will be completed? When it comes into operation, it will have its complications with regard to grain movements from the Wilmington division, transshipping at Gladstone, and also from the Quorn-Orroroo division, transshipping at Peterborough. Will the Premier obtain a report on when it is expected that the standard gauge section will be completed, and whether it will be a case of the old gauge today and the new standard gauge tomorrow or whether the two gauges will run together for a period of time?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be happy to find out those details for the honourable member, although I believe that the standard gauge will be completed by the end of this year. However, I will confirm that date and get any other details that are available.

CLARE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. ALLEN: I understand that a contract has been let to a contracting firm to carry out major earthworks at the Clare High School. The area concerned is known as the school orchard and the contract is to enable this area to be levelled so that it can be used as a playing area for the school. The work was to commence early this year but, up to the present, no start has been made. I contacted the contractor early in April, pointing out that it will be difficult to work in the Clare district in the middle of winter. The contractor told me that he would commence work early in April. Can the Minister of Works say whether a completion date has

been set for this work and when it will commence?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I will get a reply for the honourable member immediately.

JERVOIS BRIDGE

Mr. RYAN: On numerous occasions I have asked when the new Jervois bridge will be opened, but the date seems to be going further and further ahead. I believe that in this year's Estimates provision was made for the cost of entertainment at the opening of the bridge. However, it is apparent from seeing the bridge that it will not be opened during the current year. Can the Minister of Works say what is the expected completion date and date of opening of this bridge?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I inspected the progress of work on this bridge only last week but I am not able to reply to the honourable member, because the bridge is being built by the Minister of Roads and Transport. However, I will get this information from my colleague and give it to the honourable member next week if he asks another question.

NORTHERN ROAD

Mr. VENNING: Last year I asked several questions about the Murray Town to Booleroo Centre road. I do not know whether the department is using work on this stretch of road to see whether it can break records in periods of construction, but last year I was led to believe that the road would be sand-sealed before the harvest and that it would be completed this financial year. When I was in the area recently I found that the road still is not sealed and my predecessor has told me that it is now more than 10 years since the first sod was turned in connection with construction work. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport when it is expected that the road will be completed?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will take up the matter with my colleague as a matter of urgency.

UPPER MURRAY MINING

Mr. LANGLEY: A Melbourne newspaper report states that the Premiers of Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia, as well as other Parliamentarians, have been invited to attend a meeting at Albury on July 23 to discuss mining laws. The campaign is being organized by Upper Murray farmers who are alarmed at the increasing interest being shown in the area by large mining companies.

Mr. Corcoran: They're going to mine the Dartmouth dam site.

Mr. LANGLEY: That could be right. Can the Premier say whether he, one of his Ministers, or a Government official will be attending the meeting?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: This matter has already been brought to my notice by letter from the person concerned with the site of one of these proposed mining ventures. I have referred the matter to the Minister of Works, who has reported to me that he has asked the South Australian Commissioner on the River Murray Commission to make complete inquiries about the importance of this subject, and any action that the Government takes about attendance at any such meeting will depend on the report received.

ROADSIDE SIGNS

Mr. WARDLE: The Mobilong and Meningie councils have recently taken action through the State Planning Office to have advertising signs removed from the Princes Highway in those council areas. Because signs are still displayed on railway property facing the Princes Highway, will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport whether it is intended to have those signs removed also and, if so, when?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will find out.

WINDANA HOME

Mr. CASEY: Earlier this week I saw a television programme in which there was a conversation between the compere, the Minister of Social Welfare (at a later stage of the programme), and a young girl who had been sent to the Windana home for girls because the case of her and other members of her family being neglected persons was being adjourned by the court. I compliment this young girl on the clear and concise way in which she explained her position, and I must say that the Minister was clear and concise, too, but very evasive, particularly seeing that he had all these things at his fingertips. Will the Minister say exactly what he has done (as he said during that programme he expected to be able to do) regarding the adjournment of these cases, because it is most unsatisfactory that such children should be placed in a home and be made subject to the trials and tribulations which this girl explained the other night? Will the Minister also say what he intends to do about placing girls who are in a similar position in some place where they are not so exposed in the future?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: In fact, I did not have all the facts and circumstances at my fingertips. Last Tuesday I was invited to appear on the television programme *Newsbeat* and was told that the girl was to appear and tell her story. At that stage I was not able to find out who she was and I could not inquire of either the court or my department beforehand to make certain of the facts, so when the honourable member heard me discussing the case with Mr. Crease, all that I knew was what I had seen on the film. However, having been able to check on the facts of the case since then, I can give a little more information to the honourable member than I had at my fingertips on Tuesday night.

The honourable member has referred particularly to the girl's assertion that the case was adjourned from time to time because the magistrate was too busy to hear it. I think those were the words she used, and she mentioned a period of 12 weeks. When I heard her say this, it perturbed me, naturally, and I said on the programme that I would make inquiries to find out whether I could ascertain the identity of the girl. I have done that and have made other inquiries. The facts are not as the girl put them. The reason for the frequent adjournments is explained as follows. She is a member of a large family (I think there are seven children) and I am informed that the mother went to another State, leaving the family in the care of a 20-year-old girl who had her own baby with her, and I am informed that things got out of hand. I think the young girl herself, who was in charge of the family, went to the Social Welfare Department, saying that she could not cope.

The SPEAKER: Order! There are precedents regarding the giving of information of a private and confidential nature. I have not stopped the Minister from replying and I do not want to stop the honourable member for Frome from seeking this information, but I draw the attention of the Minister to those precedents, of which I should think he would be aware.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I am aware of them, Mr. Speaker, and will not breach them. I am not sure who made the complaint, but I have given the broad facts. The reason for the adjournments was that the departmental officers were trying to find the mother, who was in another State, and until she could be found the court could not deal with the case. In fact, it took the 12 weeks that the girl has mentioned to find the mother

and make the necessary arrangements for her to be reunited with the family.

Mr. Casey: The girl was still in the home.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes, she was in the home for 12 weeks, but that was because there was no other alternative and not because the magistrate was too busy to hear the case.

Mr. CASEY: The Minister has not answered my question. He has dealt with only part of it. The girl who was interviewed in the television programme stated specifically that the court had nowhere to send the children but to Windana. The Minister is well aware of the undesirable practices that were being carried on at this home, because he was told in the programme. However, if he wants me to spell out the details I will do so, but I do not consider that that is necessary. Has the Minister considered that these children have not broken the law in any way but are remanded by the court only because their case cannot be heard and, therefore, should not be sent to a centre where they will mix with people who have broken the law? Further, as the Minister said during the interview that he would examine this matter, has he considered having these persons taken to a place where they will not mix with people who have been brought before the courts and sent to Windana for breaking the law?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I must apologise to you, Sir, and to members of the House: I must have misunderstood the honourable member's lengthy explanation of his previous question. I understood him to be asking the reason for the delay in the hearing by the Juvenile Court of the charge. To me, that is one question, and I have answered it. Regarding the question he now asks about Windana home generally, I point out to him that it is a remand home. It was built for the purpose of holding boys and girls who have been remanded for one reason or another. It was, in fact, being used for the purpose for which it was built (in the case of this family, the children were on remand from the Juvenile Court), so that I have no worry about that particular aspect of the matter. But I do not conceal the fact that I have been worried about the general question of overcrowding at Windana.

Mr. Broomhill: What are you going to do about it?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Let me answer the question. I am endeavouring to give an answer. The arrangement at Windana is that the children are segregated into a

number of groups. Boys and girls are segregated, and the children are segregated by ages and also into groups of children, the first comprising those who are charged with being neglected (and who therefore have not, except in the most technical sense, committed any offences), and the second comprising those who are delinquent children, having been charged with the commission of some offence against the law involving dishonesty, violence or something like that.

Mr. Jennings: They get a bit mixed at times.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: They do. The member for Enfield is right for once.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Frome asked the question.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: They do get mixed up, because of the over-crowding which has occurred. Numbers of children have been remanded there, and this has taxed the accommodation. This does not happen all the time but it does from time to time, and it is the result, as the honourable member well knows, of the policy of the Adelaide Juvenile Court at the present time. It causes the problems which have been canvassed on television and which the honourable member has now canvassed here. Several courses of action are open to me and to the Government: we could, as was suggested, I think, by Mr. Crease the other night, provide further accommodation.

Mr. Broomhill: Quickly!

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: It is not possible to do it quickly. The only thing that can be done quickly is to transfer children to other homes and institutions under the control of the Social Welfare Department, and this is done in an emergency. The member for West Torrens must know that accommodation of this nature cannot be duplicated or added to quickly: it takes time. Another course of action which is open would be (and this is in the discretion of the Juvenile Court) for a change to occur from the present policy of remanding children in the circumstances in which they are often remanded now, so that not so many children would be sent to Windana from the court. However, as I say, that is a matter for the judicial discretion of the court and, in that, it would not be proper for me to interfere as Attorney-General or Minister of Social Welfare. Several other courses of action are open to me which I do not intend to canvass at present.

Mr. Casey: Why not?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Because no decision has been made on them. But the matter is under active consideration, and I hope that through one course of action or another the position will be righted soon.

Mrs BYRNE: My question is supplementary to the one asked by the member for Frome (Mr. Casey) about the Windana Remand Home where children are segregated into two sections—children charged with being neglected, and delinquent children. Recently, I had cause to visit this home to see a family of children in distressing circumstances, and I was informed that the children in the "neglected" section (in which the children I referred to were placed) were locked in. Does the Minister of Social Welfare think that this is necessary, and does he realize that this is distressing to the children who are placed there, who are made to feel like criminals, which could have a psychological effect on their future? I point out to him (and I am sure he is aware of this) that these children have committed no crime but, owing to circumstances beyond their control, they are placed there purely because they are neglected.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I cannot accept the implication in the honourable member's question that the children at Windana are not properly looked after or are in any way ill-treated or prejudiced.

Mrs. Byrne: I never said that.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I think the best plan in this case is for the honourable member to have a talk with me privately about it. If she will, in confidence, give me the names of the children concerned, I will have their circumstances investigated.

Mrs. BYRNE: The Minister must have misunderstood my question. Can he tell me whether the children in the neglected section of Windana Remand Home are locked in?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Evidently I did misunderstand the honourable member's question. She apparently desires to withdraw the implication that I read into the question: she says it was not there. If that is so, I apologize.

Mrs. Byrne: It was never there in the first place.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Then I must have misunderstood the question. I think that, in view of this question and the way the honourable member has asked it, I should seek a report to satisfy her, and I will do that.

PENOLA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. RODDA: Last week, in the company of the school committee, I inspected the Penola Primary School, the committee being anxious to have the Education Department consider replacing this school. Indeed, certain inadequacies at the school have revealed themselves over the years: the foundations of the temporary buildings have dropped, causing cracks in the floors and creating considerable draught; there are inadequate fire escapes (despite the presence of fire hazards, including flammable material, close to the building); toilet facilities, albeit clean, are primitive; lunch sheds are isolated and extremely cold in the winter (this is indeed a cold part of the State); and, generally speaking, the scattered nature of the school makes administration difficult. Will the Minister of Education take up this matter with her officers with a view to giving the school priority on the list of new schools?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I shall be pleased to get a report on the matter and I will bring it down as soon as possible.

INDUSTRIAL COVERAGE

Mr. HURST: On November 20 last year, after making an explanation, I asked the Minister of Labour and Industry whether he would consider declaring by regulation that the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science become an employer pursuant to section 5 (xiv) of the Industrial Code, and the Minister undertook to examine the matter. As this is fairly urgent, will the Minister consider the request I made last year?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: Yes. I recall this case, and I remember taking some action on it. I was under the impression that I had replied to the honourable member, but if that is not the case I regret it and will get a reply for him as rapidly as possible.

SOUTH-WESTERN SUBURBS DRAINAGE

Mr. BROOMHILL: The Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Local Government, will probably recall that over a period of years I have expressed interest in the south-western suburbs drainage scheme and have referred to the problems that the West Torrens council has suggested might occur. Although we know that the scheme will certainly solve problems occurring higher up the Sturt Creek, it seems that many difficulties could be encountered by residents of West Torrens and Glenelg North as a result of floodwaters coming down this creek. In earlier replies I have received from

the Minister of Local Government it has been pointed out that the West Torrens council's fears of flooding are unfounded and that the scheme will be able to cope with the expected volume of water. However, alterations have already been made to the scheme, including the deepening of the Patawalonga Creek. The Mayor of West Torrens is reported in the local newspaper to have said recently that in the opinion of the Design Surveyor drainage conditions in West Torrens are worse now than they were before the Government commenced the drainage scheme, and the report goes on to quote Mr. Hamra, as follows:

"The ratepayers could be paying for a reduction in the amount of flooding problem in the West Torrens area." Mr. Hamra said that the Government would give no assurance that the new scheme would be successful. "Nothing is in writing and it seems as though the rate-payers will have to bear the expense of any flooding," he added.

In view of those remarks, will the Attorney-General take up this matter with his colleague to have it thoroughly investigated and to see whether an assurance can be given that this scheme will not cause flooding to the properties of residents in West Torrens and Glenelg North?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

HEATHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on Tuesday about the Heathfield High School playing fields?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: It is my intention to recommend to Cabinet next week that approval be given for funds to enable work to proceed on the final development of the playing fields at the Heathfield High School. Subject to funds being approved, tenders will be called in the *Government Gazette* on July 3, 1969, for the work.

BANKSIA PARK SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: The Banksia Park Primary School Committee has written to me concerning the need for enclosing a shelter shed at the infants school because of the shed's poor design and because of the direction in which the shed opening is situated, causing it to be affected by prevailing weather. In the summer months, one-half of the number of seats cannot be used, as the children are exposed to the sun, and when it rains the shed cannot be used, as the rain beats in, in addition to the cold being felt and to the dust blowing in on the children's food when windy weather is experienced.

Will the Minister of Education investigate this matter with a view to having the shelter shed enclosed, as already requested by the school committee through the normal channels?

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

MOUNT GAMBIER NORTH SCHOOL

Mr. BURDON: On a recent inspection of the Mount Gambier North Primary School, particularly the infants section, I noted one or two matters which I should like the Minister of Education to have investigated with a view to improving facilities at that school. On the eastern end of the two portable classrooms, adjacent to the infants section, asphaltting is required, and I should also like to see a hand basin and drinking fountain provided between the two buildings for the benefit of the children so that they will not have to enter through the primary section of the school when desiring to have a drink. Will the Minister have her officers consider providing these improved facilities for infant children attending the school?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I shall be pleased to get a report on the matter although, as drinking fountains are provided on subsidy, it would be a matter for the school committee to apply for such a facility.

WALLAROO HARBOUR

Mr. FERGUSON: I was particularly interested in the question asked by the member for Wallaroo, to which he received a reply today, in respect of terminal silos and port facilities at Wallaroo, because many of my constituents deliver their grain to Wallaroo. I think much speculation has been taking place without those concerned knowing the facts regarding what can and cannot be done in respect of deepening existing ports in South Australia. Will the Minister of Marine say whether the Marine and Harbors Department has any knowledge of the type of sea-bed at the port of Wallaroo and whether it would be possible to dredge there to enable it to become a deep sea port in order to cope with present-day demands?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: Over recent months representations have been made to me by various members of this House and others regarding the importance of Wallaroo in this respect and suggesting how Wallaroo harbour and the channel should be deepened. This harbour was deepened a few years ago to the stage where the sand was removed until the rock in the channel was reached. This,

of course, has been the restricting factor in recent years and it has prevented the deepening of this harbour without the expenditure of a large sum of public funds. Recently, the member for the district introduced to me a deputation from the Wallaroo township again urging that this work be done. The whole question of deep sea ports is being investigated by my department and the Government but, so that the department can ascertain more exactly what is required at that harbour as regards possible dredging and the extent of the rock there, the Government recently called and accepted tenders for seismic work to be undertaken in Spencer Gulf. This was then extended by me to cover the port of Wallaroo so that we could ascertain how much rock was present in the channel and harbour. A tender was let for this work to be completed, if possible, by the end of June. The only hold-ups likely to occur would be caused by bad weather. The seismic work will be carried out in accordance with the tender. Following the survey work, I think it would take a month or two for the data received to be correctly processed and assessed. This is one step taken by the Government to ascertain what can be done in this area and to see whether this very important port can be improved.

SNUGGERY CROSSING

Mr. CORCORAN: My attention has been drawn to the danger that exists at a railway crossing on the Princes Highway near Apcel Limited at Snuggery, about seven miles south of Millicent. Often long trains are stationary on this crossing; from personal experience I know this to be the case. Because it is a high-speed highway, these trains involve great risk to motorists using the road. Because of this, will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport whether it is possible to establish some form of lighting system, not necessarily a warning device which, I know, is expensive, but some illumination of this crossing, to warn people when a train is stationary there? In other words, could the crossing be illuminated in the same way as major intersections are illuminated in country areas? The ultimate would be flashing lights and a warning system but, if that is not possible, I ask that consideration be given to illuminating this crossing.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will see what can be done.

SCHOOL ACCIDENTS

Mr. JENNINGS: I preface my question by congratulating the Minister of Education on her constancy this afternoon on the front bench. She is the only Minister who, apparently, has not had ants in her pants and been running around the place.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member cannot make a speech. He must ask a question.

Mr. JENNINGS: I was merely congratulating the Minister. Recently, I received a letter from a constituent enclosing a letter from Mr. E. G. Tattersall, Director, Administration and Finance in the Education Department. Mr. Tattersall's letter states:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of November 11, 1968, concerning the accident that occurred to your son Gary, at the Strathmont Boys Technical High School on October 23, 1968. The circumstances in which Gary was injured have been investigated, but it is not considered that the accident was due to any neglect on the part of the Education Department. It is sincerely regretted that your son should have sustained the injury to his tooth, but no liability in the matter can be admitted by the department. I trust that Gary has fully recovered from the unfortunate experience.

I think that Gary has probably recovered from the experience, but the pocket of his parents has not. His father has sent me a photostat copy of an account from his dentist for \$60, so this was not a mean accident by any means. I rang and spoke to Mr. Tattersall, who said that the department did not and could not accept any responsibility, because the accident occurred during a play period when the children were being supervised by a teacher in the usual way. The boy fell over and hit his face against a water pipe. This can be easily understood, particularly with the way boys go on at times, but this, apparently, is now the attitude of the department: it is final and irrevocable. As this boy's father has had to pay more than \$60, will the Minister of Education consider whether an *ex gratia* payment should be made?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I recall this case, which was thoroughly investigated to establish whether or not there was any responsibility on the part of the Education Department in regard to the boy's accident. It is some time since I saw the docket, but I will call for it again and see whether anything can be done. However, I am afraid that the matter has been decided and a decision taken which is irrevocable.

Mr. McANANEY: I am concerned with adult education classes, particularly classes such as welding, where a family man could be involved in an accident. Can the Minister of Education say whether some form of insurance cover could be provided to people attending such classes during the period of their attendance or whether the insurance cover provided to children could be extended to cover those attending adult education classes?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: As the matter is complex, I will call for a report and bring it down as soon as possible.

EQUAL PAY

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: It was stated in the press recently that the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission would be handing down a judgment in the equal pay case today. Does the Minister of Labour and Industry know whether it was handed down today and, if it was, can he tell the House what the judgment contained? Also, has he any comments to make thereon?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The judgment was handed down today in this very important case, which was protracted because of the illness of some of the judges or commissioners, who had to be replaced by others. It is reported in the press today, and I have with me a report which I received a short while ago but all of which I do not intend to read. However, I will read one or two relevant passages to give the correct answer to the honourable member's question. This case concerning equal pay was brought before the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission by the meat industry and the Commonwealth Public Service. As honourable members will realize, this was argued as a test case, and the Commission accordingly suggested that the principles it decided should be applied in deciding other applications for equal pay between the sexes. The parts of the judgment that concern us are as follows:

While we accept the concept of "equal pay for equal work" implying as it does the elimination of discrimination based on sex alone, we realize that the concept is difficult of precise definition and even more difficult to apply with precision. The extent to which we are prepared to implement the principle of equal pay for equal work is to introduce into the award and determinations before us the principles of the State Acts to the extent of the claims.

We have given serious consideration to the principles of the State Acts and although we are aware that they have created some anomalies and inconsistencies we consider that overall they are to be preferred to the present position

under Commonwealth awards and determinations and they are fair and reasonable in all the circumstances. Moreover, any attempt by us to lay down different principles and standards could only result in the creation of additional anomalies, inconsistencies and confusion. The wage relationship between males and females currently existing under Commonwealth awards and determinations cannot be completely sustained on the grounds of logic or justice . . . We consider that the implementation of our decision should be spread over a period so that from January 1, 1970, the implementation will be the same as that under the South Australian, Western Australian and Tasmanian Acts.

A suggested scale for phasing in the principle to be introduced is then set out. In South Australia the basis is contained in the Industrial Code, which was amended by this House in 1967, the amendment being supported by both sides.

Mr. CORCORAN: No doubt the Treasurer is aware that the Commission has made a decision on the equal pay for equal work matter. Has he had time to assess whether this will have any effect on the current Budget or has he had any discussion with Treasury officials about the matter?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: As I have been occupied the whole afternoon with a deputation, I have not yet seen the press so I have not had an opportunity to assess the implications. I have no doubt that the Under Treasurer will look at the matter and discuss it with me within the next few days.

WHYALLA RESERVE

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to my recent question about a new fauna and flora reserve north-west of Whyalla?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The honourable member asked a question about this matter on November 27 last year, a reply being given to him on December 3. I now have further information for him as follows:

Detailed planning has not yet commenced in this area and in general is part of the long-term development, which includes acquisition from perpetual leases to the west of the present Crown lands. An area embracing those Crown lands proposed for reservation could be made available under annual licence conditions to the Whyalla City Commission, which could then control the area with the assistance of the Northern Naturalists Society. An area of about 450 acres could be made available. When sufficient detail planning has been completed, sufficient survey will be carried out to define the proposed reservations, which will then be dealt with by way of dedication in some manner to the mutual satisfaction of the department and the city commission.

I suggest that the honourable member could ask the commission to take the initial steps of applying for an annual licence.

ROYAL PARK SCHOOL

Mr. HURST: Will the Minister of Education ascertain when the construction of the new Royal Park High School will commence?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Yes.

THEVENARD HARBOUR

Mr. EDWARDS: Honourable members know the importance of Thevenard harbour in the shipping of wheat from the far west of South Australia. As I have been told that certain works are to be carried out at this harbour, can the Minister of Marine say whether a contract has been let for the dredging of the channel and, if it has, when this work is scheduled to begin?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: Some months ago I announced that the Government intended to call tenders for the deepening of the channel, this work having formerly been approved by the Public Works Committee. Tenders have now closed and are being processed prior to my making a submission to Cabinet. Of course, when the tender is let we hope that the work will proceed as expeditiously as possible. Because of the exposed nature of this part of the coast, bad weather could cause a delay, but as soon as weather permits I hope the work will proceed. Alterations are intended to be made to the berthing pier at Thevenard, and this work will be done concurrently with the deepening. I assure the honourable member this work will be carried out as soon as possible.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE ACCOMMODATION

Mr. VIRGO: I think that the Minister of Works will recall from his days as a private member in this Parliament that the accommodation provided for members is completely inadequate. As the number of members may increase, can the Minister say whether the Government is considering alterations and improvements? While this work is in progress, could the public address system in the House be considered, because I think it leaves much to be desired, as it produces whistling noises?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I agree with the honourable member that there are some shortcomings in the accommodation presently available to members, and the Government desires that if possible this standard should

be raised. When the Electoral Districts (Redivision) Bill was passed, as Minister of Works I set in train the investigations necessary to provide accommodation for eight additional members, as provided for in that Bill, anticipating that eventually a Constitution Act Amendment Bill would provide for this. As a result, I met with Mr. Speaker and Mr. President and subsequently with the Director of the Public Buildings Department and one of his architects who has been assigned to this job. Discussions have been held with officers of the House to ascertain, first, what will be necessary to accommodate a further eight members and any additional staff that might also be necessary. Extensive investigations have been made, in co-operation with Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and officers of the House, of what is now available in this building and of the condition of the old Legislative Council building to the west of this House to find out whether any use can be made of it. I will not know the results of those investigations until I receive a further report. If it is not possible to use that building, some additions to this building may be necessary. I assure the House that this project has been entered into without delay, because it will not be long (perhaps two years) before additional accommodation for additional members is required. Regarding the present accommodation, I prefer to wait until I receive the report from my officers about the ultimate accommodation required in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of expenditure in upgrading certain accommodation in the House. It may be possible to carry out some of this work, but I prefer that the necessary work be done by one expenditure and in one project.

IRRIGATION REBATE

Mr. ARNOLD: Yesterday the Minister of Irrigation, in a reply to my question about irrigation rebates, said:

If the total water pumped during general irrigations averages less than 30 acre inches an acre, a rebate of \$2 an acre is made.

The Minister also said:

The quantity of water pumped in the Ral Ral Division in the 1968-69 season is 35.70 inches.

Can the Minister say whether the facts that the distribution system in the Ral Ral area is probably amongst the least efficient that the department has, and that the quantity of water that the growers used might not have been more than 30in., were considered when it was decided not to allow the rebate?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes. Possibly, relatively small increases above the 30 acre inches could be overlooked, but it was considered that the extent of the excess was rather too great to overlook. Due consideration was given to the type of distribution system in the Ral Ral Division.

PARK LANDS INTERSECTION

Mr. LANGLEY: Extensive roadworks are in progress along Peacock Road, in the south park lands. Before this work commenced, considerable traffic built up in the morning and afternoon peak periods because of motorists travelling to and from their employment. Some years may elapse before the Glenelg trams are not running, and the "give way" signs at the intersection of Peacock Road and Greenhill Road often delay traffic. As numerous requests have been made, will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport whether planning has started for traffic lanes to be provided at this intersection? Further, as the Glenelg tram service will continue to operate, can urgent consideration be given to this matter in order to assist the flow of traffic and to assist pedestrians crossing the intersection?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will find out.

EUDUNDA SCHOOL

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Some months ago several acres of land near the Eudunda Area School were purchased by the Education Department for the use of agricultural science students as a project area. The block is not served with reticulated water and this greatly restricts its value to the school. I have been told that the Engineering and Water Supply Department has completed its planning for this small extension but that it cannot lay pipes until approval is given by the Education Department. From information I have obtained from the department I understand that it has approved the project, but my latest information is that the docket is now gathering dust in the Public Buildings Department. As this matter is only a small one for the department to look into but a rather important one for the students at the school, will the Minister of Education take up the matter for me?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will certainly follow up this matter and try to expedite it for the honourable member.

PALMER SCHOOL

Mr. WARDLE: I understand that the Palmer Primary School committee has negotiated with the Education Department about the paving of portion of the school area. Will the Minister of Education give an interim report on the present position?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will endeavour to facilitate making this report available for the honourable member.

TOURISM

Mr. BROOMHILL: A recent article in a local newspaper which was headed, "South Australian Film for Abroad" reported the following:

Tourist promotion films showing South Australian attractions are to be screened interstate, in New Zealand and in parts of the United States.

The report stated that this announcement was made by the Minister of Immigration and Tourism and went on to say:

They are short, coloured documentaries intended for cinema screening. The films show the Adelaide Festival of Arts, Kangaroo Island and the Flinders Ranges.

Will the Minister consider screening these films for interested members of Parliament so that we may be certain that South Australia is being properly advertised in these documentaries?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: There is no trouble whatever about the honourable member's seeing the films: I can make arrangements, I think, for almost any time that is mutually convenient to members. I think all films can be made available to suit members' wishes.

TEACHERS COLLEGES

Mr. CLARK: I am not quite certain to whom I ought to address this question, which relates to the progress of the building of teachers colleges, but I take it that I should address it to the Minister of Works. Yesterday the *News* published a general article on education, and Mr. W. A. White, President of the South Australian Institute of Teachers, was quoted as saying:

Work on Bedford Park and Salisbury Teachers Colleges is proceeding at a snail's pace.

Mr. White is well known to me, I have the greatest respect for him, and I do not think he is likely to make a statement without considering the matter. I do not have much knowledge about the progress of the Bedford Park building, but I pass the Salisbury Teachers

College at least twice a day and, to put it moderately, I have been interested in the building from the outset. However, as progress does not seem to be particularly fast, can the Minister of Works give me any reason for this and, if he cannot, will he obtain the relevant information for me?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: First, I understand that the Bedford Park project is going along according to schedule. The honourable member has expressed concern regarding Salisbury, and I join with him in this concern. An unavoidable delay has been caused in several ways. The design, the letting of the tender, and the commencement of the work seemed to go well, but the present contractor is slipping behind his schedule and causing concern to me and to the Public Buildings Department. We have put extra architects and supervisors from the department on the job to see whether the work can be expedited, because, unless the contractor keeps to his original intended time table and to the time table specified by the department, part of the college will not be open at the expected time.

The finance is, of course, coming 100 per cent from the Commonwealth Government, but the work is being undertaken by the Public Buildings Department on behalf of the Education Department. As I do not have with me the actual dates on which it is now hoped the work will be completed, I will try to get the information for the honourable member as soon as possible. However, I assure him that I am aware of the delay being caused here which, to some extent, is beyond departmental control, and I emphasize that active steps are being and have been taken by the department to see whether this delay can be overcome.

WEST CROYDON SEWERAGE

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Minister of Works will recall that towards the end of the last session he informed me of a major sewerage main to be installed in Rosetta Street, West Croydon. Work on this project has been going on for some time with much inconvenience to storekeepers near the West Croydon subway. Having said that, I should like to say that the shopkeepers appreciate the kindly attitude at all times of the foreman on the job. However, the common practice, which is deeply appreciated by councils, is for the department to give the council concerned detailed information concerning when certain work is to be carried

out, but it seems that in this matter the Woodville council was taken somewhat by surprise, members of the council having read the announcement of the closure of the road (lasting a month) for the first time in the press. We would like to know when the subway will be open, or when provision will be made for people in that area to use these shops.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I am well aware of this particular project and the magnitude of the job, and I have inspected it on the last couple of weekends. The route of it runs along a major road in the district of West Croydon, namely Rosetta Street, and the subway is involved, besides the crossing of the up and down tracks of the Port Road. I believe that the departmental employees working there have done a very good job, and to expedite the job a great deal of work has been done at weekends to minimize the discomfort and inconvenience caused to residents in that area. I do not have the date when this project is likely to be completed, but I will obtain a report as quickly as I can next week.

TEACHER HOUSING

Mr. HUGHES: At the last meeting of the Kadina Memorial High School Council the unsatisfactory position relating to the housing of male teachers was brought to the attention of members, and I was requested by the council to ask the Minister of Housing to consider the erection of additional rental houses for male teachers in Kadina. Will the Premier take up this matter with the Minister of Housing?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall obtain a report on this matter from the Treasurer and Minister of Housing.

CARAVAN PARKS

Mrs. BYRNE: Will the Minister of Immigration and Tourism obtain for me a list of all caravan parks throughout the State to which a subsidy has been granted through the Government Tourist Bureau toward the cost of establishment, and the dates when these subsidies were granted?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I do not think there will be any difficulty in getting this information, which I shall get as soon as possible. I do not know for how long the system has been operating and just how far back in the records one would have to go, but I imagine it would be a fairly simple question to answer.

GLADSTONE MEDICAL FACILITIES

Mr. VENNING: Recently, an approach was made by Gladstone residents for improved medical and hospital facilities in that area. Will the Premier, representing the Minister of Health, obtain a report on what has been done up to the present with regard to these facilities?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Yes.

GOAT HAIR

Mr. JENNINGS: I have recently received an inquiry from a constituent of mine. It was of an extraordinary nature but, of course, I am expected to be able to advise my constituents in all circumstances about everything and, generally speaking, I can do it, but on this occasion I found that I was not quite up to the task. This person wants to establish an Angora goat farm and to raise goat hair on a commercial basis. Will the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Agriculture, take up this matter with his colleague and find out whether there is any information in the Agriculture Department that he could send to me regarding the possibilities for commercial goat hair production in this State?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: As soon as the honourable member said that the question was beyond him I realized that I would not be able to answer it either, so I shall undertake to take the matter up with the Minister of Agriculture to see what is available and whether there is any possibility of an interesting industry being established.

ELECTRICITY COMMITTEE

Mr. CORCORAN: Some time ago the Electricity Trust announced the formation of a special committee on aesthetic standards. I am not aware of any report of this committee's activities or findings, and I do not know whether they have ever been published. I cannot find any evidence of its activities, and certainly one cannot see any activity in the surroundings of Adelaide because the monsters still rise skywards. Is the Minister of Works prepared to arrange for the release to Parliament at any rate of the committee's report?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I will inquire to see what is available and I will produce whatever is available. Only last Monday I inspected a very large substation site in which a great deal of aesthetic improvement had been carried out, to the credit of the trust, and I believe that the residents nearby appreciate

it. I will see whether I can obtain this information, which may have been included in the trust's annual report for last year.

SHEARERS

Mr. FREEBAIRN: My question arises as a result of a recent article in the *Advertiser*, headed "Lack of Shearers 'Acute' ". It states:

An acute shortage of shearers over the past months showed signs of worsening and could present a major problem to Australia's wool clip, the State secretary of the Australian Workers' Union (Mr. D. N. Cameron) said last night . . . Unless something is done fairly quickly, within 10 years this shortage could produce deterioration in the quality of Australian wool.

Will the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Agriculture, ask whether his colleague has any plans for increasing the number of shearers available to the pastoral industry in South Australia?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I understand that the man who made that statement is trying to get out of the industry altogether, but I do not think he will. I will obtain an answer for the honourable member.

MOUNT GAMBIER OFFICES

Mr. BURDON: For many years the building of new Government offices at Mount Gambier has been the subject of many questions and answers in this House. However, the answers have not yet produced new public offices; nor have they indicated where the offices are to be built. Can the Minister of Works tell the House what the Government's intention is concerning these offices and, if possible, where they will be built?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: A great deal of work has been done on this matter recently, and the Government has taken an option on a block of land. This will be exercised, I hope, by June 30 of this year. As soon as that option is exercised, I will give the honourable member full details of the matter.

WHYALLA SCHOOL

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: I expect the Minister of Education will recall that earlier this year I wrote to her asking that the new primary school in Whyalla be not called the Eyre Primary School, in order to avoid confusion with the Eyre Technical High School. I noticed a few days ago in an article dealing with new schools that this school was again referred to as the Eyre Primary. Can steps

be taken to ensure that the school is named after one of the other three surrounding streets?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The honourable member will recall that I gave him the answer that I would look into this matter and give it some consideration, because it did appear to me that this was a wise suggestion. I will follow it up and see what the recommendation is in regard to this primary school.

PORT PIRIE HOUSING

Mr. McKEE: The Housing Trust's building programme at Port Pirie at present is very limited, and in any case it is concentrating mainly on the construction of purchase houses, while there is an increasing demand for rental houses. Some months ago the General Manager of the Housing Trust (Mr. Ramsay) told me, and it was publicly announced, that he intended to construct 28 terrace type houses for rental purposes in Port Pirie. This, of course, was last year. So far, nothing has been done towards making a start on these houses. Will the Minister of Housing take this up with the trust as a matter of urgency in order to relieve the present housing problem at Port Pirie?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

BUILDING INDUSTRY

Mr. VIRGO: The Minister of Housing will recall that as far back as August of last year, and fairly persistently ever since, I have asked questions about the appointment of persons to the Builders Licensing Advisory Committee, established under the Builders Licensing Act. On February 13 last year, the last time I asked a question on this matter, the Minister replied (at page 3605 of *Hansard*):

I regret to say that I cannot introduce in the House this session the amendments desired by the Government, but the measure will receive priority as soon as we meet again, because it has already been delayed considerably.

In addition to this, a small article in our daily press, which I understand is an extract from the weekly journal called *Builder*, states:

Sections at least of the building industry are growing restive at the delay in instituting the licensing of builders, designed to preclude operators who cannot measure up to a certain standard The journal suggests that builders and the public are entitled to a clear statement from the Government on its intentions concerning the legislation.

In that statement I heartily concur. Will the Minister give the House a clear statement on when this legislation will be introduced?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: What I hope will be the final draft of the proposed amendments to the Builders Licensing Act is before Cabinet, and I hope that the matter will be concluded in a very short time. When this takes place, I shall be able to make a statement on the Government's intentions.

MILLICENT HOUSING

Mr. CORCORAN: I notice from a report in the *South-Eastern Times*, which is a Millicent paper, that at the last council meeting comment was made on the fact that no application had been received during the past 12 months from the Housing Trust for additional houses in Millicent, and the comment was made by Councillor Hutchesson, one of the councillors there, that the trust needed to build more houses in Millicent. Will the Minister of Housing be good enough to ascertain the future plans for the construction of houses in Millicent? Will he at the same time obtain information on the waiting time for rental accommodation in Millicent? In my view, the trust has met the programme in Millicent but, if there is any future demand or if the trust has any plans to meet a future demand, I should like to know.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes, I will gladly do that. On the occasion of my recent visit to Millicent, in company with the honourable member I inspected a substantial area of houses in the course of completion. I think the honourable member has fairly expressed my view that the trust appeared to have kept up very well with the requirements. As the trust will know whether there is a waiting time for rental accommodation, I will ask what applications are outstanding and what the programme is.

Mr. Corcoran: Will you get me a report on it?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes.

GLADSTONE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. VENNING: Will the Minister of Education obtain for me a report on what stage the advanced planning for the new Gladstone High School has reached?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: As I think it would be better to call for a report on this matter, I will do so and give it to the honourable member as soon as possible.

SAWDUST

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Butchers in my district have made representations to me expressing concern at the recent newspaper reference to

the intention of the Minister of Agriculture to bring down a regulation prohibiting the use of sawdust on the floors of butchers' shops. Can the Minister of Lands say whether the Minister of Agriculture has such an intention or whether this was merely a mis-report in the press?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will ask that question of the Minister of Agriculture.

PORT AUGUSTA HOSPITAL

Mr. RICHES: Can the Minister of Works obtain for me the date on which tenders are expected to be called for the construction of the new Port Augusta Hospital?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: Yes, I will do so. I think I said publicly that the commencement of this work is intended to proceed smartly.

SUPREME COURT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Supreme Court Act, 1935-1969. Read a first time.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its main purpose (which is given effect in clause 2 (a), (b) and (c)) is to empower the Governor, if any judge of the Supreme Court is absent on leave or is for any other reason unable fully to discharge his duties, to appoint an acting judge in his place until he returns to the full execution of his duties or to appoint an acting judge for such period as the Governor thinks fit. The clause also makes provision for the Governor to continue the appointment of an acting judge for such period as he deems proper if, for any reason that the Governor thinks proper, an acting judge should continue in office after the time when his appointment would normally have terminated.

In recent months the work of the Supreme Court has become increasingly congested. At present one judge is absent on sick leave and two judges are unable fully to discharge their duties on the bench by reason of being engaged on other duties. Another judge is due to retire in October. An acting judge has been appointed in place of the judge who is absent on sick leave, but even if that judge were shortly to resume his full duties it would be some time before the other two judges were released from their extra judicial duties to resume their full duties on the

bench. In consequence, the court will for some time be seriously understaffed and the Government feels that there would be urgent need to continue the appointment of the acting judge until the congestion of the court lists is relieved. I am sure honourable members will see the need for this Bill to be passed by this House as a matter of urgency in order that the present unsatisfactory situation with regard to the court lists might be remedied with the least possible delay.

Clause 3 amends section 12 of the principal Act by expressly providing for the payment of salary to a person who acts in the place of the Chief Justice or a puisne judge. This had not been previously provided for in the principal Act and the opportunity is taken to rectify the omission.

Mr. CORCORAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from June 18. Page 101.)

First line (Chief Secretary and Minister of Health, Miscellaneous, \$275,000)—passed.

MINISTER OF WORKS

Public Buildings Department, \$350,000.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Last evening I referred to the fact that some contracts had been let for the construction of schools. Although such contracts may not be detrimental to the construction of Samcon schools, I should like the Minister to comment on the situation.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE (Minister of Works): I do not have the details for the honourable member but I can supply them to him later. Many Samcon schools have been built in South Australia. Members may recall that last year I furnished them with a report on the development of Samcon construction schools in South Australia. The construction of this type of school has frequently been referred to the Public Works Committee. I will obtain the programme for the honourable member so that he may ascertain the position. Modular construction is a new concept in South Australia and in some other parts of Australia. The modular brick is a different type of brick from the standard type of brick to which we have been accustomed for generations; the modular brick is bigger. It is finding favour among architects and in the department, because it enables rooms of a convenient size to be designed. I take it that

the honourable member is referring to a comparison between Samcon construction and modular construction.

Mr. VIRGO: An additional \$190,000 is required for education buildings. On July 25, 1968, and on numerous subsequent occasions I have drawn the attention of the Minister of Education to the very unsatisfactory state of affairs at the Ascot Park Primary School. On July 25 I told the Minister that one solid construction building was erected in 1926 and that it contained only two classrooms. Since 1926, 18 prefabricated temporary timber classrooms have been added. The Minister has been kind enough to obtain details and a report for me about this matter, but unfortunately she has not said whether the unsatisfactory conditions will be relieved. The siting of the rooms and the greatly increased amount of traffic on Marion Road make the position even worse than it would otherwise be. Will the Minister re-examine the position and will she regard it as of higher priority than it has been regarded in the past?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE (Minister of Education): I point out that the needs of any school are regarded as of great importance. However, we have to establish a system of priorities because of the demand for new schools in expanding parts of the metropolitan area and of the country. As the honourable member said, this question has been referred to me several times, and each time I have obtained a report for him that set out the department's attitude to the particular school in relation to the other schools making claims for assistance with regard to new buildings. The position still pertains that this matter is looked at in the context of the requirements of all schools for which special claims are made to the department.

Mr. BROOMHILL: I am concerned about temporary classrooms in high schools in my district. I believe this matter concerns the Minister of Works. There are some very attractive high school buildings in my district but, unfortunately, a school building that I have in mind is almost surrounded by a dozen or more temporary classrooms. I realize that it has been pointed out that temporary timber classrooms are necessary because of the speed with which they can be erected and because of the cost involved. In addition, the temporary classrooms are constructed of timber because the number of children at the school may diminish in years to come. My observations of schools in my district lead me to believe that this is not completely so.

Temporary classrooms, used for many years, will probably not be removed. Having regard to the argument about cost and speed of erection, the Public Buildings Department ought to reconsider the attitude that has been taken.

In 1965, when I asked the Minister of Works for particulars of the difference between the cost of permanent classrooms and that of temporary classrooms, the Minister said that a temporary timber frame classroom 24ft. by 24ft. erected in the metropolitan area would cost \$4,000. He explained that this was the bare cost of the classroom unit, excluding all facilities. Later the Minister told me that the net cost of a classroom unit of the same size that would be of permanent construction was about \$5,200. Since 1965 many advances have been made in methods of building construction and I consider that the difference between the costs of the two types of building has been reduced substantially. I ask the Minister for particulars of the difference in cost at the present time.

I do not know why the use of timber frame classrooms is continuing, because there have been changes in construction methods and the time factor is of minor importance. The children would be more comfortable if we did away with timber frame buildings and the appearance of the schools would be improved.

Mr. RYAN: I refer to the item that makes provision for police and courthouse buildings. If the whole amount were to be spent on the police station and courthouse at Port Adelaide I could understand the provision. However, the original appropriation was \$160,000 and, coincidentally, that amount is provided in these Supplementary Estimates. The first thing that strikes me is that the amount provided originally was spent on something else and we now have to replace that amount. I ask the Minister to clarify the position.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: This is a maintenance item and it indicates that we have been able to do twice the amount of maintenance work that we first thought we could do. The fact that the amounts are similar is coincidental and the honourable member should not read anything other than that into the provision. I am not saying that the work was not necessary: we have been able to spend twice the amount originally provided.

Mr. VENNING: Last year representations were made to have additional classrooms provided at the Crystal Brook school. The member for Stuart (Mr. Riches) also raised the matter, because children from his district attended that school. These rooms have now

been constructed and they are a comfortable addition. Although they are of timber frame construction, they were repaired and painted after they were taken from Maitland and they are a good addition. When they were being painted, I pointed out how dilapidated the other rooms looked in comparison but I was told that the cost of painting the other rooms would have to be provided from revenue. Because most of the schools in the Rocky River District are old, much money has to be spent in order to give the children some of the amenities that are being provided when modern schools are built. I hope that, with the additional funds available, such matters as the provision of heating equipment at the Appila school will be considered.

Mr. LANGLEY: We appreciate the new schools and the ovals and recreation facilities provided at them. However, although land is available adjacent to several older schools in the Unley District, we have not been able to have this land purchased. Members of school committees work hard to provide facilities in the school yards but at some schools children cannot use the ovals without risking danger to themselves. I hope the Government will consider purchasing land adjoining schools, particularly in the Goodwood and Parkside areas, where the schoolgrounds are overcrowded.

Line passed.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

Education Department, \$250,000.

Mr. RYAN: I refer to the line, "Secondary Education (including Technical High Schools)—Equipment, materials," etc., for which \$30,000 is provided. At a recent meeting of the technical high school council of which I am a member, I was amazed to learn of an outstanding amount of subsidy that was owing by the department to the school concerned, and I presume that other schools may be in the same category. This means that when school councils receive their percentage of revenue they must, in effect, finance the department in regard to the outstanding subsidy. Regarding the school with which I am associated, a large sum is involved, and out of the revenue received by the school this financial year, particularly in February with the intake of new students, the council has had to contend with a reduced availability of funds, because it is carrying the sum which the Education Department has not paid by way of subsidy.

Secondly, in the administration of school councils, although schools receive their main income when they open in February, those concerned do not know what the quota of subsidy may be in the forthcoming financial year and therefore cannot plan the school's expenditure. I am sure it would be appreciated if the amount of subsidy to be allowed by the department in the forthcoming financial year could be made known to schools so that they could budget accordingly.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, \$250,000—passed.

MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND MINISTER OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Department of Social Welfare, \$110,000.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): I wish to ask the Minister of Social Welfare a number of questions in connection with this department: first, under the general line, I ask what is intended concerning reorganizing the department and the appointment of a permanent Public Service head of the department. It is now some time since moves were initiated on this score and, if there is to be an effective reorganization of the department or a joining of the Departments of Social Welfare and Aboriginal Affairs and the appointment of a suitable qualified person to the post of Director or Director-General, as the case may be, then the sooner this is done the better.

While I was Minister the administration particularly of the Social Welfare Department gave me considerable cause for concern, because there are areas in the department in internal administration which I think call for considerable reform. Particularly is this so in the various accounting procedures involved in the interlocking activities of the department. There are real problems of running the public relief system and of tying the accounts of that system in with effective maintenance collections on behalf of neglected children and deserted wives.

During my term as Minister these problems came up constantly. I did refer the matter to the Social Welfare Advisory Council but, in the time that it was operating, that council could not give me an effective answer as to a new accounting system that would overcome the difficulties, and the then Director was unable to suggest any system that would obviate the difficulties that exist. I suspect that part of the problem comes from a somewhat old form of accounting and that newer

accounting methods might overcome a number of difficulties in this area. But there is a real administrative problem, and it is not one that is likely to be solved effectively until action is taken by the Public Service head of the department to ensure that some reform occurs.

In addition to this, of course, the overall policy of the department, particularly in relation to the children who are in custody and undergoing some form of custodial care, is, I think, due for revision. During the period when we had either old or badly overcrowded buildings it was difficult to institute the kind of individual custodial care that was really needed for effective remedial treatment of children in the care of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department, although some of this work could be done in the smaller homes (cottage homes and places such as Struan). But although it was certainly the case that, while each child who was in custody at one of the major institutions had his case reviewed periodically by the placement committee (and I attended placement committee meetings from time to time to observe the procedures), it was also the case that attendants at a number of places where custodial care was exercised (and particularly was this the case at Brookway Park and at the McNally Training Centre) were not individually informed of what was the policy of the department in relation to the children with whom they had to deal.

That is to say, they were given a course of training which they had to undertake with the particular boys who were assigned to their care for specific periods, but the attendants themselves had little idea of the particular boy's case or of what specifically the department was trying to do with him, and this was a matter of complaint among attendants. Part of our problem here, of course, was to get an adequate training programme available (in-service training was going on in the department) so that attendants would be sufficiently qualified in background to be brought into discussions on what the department was aiming to do with each boy. I think this is vital for the exercise of adequate remedial treatment at the training institutions. I ask the Minister whether any progress has been made in this direction or whether it is the case that at Magill and Brookway Park particularly (more had been done in this area at Vaughan House) in-service training has got to the stage that the attendants, rather than the superintendent and his deputy, are more directly brought into the matter of the aim in the care of each boy concerned.

Another matter to which I wish to refer is one that has been brought up in Question Time this afternoon: the use of the Windana Remand Home. As the Minister will know, prior to the opening of Windana, children who were in custody pending the completion of court hearings were at times housed in a number of quite unsatisfactory places. They were housed with children who were undergoing some sort of detention as a penalty, and it was the specific aim in opening Windana that children who were merely on remand prior to their cases being dealt with should not be mixed with children who were undergoing detention because of some fault. I heard the Minister on television last week admit that Windana was being used for the purposes of penalty on occasion.

Instead of the procedures laid down under the Juvenile Courts Act being followed (the child's case is considered, the case is dealt with, the magistrate decides either that there is to be some simple penalty or a release without penalty, a placing of the child under a bond with or without a probation officer, or a custody and control order so that the Children's Welfare Department may assume custody of the child if it finds this is necessary, or a sentence to detention, which will then allow the Children's Welfare Department to determine what is to be done thereafter in the way of detention or release or care under a probation officer, whatever is the department's view, because it is thereafter in the hands of the department to decide what is the best way of dealing with the child) what is happening is that a case comes before the magistrate, he decides that the child shall be given a taste of detention in some way so, instead of completing the case, although he has made up his mind about it, he remands the case so that the child is kept in detention in Windana. But that is not what Windana was established for. With great respect to the magistrate, I think this is quite a wrong way in which to proceed. I noted that the Minister did not express specific agreement with the course that was being followed. I appreciate that the Minister has said that it is not for him to interfere with the exercise of judicial duty but, at the same time, if the course of law laid down by Parliament to be followed by the courts and the purposes of the institutions consequent on that law are not being either observed or catered for by the courts, then there is a course open to the Minister: he may draw the attention

of the head of the department to this fact. Whenever this sort of thing occasionally happened while I was Minister I did draw attention to it, with satisfactory results.

I think this is a course which should be followed now because, undoubtedly, the course now being followed in the Juvenile Court is attracting very widespread public dissatisfaction and alarm and I have many letters on my desk now expressing this point of view. I do not want to say anything against the magistrate in question. I recommended his appointment to the bench. I did not regret having done so, and I do not regret having done so. He has in many ways been an extremely effective and helpful magistrate and, in his early period on the bench of the Adelaide Magistrates' Court, he cleaned up an enormous backlog of family law matters that had been hanging fire for a long time because we could not get them satisfactorily dealt with. He was very effective in this. Right now I must express my disagreement with the course he is following and I ask the Minister what action he proposes to take concerning the matter?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE (Minister of Social Welfare): I followed the Leader's remarks with very great interest and I particularly appreciate the understanding way in which he has raised the various issues. In view of that I think it would be better for me to give him a considered reply later on the specific matters with regard to Brookway Park and McNally. I would like to say something about the two more general matters that he raised, namely, of an amalgamation, and of Windana and the policies being pursued in the Juvenile Court. Regarding the question of the reorganization of the Social Welfare Department and the Aboriginal Affairs Department, and the possibility of joining them in one department, this is a matter that occurred to me soon after I came into office, but I know it is not a new matter: I think it has been considered for years, particularly on the ground of logic. The Aboriginal citizens of this State have been put, so far as the law can put them, in exactly the same position as other citizens.

There is obviously a strong case for their being treated on a par with everyone else and, therefore, having one department instead of two separate departments, one of which is specifically for Aboriginal affairs. There is, apart from this logical reason, a good deal of overlapping between the two departments.

This causes (and I am sure that the Leader will agree with me) friction between the two departments and sometimes between particular officers. The Leader has also raised the broad issues of administration within the Social Welfare Department. There are also similar considerations that apply to Aboriginal affairs. When the Director of Social Welfare (the late Mr. Cook) died, it seemed to me to be an appropriate time to initiate an inquiry into the question of amalgamation, and that inquiry is being pursued by the Public Service Board. I was discussing this matter only this morning with one of the members of the board. There are several complex factors, which has meant that the inquiry is taking some time, and I regret very much that this has meant that Mr. Gordon Bruff has been acting as Director of Social Welfare for a long time without our being able to make a permanent appointment if the decision were against amalgamation or of making considerable changes in administration.

I think that although this delay is unfortunate it is wise to proceed slowly and to make certain of what is the right course to be followed. I gathered from the Leader's remarks that he is not averse to an amalgamation of the departments if this should be shown to be in the best interest of all concerned.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: No.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Public Service Board inquiry is continuing, and I hope it will not be too much longer before I get a report on that matter. A decision will be made, and made public, and any changes agreed on will take place, because the present situation is not a satisfactory or particularly happy one.

Regarding Windana, I do not conceal from the Leader, and I have not concealed all along, my worry about the situation that has developed there. I may say in all fairness to Mr. Wright, the present magistrate, that I believe that the same course of action has been taken by some at least of his predecessors in the past. I understand that during the time the Leader was the Minister, or perhaps during the time when the late Mr. Walsh was administering the department, Mr. Elliott did (but not on as many occasions as has been done recently) remand juveniles to Windana in much the same circumstances.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: He must have done it pretty rarely because he hardly ever put anyone into an institution.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: That is true, but I am told that it happened from time to time. This is what has caused the overcrowding at Windana and the attendant problems. Quite frankly (and perhaps I could have said this during Question Time when I was answering the second question from the member for Frome), I do not know at the moment what is the best course to follow.

There are a number of courses. I have discussed the matter in the last week with Mr. Wright. As I have said publicly, I do not think it is right that I should interfere in any specific case (this is a matter for his judicial discretion) but I have felt free to discuss general policies with him. He called on me last Friday and we had a long and frank discussion about this. He put to me the reasons that have impelled him to take the course of action he has taken. They are strong reasons (although there are countervailing reasons) and the embarrassment of overcrowding at Windana is a result of them. I hope that in the course of the next few weeks a solution will be found to the problem, and that it will be the right solution. The overcrowding is not, of course, continuous: it occurs from time to time when he follows this policy of remanding juveniles—usually, a group of juveniles, although he assures me (and I accept this assurance without reservation) that he treats every individual case on its merits.

Mr. Broomhill: Has the overcrowding been continuous?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: No. It occurs when he has a number of school-children before him who have been out on a shoplifting spree, generally in the school holiday period. It is not continuous, but this does not affect the problem. The problem is as grave as if the overcrowding was continuous.

Mr. Hudson: But you know what the answer is, don't you?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: It is not just the overcrowding: it is the principle of remanding children there in the circumstances. Of course, Mr. Wright says that he feels (and he said this publicly from the bench) that there should be some punishment in these cases because it would be a deterrent to a repetition by juveniles of these offences; and he hopes it would act as a deterrent to other children. On the other hand, he does not think a conviction should be recorded against a child. This is the course he has

adopted to be able to impose some punishment on a child while at the same time not recording a conviction against it.

Mr. Broomhill: Has it acted as a deterrent?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: He tells me it has in a number of cases. Perhaps we can wait until the figures are released in his report, which is due to me at the end of this month. The annual report will show whether or not there has been a change in that attitude. I am waiting to see whether or not there has been.

Mr. Hudson: Do you think that bail should be refused in all cases of larceny?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I am not sure to what the honourable member is alluding. I will answer the honourable member's hypothetical question by saying that I do not know. To me, that is irrelevant to the matter we are discussing at the moment.

Mr. Hudson: Isn't this the same kind of situation?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: No, it is not the same sort of situation at all. This is the reason why Mr. Wright has followed this course.

Mr. Hudson: What happens if a child is found not guilty on a charge of shoplifting?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: That is not the case here. Mr. Wright assures me that he does not take this course of action unless the charge has been admitted by the child. So the hypothetical situation suggested by the member for Glenelg never arises. I hope that in the next few weeks we shall have a solution to the problem.

Mr. VIRGO: Like my Leader, I want to express some concern, as other members have this afternoon (and as have many thousands of the public, no doubt) about the showing on the television programme *Newsbeat* last week of an interview with the little girl. However, I am a little happier now than I was during Question Time. At least, the Minister has given our Leader an undertaking that he will have some discussions. During Question Time, apart from his saying that some matters were under consideration and would be rectified. I felt the Minister was tending to be evasive over the whole matter. It seems that he got quite annoyed at being asked a third question on this matter, when the member for Barossa directed a question to him. However, I was not here so I feel I cannot pursue that line very far. The Minister says that

the overcrowding occurs only at a time when a number of children are on a course of shoplifting, which happens usually during the school holiday period or immediately after it. I am not quite sure whether those were his exact words but I think I am reasonably accurate in that comment.

I believe the Government should be attacking this problem from the opposite direction: the people who should be charged are not the children but the shopkeepers. They are the people who cause the crime, if a crime is committed. How often have people stopped to think, bearing in mind the record that the Minister referred to of last year's proceedings in the Magistrates' Court, why charges of shoplifting in all age groups, and certainly in the juvenile age group, have increased? The little girl who appeared the other night in the television programme referred to in a previous segment, which I take it the Minister saw while he was in the studio, showing various children being "street-quizzed". That indicates to me something significant.

We should remember that 20 or 30 years ago the shopkeeper protected his goods. Today he does not. I fail to see how a bank could expect to charge someone with stealing money if it left it on the footpath outside the bank. That is virtually the same kind of thing. How often have members of this Committee stood in a department store with an article they want to purchase, looking for somebody to take their money? It is just as easy to walk out with the article as it is difficult to find a shop assistant. That is, of course, dishonest but surely the person contributing to this dishonesty must accept some part of the blame. I do not know how we should approach a matter of this nature but I refuse to accept that children today are any more dishonest than we were. Let us be honest just for once and say we all did a little bit of cheating at some stage.

I now want to refer to the Windana home at Glandore. I was approached some six weeks ago by the Secretary of the Lions Club, who informed me that the Lions Club had a project that was being delayed because of lack of activity on the part of the authorities at Windana. I do not think this really affects the Minister of Social Welfare as much as it does the Minister of Works. I understand that a temporary building (the steel framework, the iron, and all the goods and chattels that go with one of these buildings) from the old Magill Reformatory was dismantled and transported to Windana some months ago where

it has since remained lying in the grass. The Lions Club is waiting for the building to be erected so that it can be made a recreation hall. The club intends to provide a model race track and other equipment in the building for the boys. It has made up the equipment and is waiting to put it in the building, but unfortunately no-one will erect it.

This is a fairly unfortunate state of affairs. Here is a body of men who do much for charities and yet this body is not receiving the co-operation of the Government that it is justly entitled to receive. I should like the Minister of Social Welfare (or, alternatively, the Minister of Works if he feels he may better be able to handle this matter) to see that the work of erecting the recreation hall for the home (actually it is in the Glandore Boys' Home but, as the Minister knows, they are all in the one area) is carried out as expeditiously as possible.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will have inquiries made about the erection of the hut at Windana. I have not heard about this before.

Mr. Virgo: You may find that it is at the Glandore Boys' Home.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes. I will inquire to see what can be done to hurry up the work because we certainly do not want to put off any of the goodwill evident in the offer of the Lions Club. As the work done by the Lions Club and other such bodies is greatly valued, I will certainly look into this matter straight away. I should like to say something about the other matter raised by the honourable member regarding the current method of merchandising goods by the big stores particularly, although smaller stores use similar methods. Undoubtedly the ease with which goods can be picked up and taken away and so on is a contributing factor in this matter.

The Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe: Impulse buying.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes, but occasionally it is not buying, and that is the core of the problem. I cannot go quite as far as the honourable member has gone in his remarks, but I freely acknowledge this is a significant factor in the present position. I discussed it with the Retail Traders' Association of South Australia Incorporated soon after the magistrate reported to me last year. I do not think there is any real chance of this method of merchandising being changed at present. No doubt in time fashions will

change and other methods of merchandising will be used, but at present this method is used all over the world (as I have seen myself in the last few weeks) and we cannot really expect South Australian merchants to be exceptions to the general rule.

The merchants acknowledge the risks they are taking and know what losses they are suffering through stealing, but they prefer this method of merchandising and, as I do not know of any way to persuade them to alter it, we must accept this as the situation. However, knowing it is a standing temptation to children, I wish it was not there or could be reduced. Nevertheless, we must be realistic about it.

Mr. JENNINGS: I want to raise two matters concerning Windana. One of the cases concerns a boy, so he may have been in the Glandore Boys' Home, but I have been told this is closely associated with Windana anyway. The parents of the boy, who was involved in a shoplifting charge, are not known to me, but as he was recommended to me by a high Labor Party official who lives at Hillcrest in my district I said I would gladly see the parents at the weekend. On the Monday I telephoned the Juvenile Court and asked to speak to Mr. Wright.

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: Last Monday?

Mr. JENNINGS: No, this was some time ago. I did not know the legal ethics involved in telephoning a magistrate, but I worked on the basis that I could plead ignorance, which comes easily to me anyway, and that I knew Mr. Wright well enough to speak to him. I found out that he was on leave, and I was told that Mr. Beerworth would speak to me later. He telephoned me and told me that the policy had been adopted by his colleague, Mr. Wright, to give people a little look inside and frighten them in case they might decide to embark on some career of crime.

He assured me that when the 14 days was up the boy would be released on a bond. He said that the term of 14 days was nearly up and that he did not feel like interfering in a case where one of his colleagues was responsible. I accepted this. After he came out, the boy and his parents came to see me, and they were not very happy about many things that had occurred to the boy while he was in this place.

Recently a man whom I know very well saw me at a meeting. He said that, as he wanted to talk to me about a private matter, he did not want to speak to me at the meeting.

I said, "Let us go home." He revealed to me there that one of his daughters had been caught shoplifting, had pleaded guilty and had been sent to Windana for 14 days, after which she was merely released on a bond. He said that she was terribly upset when she came out and that she would not speak to him at all. It took her mother about three weeks to get the full story from her. The incorrigibles in the place had picked on her and on other girls of her ilk. They said, "We will show you a few things." The result was not very nice at all. Things like assaults on her private parts occurred. Consequently, this girl was scarred mentally, and I only hope that she can get it out of her mind.

If Mr. Wright thinks that, by giving people a taste of Windana and mixing them with such types, he is helping them, I assure him that he is wrong indeed. Other cases have been reported to me but they are not as important as the two I have mentioned. In other cases, if the young people had not been from good homes with loving parents they would probably have been inclined to go the wrong way rather than the right way as a result of the fright they got from being put into a place like this for 14 days. From what the Minister has said this afternoon, he has had a discussion with Mr. Wright about this matter. In replying to the Leader of the Opposition, he admitted that he had the power at least to influence the magistrate in these cases. I think he would be well advised to do so.

Mr. CASEY: I was concerned at the replies of the Minister of Social Welfare to the questions I asked this afternoon. They concerned the programme I saw on *Newsbeat* the other night in which he participated. He did not give a definite answer to my question about the problem at Windana, to which young children were being remanded by the court. When they are so remanded a family may be split up. I am sure the Minister agrees that this is most undesirable in any circumstances, because it is unfair to the children concerned.

This is the first basic problem that the Minister should look at, because it is so much better if families can be kept together. He has not assured me—and I should like an assurance—that something will be done very soon to see that children who have been classified as neglected remain as a family unit and are placed in a suitable home that he, in the circumstances, has to provide. If this is done neglected children will not be mixed up with other children in an environment where undesirable practices are being carried out.

I hope that the Minister of Social Welfare and the Government are concerned about this matter, but it is no good being concerned unless they are also prepared to say, "We will do something about the matter." Many people who saw the *Newsbeat* programme must have been disturbed. All the people who have spoken to me were alarmed to know that this sort of practice was carried out at Windana.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will certainly bear in mind the matters raised by the member for Enfield (Mr. Jennings). It too often goes without saying that every effort is made to avoid the commission of the practices that he suggested were committed on the girl when she was in Windana. If he thinks it would do any good and if he gives me her name in confidence I shall have the matter investigated, and this goes for any member who thinks that any specific matter should be investigated at any time. I am only too happy to help in this way. Of course, every effort is made by way of supervision and so on to see that this kind of occurrence does not take place. No institution is perfect: things still go wrong and things that should not happen will happen from time to time.

I think the member for Frome (Mr. Casey) has not been in the House all the time. The Leader of the Opposition raised the same matter with me and we had a discussion about it. I prefer not to go over the same ground again, but I gave the Leader the assurance that is now being sought.

Line passed.

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.

The Supplementary Estimates were adopted by the House and an Appropriation Bill for \$1,235,000 was founded in Committee of Ways and Means, introduced by the Hon. G. G. Pearson, and read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It is based upon the Supplementary Estimates, which have been dealt with by the House. Clause 2 authorizes the issue of a further \$1,235,000 from the general revenue. Clause 3 appropriates that sum and sets out the amount to be provided under each department or activity. Clause 4 provides that the Treasurer shall have available to spend only such amounts as are authorized by a warrant from His Excellency the Governor, and that the receipts of the payees shall be accepted as evidence that the payments have been duly made. Clause 5 gives power to issue money out of Loan funds, other public funds, or bank overdraft if the moneys received from the Commonwealth Government and the general revenue of the State are insufficient to meet the payments authorized by this Bill. Clause 6 gives authority to make payments in respect of a period prior to July 1, 1968. Clause 7 provides that amounts appropriated by this Bill are in addition to other amounts properly appropriated. Except for the amount of appropriation sought, and the period covered, this Bill is the same in all respects as the supplementary Appropriation Bills passed by the House in recent years.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.17 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, June 24, at 2 p.m.